

CHAPTER 21
SERVICE SUPPLIED BY WATER UTILITIES
[Prior to 10/8/86, Commerce Commission[250]]

199—21.1(476) Application of rules.

21.1(1) Application of rules. The rules apply to any water utility operating within the state of Iowa under the jurisdiction of the Iowa utilities board and are established under Iowa Code chapter 476.

These rules are intended to promote service to the public, provide standards for uniform practices by utilities, and establish a basis for determining the reasonableness of the demands made by the public upon the utilities.

A utility or customer may file for a waiver of these rules in accordance with the provisions of 199—1.3(17A,474,476,78GA,HF2206).

These rules shall not relieve a utility from its duties under the laws of this state.

21.1(2) Authorization of rules. Iowa Code chapter 476 provides that the Iowa utilities board shall establish all needful, just, and reasonable rules, not inconsistent with law, to govern the exercise of its powers and duties, the practice and procedure before it, and to govern the form, content, and filing of reports, documents, and other papers necessary to carry out the provisions of this law.

199—21.2(476) Records and reports.

21.2(1) Location and retention of records. Unless otherwise specified in this chapter, all records required by these rules shall be kept and preserved in accordance with the applicable provisions of 199—Chapter 18.

21.2(2) Tariffs. The utility shall maintain its tariff filing in a current status.

The schedules of rates and rules of all rate-regulated utilities shall be filed with the board.

The form, identification and content of tariffs shall be in accordance with these rules.

a. Form and identification.

(1) The tariff shall be printed, typewritten or otherwise reproduced on 8½ × 11 inch sheets so as to result in a clear and permanent record. The sheets of the tariff should be ruled or spaced to set off a border on the left side suitable for binding.

(2) The title page of every tariff and supplement shall specify the following:

1. The first page shall be the title page, which will show:

Name of Public Utility

Water Tariff

Filed With

The Iowa Utilities Board

2. When a tariff is to be superseded or replaced in its entirety, the replacing tariff shall show on the upper right corner of its title page that it is a revision of a tariff on file and the number being superseded or replaced; for example:

Tariff No. _____
Supersedes Tariff No. _____

3. When a new part of a tariff revises, amends, or eliminates an existing part of a tariff, it shall so state and identify the part revised, amended or eliminated.

4. Any tariff modifications, as defined in “3” above, replacing tariff sheets shall be marked in the right margin with symbols as described below to indicate the place, nature and extent of the change in text:

Symbol	Meaning
(C)	A change in regulation.
(D)	A discontinued or deleted rate, treatment or regulation.
(I)	An increased rate or new treatment resulting in increased rate.
(N)	A new rate, treatment or regulation.
(R)	A reduced rate or new treatment resulting in a reduced rate.
(T)	A change in text but no change in rate, treatment or regulation.

- (3) All sheets except the title page shall have, in addition to the above requirements, the issue date.
(4) All sheets except the title page shall have the following form:

(Company Name)	(Part Identification)
Water Tariff	(This sheet identification)
Filed with board	(Canceled sheet identification, if any)
	(Content of tariff)
Issued: (Date)	Effective Date: (Proposed Effective Date:)

The issued date is the date the tariff or the amended sheet content was adopted by the utility.

The effective date is to be left blank by the utility and shall be determined by the board. The utility may propose an effective date.

b. Content of tariffs. A tariff filed with the board shall contain:

(1) Table of contents.

(2) Rates, including all rates of utilities subject to rate regulation for service with indication for each rate of the type of water service and the class of customers to which each rate applies. There shall also be shown the prices per unit of service, and the number of units per billing period to which the prices apply, the period of billing, the minimum bill, method of measuring demands and consumptions, including method of calculating or estimating loads or minimums, and any special terms and conditions applicable. There shall be specified any discount for prompt payment or penalty for late payment and the period during which the net amount may be paid, and both shall be in accordance with subrule 21.4(4).

199—21.3(476) General service requirements.

21.3(1) Disposition of water.

a. Metered measurement of water. All water sold by a utility shall be on the basis of metered measurement except that the utility may at its option provide flat rate or estimated service for the following:

(1) Temporary service where the water use can be readily estimated.

(2) Public and private fire protection service.

(3) Water used for street sprinkling and sewer flushing.

b. Separate metering for premises. Separate premises shall be separately metered and billed. Submetering shall not be permitted.

21.3(2) Temporary service. When the utility renders temporary service to a customer, it may require that the customer bear all the costs of installing and removing the service in excess of any salvage realized.

