

## **Revisions to the Illinois Lawn Irrigation Contractor & Lawn Sprinkler System Registration Code**

Revisions to the Lawn Irrigation Contractor and Lawn Sprinkler Registration Code (Adm. Code 892) became effective on November 12, 2014. There were changes in definitions, registration requirements, a section added for Providers of Design and Installation Courses, and increases in fees.

The following definitions were revised and now read:

**"Irrigation employee"** means a person, other than a licensed plumber or licensed apprentice plumber, who is employed by a registered irrigation contractor or a licensed plumber, and who designs, repairs, alters, maintains, or installs lawn sprinkler systems that are subject to Section 2.5 of the Law.

**"Lawn sprinkler system"** means any underground irrigation system of lawn, shrubbery and other vegetation from any potable water sources; and from any water sources, whether or not potable. "Lawn sprinkler system" includes without limitation the water supply piping, valves, control systems, low voltage wiring, sprinkler heads or other irrigation outlets, and moisture or rainfall sensing equipment, but does not include the backflow prevention device or final connection of the lawn sprinkler system to the backflow prevention device. . "Lawn sprinkler system" does not include an irrigation system used primarily for agricultural purposes. (Section 2 of the Law) "Lawn sprinkler system" does not include extension, relocation, or modification of up to 200 linear yards of an existing lawn sprinkler system installed at a golf course prior to January 26, 2000. (Section 2.6 of the Law.)

### **Irrigation Contractor Registration Requirements:**

Registration forms for contractors and employees shall be submitted on forms available from the Department's website (<http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/plumbing.htm>).

Contractor applicants must provide a certificate of insurance and workers' compensation insurance, as well as an indemnification bond or letter of credit.

Irrigation contractors shall provide, on forms provided by the Department, the following:

- A) Proof that at least one irrigation employee has completed and passed an approved class in the design and installation of lawn sprinkler systems;
- B) The names of employees who have successfully completed an approved course on the installation of lawn sprinkler systems; and
- C) Proof that the course taken by the employees was successfully completed and that their continuing education is also being completed. (Section 2.5(a) and (f) of the Law)

### **Providers of Lawn Sprinkler Design and Installation Courses**

a) A college, university, trade school, vocational school, or association that has established a program providing a course of instruction in lawn sprinkler design and installation may submit a letter to the Department requesting approval of its program or course of instruction. (Section 2.5(f) of the Law)

b) The letter shall be obtained by downloading the letter from the Department's website (<http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/plumbing.htm>).

c) The letter shall be submitted to the Illinois Department of Public Health, 525 West Jefferson Street, 3rd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62761.

d) The request for approval shall include information on the curriculum offered by the program and the qualifications of the organization. The course shall consist of a minimum of 2 days of classroom education and an exam and shall include a provision for continuing education. (Section 2.5(f) of the Law) The curriculum offered by the program shall minimally consist of the following topics and the amount of time proposed to be devoted to each topic:

- 1) Basic principles of irrigation systems;
- 2) Planning and designing an irrigation system, including estimating, installation, repair and maintenance;
- 3) Alteration, extension and dismantling of irrigation systems;
- 4) Irrigation system components, materials and equipment;
- 5) Joints and connections;
- 6) Inspection and testing of an irrigation system;
- 7) Sciences of pneumatics and hydraulics as they apply to irrigation systems;
- 8) Plastics and thermoplastic materials utilized in irrigation systems;
- 9) Installation practices, including site and worker safety;
- 10) Use and care of tools and equipment;
- 11) Source water for irrigation systems; and
- 12) Electric controls and control systems for irrigation systems.

e) The Department shall evaluate the curriculum and organization before making a determination to approve or deny a request for approval. (Section 2.5(f) of the Law)

### **Inspection, Testing, and Registration of Lawn Sprinkler Systems**

c) No person shall cause the installation of a lawn sprinkler system by attaching any fixture to any water source except from a public water system, as defined by Section 3.365 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, or a water well, as defined by Section 3(e) of the Water Well Construction Code, without prior written approval from the Department. An irrigation contractor or licensed plumber may request written approval for using an alternative water source by providing a written request to the Department and by submitting written plans and specifications, sealed by an Illinois Registered Architect or Licensed Professional Engineer.

f) All automatically operated lawn sprinkler systems shall have furnished and installed technology that inhibits or interrupts operation of the landscape irrigation system during periods of sufficient moisture or rainfall.

1) The technology must be adjustable either by the end user or the irrigation contractor. This subsection (f) does not apply to systems operating on golf courses or agricultural lands.

2) The requirements of this subsection (f) apply to all landscape irrigation systems installed after January 1, 2009. (Section 2.5(g) of the Law)

### **Fee Increases are as follows:**

Notice of cancellation of irrigation employee, \$20.

Fee for inspection by a State inspector, \$500.

Registration of each lawn sprinkler system, \$25.

Irrigation contractors with 7 or fewer employees, \$400.

The fee for a dishonored negotiable instrument including, but not limited to, returned checks or insufficient payment shall be \$200.