

Michigan Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs (LARA)

Clarification of Requirements for Disinfection and Testing of Water Supply Lines

The opening survey inspection list contains the following requirements:

1. Certification that domestic water supply lines (on new or major construction projects) have been disinfected in accordance with State and local ordinances.

Section 610 of the State Plumbing Code states... "New or repaired potable water systems shall be purged of deleterious matter and disinfected prior to utilization." Section 610 described the methods to be used for purging and disinfecting and requires bacterial testing to demonstrate that the system is contamination free.

Acceptable "certification" is typically provided on company letterhead from the licensed mechanical or plumbing contractor stating that the "domestic water supply lines have been disinfected in accordance with the Michigan Plumbing Code." The "certificate" is provided at the time of the project opening inspection.

2. Test result(s) of bacteriological analysis of the domestic water system prepared by a State approved laboratory indicating that water is safe for consumption.

Total Coliform is the standard test utilized by water utilities to demonstrate that potable water is free of harmful bacteria and safe for consumption. Results for the Total Coliform test are reported as absent or present. Test results must be absent or not detected to pass.

Total Coliform testing must be conducted by a State certified laboratory approved for Coliform testing of drinking water. A list of certified laboratories is available at http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3307_4131---,00.html. Note that the list contains all certified laboratories; however, not all laboratories are certified for Total Coliform testing.

A copy or copies Total Coliform test results are provided at the time of the project opening inspection. The results must include the Certification Number for the State approved testing laboratory.

When is a "Certification Statement and Total Coliform" testing required?

A single "Certification Statement" and "Total Coliform" test result will be required for most projects involving new construction and renovations projects and for projects requiring a plumbing permit. Multiple phased projects will require multiple "Certification Statements" and "Total Coliform" test results were plumbing systems are involved. Additional certifications and testing may be required on a project specific basis.

Are samples required from both the hot and cold water systems?

Total Coliform samples should be taken from the cold water system only.