21.3(3) Meter requirements.

a. *Meter installation.* Each water utility shall adopt a written standard method of meter installation. Copies of standard methods shall be made available upon request. All meters shall be set in place by the utility.

b. *Records of meters and associated metering devices.* Each utility shall maintain for each meter and associated metering device the following applicable data.

(1) *Meter identification.*

1. Manufacturer.
2. Meter type, catalog number and serial number.
3. Meter capacity, multiplier and constants.
4. Unit registration measures (gallons or cubic feet).
5. Number of moving digits or dials in register.
6. Number of stationary or pointed zeros on register.
7. Pressure rating of the meter.

(2) *Meter location history.*

1. Dates of installation and removal from service.
2. Location of installations.
3. All customer names with readings and read out dates (Remote register readings shall be maintained identical to readings of the meter register).

c. *Registration devices for meters.* Where a constant or multiplier is necessary to determine the meter reading, it shall be indicated on the face of the meter. Where remote meter reading is used, the customer shall have a readable meter register at the meter.

d. *Meter readings.*

(1) *Meter reading interval.* Reading of all meters used for determining charges to customers shall be scheduled at least quarterly. An effort shall be made to read meters on corresponding days of each meter reading period. The meter reading date may be advanced or postponed no more than ten days without adjustment of the billing for the period.

The utility may permit the customer to supply the meter readings on a form supplied by the utility, or in the alternative, may permit the customer to supply the meter reading information by telephone, provided a utility representative reads the meter at least once every 24 months and when there is a change of customer.

(2) *Readings and estimates in unusual situations.* When a customer is connected or disconnected, or the regular meter reading date is substantially revised causing a given billing period to be longer or shorter than usual, such bills shall be prorated on a daily basis.

An estimated bill may be rendered in the event that access to meter cannot be gained and a meter reading form left with the customer is not returned in time for the billing operation. Only in unusual cases shall more than three consecutive estimated bills be rendered.

21.3(4) Filing published meter and service installation rules. A copy of the utility's current rules, if any, published or furnished by the utility for the use of engineers, architects, plumbing contractors, etc., covering meter and service installation shall be filed with the board.

21.3(5) Extensions to customers.

a. *Definitions.* The following definitions shall apply to the terms used in this rule:

"Advances for construction costs," as used in these subrules, are cash payments or surety bonds or an equivalent surety made to the utility by an applicant for an extension, portions of which may be refunded depending on any subsequent connections made to the extension. Cash payments, surety bonds, or equivalent sureties shall include a grossed-up amount for the income tax effect of such revenue.

"Agreed-upon attachment period," as used in this subrule, means a period of not less than 30 days nor more than one year mutually agreed upon by the utility and the applicant within which the customer will attach. If no time period is mutually agreed upon, the agreed-upon attachment period shall be deemed to be 30 days.

"Contribution in aid of construction," as used in these subrules, means a nonrefundable cash payment covering the costs of an extension that are in excess of utility-funded allowances. Cash

payments shall be grossed-up for the income tax effect of such revenue. The amount of tax shall be reduced by the present value of the tax benefits to be obtained by depreciating the property in determining the tax liability.

“Customer advances for construction records,” as used in this subrule, means a separate record established and maintained by the utility, which includes by depositor, the amount of advance for construction provided by the customer, whether the advance is by cash or surety bond or equivalent surety, and if by surety bond, all relevant information concerning the bond or equivalent surety, the amount of refund, if any, to which the depositor is entitled, the amount of refund, if any, which has been made to the customer, the amount unrefunded, and the construction project or work order the extension was installed on.

“Estimated annual revenues,” as used in this subrule, shall be calculated based upon the following factors, including, but not limited to: The size of the facility to be used by the customer, the size and type of equipment to be used by the customer, the average annual amount of service required by the equipment, and the average number of hours per day and days per year the equipment will be in use.

“Estimated construction costs,” as used in this subrule, shall be calculated using average costs in accordance with good engineering practices and upon the following factors: amount of service required or desired by the customer requesting the extension, size, location and characteristics of the extension, including all appurtenances; and whether or not the ground is frozen or whether other adverse conditions exist. The average cost per foot shall be calculated utilizing the prior calendar year costs, to the extent such cost basis does not exceed the current costs using current construction cost methodologies, resources and material, and working conditions, divided by the total feet of extensions by size of pipe for the prior calendar year. In no event shall estimated construction costs include costs associated with facilities built for the convenience of the utility.

“Extensions” means a distribution main extension.

“Similarly situated customer” is a customer whose annual consumption or service requirements, as defined by estimated annual revenue, is similar to other customers with approximately the same annual consumption or service requirements.

