Date: April 3, 2020

Petition: #185

Petitioner: John Winfrey; Winfrey Plumbing

Respondent: Glenn B. Pereno; Building Official

(BU1604, PX1883, and BN3016)

Pursuant to Rule 61G20-2.007; Building Official response to Petition #185 is as follows:

Petitioner’s statement:

The project is single family residential homes in Orange City, FL. The water system is uponor (Plastic)

Chapter 25 – Plumbing Administration

Section P2503.7 – Water supply system testing

Upon complete of the water supply system or section of it, the system or portion completed shall be tested and proved tight under a water pressure of not less than the working pressure of the system.

**Question** – “is a gauge required to prove system tight, when the water supply system is permanently tied into the local municipal water supply system. I.E. the water meter, and under working pressure?”

**Answer:**

Yes, “test gauge” is required based on the following codes and commentary.

**(The purpose of a Municipal/County device; namely, water meter(s) is designed to measure water quantity/use, therefore would not qualify as a Test Gauge defined in FRC Chapter 25, Section P2503.9; pressure increments)**

**Codes:**

Florida Residential Code, **(3)** International Residential Code® Commentary, Chapter 25; Plumbing Administration and **(4)** Merriam-Webster Dictionary; Water Meter.

Section P2501.1- Scope.

The provision of this chapter shall establish the general administrative requirements applicable to plumbing systems and inspection requirements of this code.

Section P2503.1- Inspection required.

New plumbing work and parts of existing systems affected by new work or *alterations* shall be inspected by the *building official* **(1)** to ensure compliance with the requirements of this code.

Section P2503.3- Responsibility of permittee.

Test equipment, materials and labor shall be furnished by the permittee.

Section P2503.7- Water-supply system testing.

“Upon completion of the water-supply system or a section of it, the system or portion completed shall be tested and proved tight under a water pressure of not less than the working pressure of the system or, for piping systems other than plastic, by an air test of not less than 50psi (345 kPa). This pressure shall be held for not less than 15 minutes the water used for tests shall be obtained from a potable water source.”

Section P2503.9- **(2)** Test gauges.

Gauges used for testing shall be as follows:

1. Tests requiring a pressure of 10 psi or less shall utilize a testing gauge having increments of 0.10 psi (0.69 kPa) or less.
2. Tests requiring a pressure higher than 10 psi (0.69 kPa) but less than or equal to 100 psi (690 kPa) shall use a testing gauge having increments of 1 psi (6.9 kPa) or less.
3. Tests requiring a pressure higher than 100 psi (690 kPa) shall use a testing gauge having increments of 2 psi (14 kPa) or less.

In closing, attached copies of IRC Commentary and correspondence with several building officials from surrounding communities.

**Notes:**

**(1)-Florida Statute 468.604-Responsibilities of building code administrators, plans examiners, and inspectors.**

(1) It is the responsibility of the building code administrator or building official to administrate, supervise, direct, enforce, or perform the permitting and inspection of construction, alteration, repair, remodeling, or demolition of structures and the installation of building systems within the boundaries of their governmental jurisdiction, when permitting is required, to ensure compliance with the Florida Building Code and any applicable local technical amendment to the Florida Building Code. The building code administrator or building official shall faithfully perform these responsibilities without interference from any person.

(a) The review of construction plans to ensure compliance with all applicable sections of the code. The construction plans must be reviewed before the issuance of any building, system installation, or other construction permit. The review of construction plans must be done by the building code administrator or building official or by a person having the appropriate plans examiner license issued under this chapter.

(b) The inspection of each phase of construction where a building or other construction permit has been issued. The building code administrator or building official, or a person having the appropriate building code inspector license issued under this chapter, shall inspect the construction or installation to ensure that the work is performed in accordance with applicable sections of the code.

**(2)-ASME-B40.1; Pressure gauges and gauges attachments.**

(1) Chapter 5: Cleanliness, refer to table and manufacturers specifications.

(2) Chapter 6: Pressure gauge testing, Section 6.1.1.3-Gauges used as standards shall be tested for accuracy (Section 3.4) regularly.

**(3)-2015 International Residential Code® Commentary see attachments.**

**(4)-Merriam-Webster Dictionary; Water Meter:**

1. An instrument for recording the quantity of water passing through a particular outlet

2. Machine that measure how much water is used in a building