“Utility,” as used in these subrules, means a rate-regulated utility.

b. Terms and conditions. The utility shall extend service to new customers under the following terms and conditions:

(1) Plant additions. The utility will provide all water plants at its cost and expense without requiring an advance for construction from customers or developers except in those unusual circumstances where extensive plant additions are required before the customer can be served or where the customer will not attach within the agreed-upon attachment period after completion of construction. In such instances, the utility shall require, no more than 30 days prior to commencement of construction, the customer or developer to advance funds which are subject to refund as additional customers are attached. A contract between the utility and the customer which requires an advance by the customer to make plant additions shall be available for board inspection.

(2) Advances for construction costs for distribution main extensions for customers who will attach within 30 days. Where the customer will attach within 30 days after completion of the distribution main extension, the following shall apply:

1. If the estimated construction cost to provide a distribution main extension is less than or equal to five times the estimated annual revenue calculated on the basis of similarly situated customers, the utility shall finance and make the main extension without requiring an advance for construction.

2. If the estimated construction cost to provide a distribution main extension is greater than five times the estimated annual revenue calculated on the basis of similarly situated customers, the applicant for such an extension shall contract with the utility and deposit an advance for construction equal to the estimated construction cost less five times the estimated annual revenue to be produced by the customer no more than 30 days prior to commencement of construction.

(3) Advances for construction costs for distribution main extensions for customers who will not attach within the agreed-upon attachment period. Where the customer will not attach within the agreed-upon attachment period after completion of the distribution main extension, the applicant for the

extension shall contract with the utility and deposit no more than 30 days prior to the commencement of construction an advance for construction equal to the estimated construction cost.

Advance payments for plant additions or extensions which are subject to refund for a ten-year period may be made by cash, surety bond, or equivalent surety. In the event a surety bond or an equivalent surety is used, the bonded amount shall have added to it a surcharge equal to the annual interest rate paid by the utility on customer bill deposits times the bonded amount. The bond shall be called by the utility at the end of one year or when the earned refunds are equal to the bonded amount, less the surcharge, whichever occurs first. If, upon termination of the surety bond, there are sufficient earned refunds to offset the amount of the surety bond, less the surcharge, the depositors shall provide the utility the amount of the surcharge. If, upon termination of the surety bond, there are not sufficient earned refunds to offset the full amount of the surety bond, less the surcharge, the depositors shall provide the utility a cash deposit equal to the amount of the surety bond, less refunds accumulated during the bonded period, plus the surcharge, or the depositor may pay the interest on the previous year's bond and rebond the balance due to the utility for a second or third one-year period. Upon receipt of such cash deposit, the utility shall release the surety bond. The cash deposit, less the surcharge, shall be subject to refund by the utility for the remainder of the ten-year period.

c. Refunds. The utility shall refund to the depositor for a period of ten years from the date of the original advance, a pro-rata share for each service attachment to the distribution main extension. The pro-rata refund shall be computed in the following manner:

(1) If the combined total of three times estimated annual revenue for the depositor and each customer who has attached to the distribution main extension exceeds the total estimated construction cost to provide the extension, the entire amount of the advance provided by the depositor shall be refunded to the depositor.

(2) If the combined total of three times estimated annual revenue for the depositor and each customer who has attached to the distribution main extension is less than the total estimated construction cost to provide the extension, the amount to be refunded to the depositor shall equal three times estimated annual revenue of the customer attaching to the extension.

(3) In no event shall the total amount to be refunded to a depositor exceed the amount of the advance for construction made by the depositor. Any amounts subject to refund shall be paid by the utility without interest. At the expiration of the above-described ten-year period, the customer advance for construction record shall be closed and the remaining balance shall be credited to the respective plant account.

d. Extensions not required. Utilities shall not be required to make extensions as described in this rule, unless the extension shall be of a permanent nature.

e. Extensions permitted. This rule shall not be construed as prohibiting any utility from making a contract with a customer in a different manner, if the contract provides a more favorable method of extension to the customer, so long as no discrimination is practiced among customers or depositors.

This rule shall not be construed as prohibiting an individual, partnership, or company from constructing its own extension. An extension constructed by a nonutility entity must meet at a minimum the applicable portions of the standards in 21.5(1) and 21.5(2) and such other reasonable standards as the utility may employ in constructing extensions, so long as the standards do not mandate a particular supplier. All connections to the utility-owned equipment or facilities shall be made by the utility at the applicant's expense. At the time of attachment to the utility-owned equipment or facilities, the applicant shall transfer ownership of the extension to the utility and the utility shall book the original cost of construction of the extension as an advance for construction, and refunds shall be made to the applicant in accordance with 21.3(5) "c." The utility shall be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the extension after attachment.

If the utility requires the applicant to construct the extension to meet service requirements greater than those necessary to serve the applicant's service needs, the utility shall reimburse the applicant for the difference in cost between the extension specifications required by the utility and the extension specifications necessary to meet the applicant's service needs.

21.3(6) Service connections. In urban areas with well-defined streets, the utility shall control (supervise the installation and maintenance of) that portion of the service pipe from its main to and

including the customer's meter. A curb stop shall be installed at a convenient place between the property line and the curb. All services shall include a curb stop and curb box or meter vault. In installations where meters are installed in meter vaults incorporating a built-in valve, and are installed between property line and curb, no separate curb stop and curb box is required.

21.3(7) Location of meters. Meters may be installed outside or inside as mutually agreed upon by the customer and utility.

a. Outside. Meters installed out-of-doors shall be readily accessible for maintenance and reading and so far as practicable the location should be mutually acceptable to the customer and the utility. The meter shall be installed so as to be unaffected by climatic conditions and reasonably secure from injury.

b. Inside. Meters installed inside the customer's building shall be located as near as possible to the point where the service pipe enters the building and at a point reasonably secure from injury and readily accessible for reading and testing. In cases of multiple buildings, such as two-family dwellings or apartment buildings, the meter(s) shall be located within the premises served or in a common location accessible to the customers and the utility.

199—21.4(476) Customer relations.

21.4(1) Customer information. Each utility shall:

a. Post a notice in a conspicuous place in each office of the utility where applications for service are received, informing the public that copies of the rate schedules and rules relating to the service of the utility are available for public inspection.

b. Maintain up-to-date maps, plans, or records of its entire water system.

c. Upon request, assist the customer or proposed customers in selecting the most economic rate schedule available for the proposed type of service.

d. Upon request, inform its customers as to the method of reading meters and the method of computing the customer's bill.

e. Notify customers affected by a change in rates or rate classification as directed in the board rules of practice and procedures.

f. Inquiries for information or complaints to a utility shall be resolved promptly and courteously. Employees who receive customer telephone calls and office visits shall be qualified and trained in screening and resolving complaints, to avoid a preliminary recitation of the entire complaint to employees without ability and authority to act. The employee shall provide identification to the customer which will enable the customer to reach that employee again if needed.

Each utility shall notify its customers, by bill insert or notice on the bill form, of the address and telephone number where a utility representative qualified to assist in resolving the complaint can be reached. The bill insert or notice shall also include the following statement: "If (utility name) does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling 1-877-565-4450, by writing 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0069, or by E-mail to customer@iub.iowa.gov."

The bill insert or notice on the bill will be provided no less than annually. Any utility which does not use the standard form contained herein shall file its proposed form in its tariff for approval. A utility which bills by postcard may place an advertisement in a local newspaper of general circulation or a customer newsletter instead of a mailing. The advertisement must be of a type size that is easily legible and conspicuous and must contain the information set forth above.

21.4(2) Customer deposits.

a. Deposit required. Each utility may require from any customer or prospective customer a deposit intended to guarantee payment of bills for service.

b. Amount of deposit. The total deposit shall not be less than \$5 nor more in amount than the maximum estimated charge for service for 90 days or as may reasonably be required by the utility in cases involving service for short periods or special occasions.

c. New or additional deposit. A new or additional deposit may be required from a customer when a deposit has been refunded or is found to be inadequate. Written notice shall be mailed advising the customer of any new or additional deposit requirement. The customer shall have no less than 12 days

from the date of mailing to comply. No written notice is required to be given of a deposit required as a prerequisite for commencing initial service.

d. Customer's deposit receipt. The utility shall issue a receipt of deposit to each customer from whom a deposit is received.

e. Interest on customer deposits. Interest shall be paid by the rate-regulated utility to each customer required to make a deposit. On or after April 21, 1994, rate-regulated utilities shall compute interest on customer deposits at 7.5 percent per annum, compounded annually. Interest for prior periods shall be computed at the rate specified by the rule in effect for the period in question. Interest shall be paid for the period beginning with the date of deposit to the date of refund or to the date that the deposit is applied to the customer's account, or to the date the customer's bill becomes permanently delinquent. The date of refund is that date on which the refund or the notice of deposit refund is forwarded to the customer's last-known address. The date a customer's bill becomes permanently delinquent is the most recent date the account is treated as uncollectible.

f. Deposit refund. The deposit shall be refunded after 12 consecutive months of prompt payment, unless the utility has evidence to indicate that the deposit is necessary to ensure payment of bills for service. In any event, the deposit shall be refunded upon termination of the customer's service.

g. Unclaimed deposits. The utility shall make a reasonable effort to return each unclaimed deposit and accrued interest after the termination of the services for which the deposit was made. The utility shall maintain a record of deposit information for at least two years or until such time as the deposit, together with accrued interest escheats to the state pursuant to Iowa Code section 556.4 at which time the record and deposit, together with accrued interest, less any lawful deductions, shall be sent to the state treasurer pursuant to Iowa Code section 556.11.

21.4(3) Customer bill forms. The utility shall bill each customer as promptly as possible following the reading of the customer's meter. Each bill, including the customer's receipt, shall show:

a. The date and the reading of the meter at the beginning and at the end of the period or the period for which the bill is rendered.

b. The number of units metered when applicable.

c. Identification of the applicable rate schedule.

d. The gross and net amount of the bill.

e. The delayed payment charge and the latest date on which the bill may be paid without incurring a penalty.

f. A distinct marking to identify an estimated bill.

21.4(4) Bill payment terms. The bill shall be considered rendered to the customer when deposited in the U.S. mail with postage prepaid. If delivery is by other than U.S. mail, the bill shall be considered rendered when delivered to the last-known address of the party responsible for payment. There shall be not less than 20 days between the rendering of a bill and the date by which the account becomes delinquent.

A rate-regulated utility's late payment charge shall not exceed 1.5 percent per month of the past due amount.

Each account shall be granted not less than one complete forgiveness of a late payment charge each calendar year. The utility's rules shall be definitive that on one monthly bill in each period of eligibility, the utility will accept the net amount of such bill as full payment for such month after expiration of the net payment period.

The company rules shall state how the customer is notified the eligibility has been used.

21.4(5) Customer records. The utility shall retain customer billing records for the length of time necessary to permit the utility to comply with 21.4(6), but not less than three years.

21.4(6) Adjustment of bills. Bills which are incorrect due to meter or billing errors are to be adjusted as follows:

a. Fast meters. Whenever a meter in service is tested and found to have overregistered more than 2 percent, the utility shall adjust the customer's bill for the excess amount paid. The estimated amount of overcharge is to be based on the period the error first developed or occurred. If that period cannot be definitely determined, it will be assumed that the overregistration existed for a period equal to one-half

the time since the meter was last tested, or one-half the time since the meter was installed unless otherwise ordered by the board. If the recalculated bill indicates that more than \$5 is due an existing customer, the full amount of the calculated difference between the amount paid and the recalculated amount shall be refunded to the customer. If a refund is due a person no longer a customer of the utility, a notice shall be mailed to the last-known address.

b. Nonregistering meters. Whenever a meter in service is found not to register, the utility may render an estimated bill.

c. Slow meters. Whenever a meter is found to be more than 2 percent slow, the utility may bill the customer for the amount the test indicates the customer has been undercharged for the period of inaccuracy, or a period as estimated in 21.4(6) "a" unless otherwise ordered by the board.

d. Overcharges. When a customer has been overcharged as a result of incorrect reading of the meter, incorrect application of the rate schedule, incorrect connection of the metering installation, or other similar reasons, the amount of the overcharge shall be adjusted, refunded or credited to the customer. The time period for which the utility is required to adjust, refund or credit the customer's bill shall not exceed five years unless otherwise ordered by the board.

e. Undercharges. When a customer has been undercharged as a result of incorrect reading of the meter, incorrect application of the rate schedule, incorrect connection of the metering installation, or other similar reasons, the tariff may provide for billing the amount of the undercharge to the customer. The time period for which the utility may adjust for the undercharge need not exceed five years unless otherwise ordered by the board. The maximum bill shall not exceed the billing for like charges (e.g., usage-based, fixed or service charges) in the 12 months preceding discovery of the error unless otherwise ordered by the board.

21.4(7) Refusal or disconnection of service. Service may be refused or discontinued only for the reasons listed below. Unless otherwise stated, the customer shall be permitted at least 12 days, excluding Sundays and legal holidays, following mailing of notice of disconnect in which to take necessary action before service is discontinued.

- a.* Without notice in the event of an emergency.
- b.* Without notice in the event of tampering with the equipment furnished and owned by the utility or obtaining water by fraudulent means.
- c.* For violation of or noncompliance with the utility's rules on file with the board.
- d.* For failure of the customer to permit the utility reasonable access to its equipment.
- e.* For nonpayment of bill provided that the utility has: (1) Made a reasonable attempt to effect collection; (2) Given the customer written notice that the customer has at least 12 days, excluding Sundays and legal holidays, in which to make settlement of the account. In the event there is dispute concerning a bill for water service, the utility may require the customer to pay a sum of money equal to the amount of the undisputed portion of the bill pending settlement and thereby avoid discontinuance of service for nonpayment of the disputed bill for up to 45 days after the rendering of the bill. The 45 days shall be extended by up to 60 days if requested of the utility by the board in the event the customer files a written complaint with the board.

f. When a prospective customer is refused service, the utility shall notify the prospective customer promptly of the reason for the refusal to serve and of the applicant's right to appeal the utility's decision to the board.

21.4(8) Reconnection and charges. In all cases of discontinuance of service where the cause of discontinuance has been corrected, the utility shall promptly restore service to the customer. The utility may make a reasonable charge applied uniformly for reconnection of service.

21.4(9) Insufficient reasons for denying service. The following shall not constitute sufficient cause for refusal of service to a present or prospective customer:

- a.* Nonpayment for service by someone who is no longer an occupant of the premises to be served, except in cases of immediate family occupation or cohabitation of adults at the premises.
- b.* Failure to pay the bill of another customer as guarantor thereof.
- c.* Failure to pay for a different type or class of public utility service.

21.4(10) Customer complaints. A “complaint” shall mean any objection to the charge, facilities, or quality of service of a utility.

a. Each utility shall investigate promptly and thoroughly and keep a record of all complaints received from its customers that will enable it to review its procedures and actions. The record shall show the name and address of the complainant, the date and nature of the complaint, and its disposition and the date resolved.

b. All complaints caused by a major service interruption shall be summarized in a single report.

c. A record of the original complaint shall be kept for a period of three years after final settlement of the complaint.

[Editorial change: IAC Supplement 12/29/10]

199—21.5(476) Engineering practice.

21.5(1) Requirement of good engineering practice. The design and construction of the utility’s water plant shall conform to good standard engineering practice.

21.5(2) Inspection of water plant. Each utility shall adopt and follow a program of inspection of its water plant in order to determine the necessity for replacement and repair. The frequency of the various inspections shall be based on the utility’s experience and accepted good practice.

199—21.6(476) Meter testing.

21.6(1) Periodic and routine tests. Each utility shall adopt schedules approved by the board for periodic and routine tests and repair of its meters.

21.6(2) Meter test facilities and equipment. Each utility furnishing metered water service shall provide the necessary standard facilities, instruments and other equipment for testing its meters, or mail for test of its meters by another utility or agency equipped to test meters subject to approval by the board.

21.6(3) Accuracy requirements. All meters used for measuring quantity of water delivered to a customer shall be in good mechanical condition. All meters shall be accurate to the following standards:

a. Test flow limits. For determination of minimum test flow and normal test flow limits, the company will use as a guide the appropriate standard specifications of the American Water Works Association for the various types of meters.

b. Accuracy limits. A meter shall not be placed in service if it registers less than 95 percent of the water passed through it at the minimum test flow, or overregisters or underregisters more than 1.5 percent at the intermediate or maximum limit.

21.6(4) Initial test and storage of meters. Every water meter shall be tested prior to its installation either by the manufacturer, the utility, or an organization equipped for meter testing.

If a meter is not stored as recommended by the manufacturer, the meter shall be tested immediately before installation.

21.6(5) As found tests. To determine the average meter error in accordance with these rules for periodic or complaint tests, meters shall be tested in the condition as found in the customer’s service. Tests shall be made at intermediate and maximum rates of flow and the meter error shall be the algebraic average of the errors of the two tests.

21.6(6) Request tests. A utility shall test any water meter upon written request of a customer. The utility will not be required to perform request tests more than once each 18 months. The customer shall be given the opportunity to be present at the request tests.

21.6(7) Board-ordered tests. The board shall order tests of meters as follows:

a. Application. Upon written application to the board by a customer or a utility, a test shall be made of the customer’s meter as soon as practicable.

b. Guarantee. The application shall be sent by certified or registered mail and accompanied by a certified check or money order made payable to the utility in the amount indicated below:

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Capacity of 80 gallons per minute or less | \$24 |
| (2) Capacity over 80 gallons, up to 120 gallons per minute | \$26 |
| (3) Capacity of over 120 gallons per minute | \$30 |

c. Conduct of test. On receipt of a request from a customer, the board shall forward the deposit to the utility and notify the utility of the requirement for the test. The utility shall not knowingly remove or adjust the meter until tested. The utility shall furnish all instruments, load devices and other facilities necessary for the test and shall perform the test and shall furnish verification of the accuracy of test instruments used.

d. Test results. If the tested meter is found to overregister to an extent requiring a refund under the provisions of 21.4(6) "a," the amount paid to the utility shall be returned to the customer by the utility.

e. Notification. The utility shall notify the customer in advance of the date and time of the board-ordered test.

f. Utility report. The utility shall make a written report of the results of test which shall be sent to the customer and to the board.

21.6(8) Sealing of meters. Upon completion of adjustment and test of any water meter the utility shall place a suitable register seal on the meter in a manner that adjustment or registration of the meter cannot be changed without breaking the seal.

21.6(9) Record of meter tests. Meter test records shall include:

a. The date and reason for the test.

b. The meter reading prior to any test.

c. The accuracy as found at each of the flow rates required by 21.6(3) "a."

d. The accuracy as left at each of the flow rates required by 21.6(3) "a."

e. Statement of any repairs.

f. If the meter test is made using a standard meter, the utility shall retain all data taken at the time of the test sufficient to permit the convenient checking of the test method, calculations, and traceability to the National Bureau of Standards' volumetric standardization.

The test records of each meter shall be retained for two consecutive periodic tests or at least for two years. A record of the test made at the time of the meter's retirement, if any, shall be retained for a minimum of three years.

199—21.7(476) Standards of quality of service.

21.7(1) Pressures. Under normal condition of water usage the pressure (pound per square inch gauge) at a customer's service line shall be not less than 25 PSIG and not more than 125 PSIG.

At regular intervals, a utility shall make a survey of pressures in its water system. The survey shall be of sufficient magnitude to indicate the quality of service being rendered at representative points on its system. Survey should be conducted during periods of high usage at or near the maximum usage during the year. The pressure charts for these surveys shall show the date and time of beginning and end of the test, and the test location. Records of these pressure surveys shall be maintained at the utility's principal office in the state and made available to the board upon request.

21.7(2) Interruption of supply.

a. A utility shall make a reasonable effort to prevent interruptions of service. When an emergency interruption occurs the utility shall reestablish service with the shortest possible delay consistent with the safety to its customers and the general public. If an emergency interruption affects fire protection service, the utility shall immediately notify the fire chief or other responsible local official.

b. When a utility finds it necessary to schedule an interruption of service, it shall make a reasonable effort to notify all customers to be affected by the interruption. The notice shall include the time and anticipated duration of the interruption. Interruptions should be scheduled at hours which create the least inconvenience to the customer.

c. A utility shall retain records of interruptions for a period of at least five years.

21.7(3) Supply shortage. The utility shall attempt to furnish a continuous and adequate supply of water to its customers and to avoid any shortage or interruption of water delivery.

a. If a utility finds that it is necessary to restrict the use of water, it shall notify its customers, and give the board notice, before the restriction becomes effective. The notification shall specify:

(1) The reason for the restriction.

(2) The nature and extent of the restriction.

- (3) The effective date of the restriction.
- (4) The probable date of termination of the restriction.
- b.* During the times of threatened or actual water shortage, the utility shall equitably apportion its available water supply among its customers.

199—21.8(476) Applications for water costs for fire protection services.

21.8(1) *Definition.* For purposes of these rules, “water costs for fire protection service” shall be defined as all or a part of the utility’s costs of fire hydrants and other improvements, maintenance, and operations for the purpose of providing adequate water production, storage, and distribution for public fire protection, as reflected in the utility’s current tariff for public fire protection water service.

21.8(2) *Utility requirements.* A rate-regulated utility which provides public fire protection water service to a city preparing an application pursuant to subrule 21.8(3) shall provide the city all necessary information and affidavits to enable the city to meet its application filing requirements.

21.8(3) *Application contents.* Any city filing an application with the board requesting inclusion of all or a part of the water costs for fire protection service in a rate-regulated utility’s rates or charges to customers covered by the city’s fire protection service shall submit, at the time the application is filed, the following information with supporting testimony:

- a.* A statement showing (1) the proposed method of allocating costs to affected customers, and (2) both the proposed per-customer rate increase and the average percentage increase by customer class, based on the utility’s current tariff, if the costs for fire protection water service are included in rates charged to affected customers;
- b.* Copies of all bills rendered to the city by the utility for public fire protection water service during the preceding 24-month period;
- c.* The current number of utility customers served within the city’s corporate limits, by customer class, with an affidavit from the utility verifying the information;
- d.* A map illustrating both (1) the city’s corporate limits, and (2) the portion of the utility’s customer service area within the city’s corporate limits, with an affidavit from the utility verifying the customer service area;
- e.* An affidavit from the utility showing that the notice required by Iowa Code section 476.6(18) “c” and subrule 21.8(4) has been provided and paid for by the applicant and mailed by the utility to all affected customers.

21.8(4) *Customer notification.*

a. Prior approval. The city shall submit to the board for its approval, not less than 30 days before providing notification to affected customers, ten copies of the proposed notice.

b. Required content of notification. The notice shall advise affected customers of the proposed increase in rates and charges, the proposed effective date of the increase, and the percentage increase by customer class. It shall advise customers that the city is requesting the increase and that they have a right to file with the board a written objection to the proposed increase and to request a public hearing. It shall also include a written explanation of the reason for the increase.

c. Notice of deficiencies. Within 30 days of the filing of the proposed notice, the city shall be notified of either the approval of the notice or of any deficiencies in the notice and the corrective measures required for approval.

d. Distribution. The city shall provide to the utility, for mailing, a sufficient number of copies of the approved notice. The city shall direct the utility either to (1) include the notice with the utility’s next regularly scheduled mailing to the affected customers; or (2) make a separate mailing of the notice to affected customers within 30 days of receiving from the city the requisite number of copies of the notice. The city shall pay all expenses incurred by the utility in providing notice to affected customers. The utility may require payment prior to the mailing.

e. Delivery. The written notice to affected customers shall be mailed or delivered by the utility not more than 90 days before the application is filed and no later than the date the application is filed.

21.8(5) Procedure.

a. Service of application. The applicant shall file an original plus ten copies of the application with the executive secretary's office, serve two copies of the application on the public utility and serve two copies on the consumer advocate division of the Iowa department of justice.

b. Docketing. Within 30 days of the filing of the application, the board shall either approve the application or docket the case as a formal proceeding and establish a procedural schedule.

c. Rules. If the case is docketed as a formal proceeding, the rules in 199—Chapter 7, if not inconsistent, shall apply.

d. Decision. The board shall render its decision within six months of the date of the application. If the application is approved, the board shall order the rate-regulated utility providing the water service to the city to file tariffs implementing the board's decision. The utility shall include annually a bill insert explaining to customers that they are being charged for water-related fire protection costs. The city shall pay all costs incurred by the utility to file and implement the required tariff.

199—21.9(476) Incident reports. A regulated public water utility shall notify the board when it notifies the Iowa department of natural resources or the local county health department about an incident involving: (1) an occurrence of waterborne emergency (e.g., treatment process malfunction, chemical/biological spill in the water supply, contamination event in the distribution system, emergency that has the potential for drinking water contamination); (2) a boil water advisory and contamination event; or (3) a low-pressure event (less than 20 psi) affecting a widespread area of the system. Notification shall be made to the board by e-mail to the board duty officer at dutyofficer@iub.iowa.gov or, in appropriate circumstances, by calling (515)745-2332. The person contacting the board shall leave a call-back number for a person knowledgeable about the incident. The utility shall report to the board when the incident has ended and normal water service has been restored.

[ARC 1359C, IAB 3/5/14, effective 4/9/14; ARC 1623C, IAB 9/17/14, effective 10/22/14]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.3, 474.5, 476.1, 476.2, 476.6(18), 476.8, and 546.7.

[Filed 6/11/68; amended 6/27/75]

[Filed 9/30/77, Notice 6/9/77—published 10/19/77, effective 11/23/77]

[Filed emergency 6/28/82—published 7/21/82, effective 6/28/82]

[Filed 9/24/82, Notice 4/28/82—published 10/13/82, effective 11/17/82]

[Filed 10/21/82, Notice 8/18/82—published 11/10/82, effective 12/15/82]

[Filed 2/25/83, Notice 12/22/82—published 3/16/83, effective 4/20/83]

[Filed 1/27/84, Notice 11/23/83—published 2/15/84, effective 3/21/84]¹

[Filed 4/9/84, Notice 1/18/84—published 4/25/84, effective 5/30/84]

[Filed 9/21/84, Notice 5/23/84—published 10/10/84, effective 11/14/84]

[Filed 9/21/84, Notice 7/18/84—published 10/10/84, effective 11/14/84]

[Filed emergency 9/18/86—published 10/8/86, effective 9/18/86]

[Filed 2/28/90, Notice 11/1/89—published 3/21/90, effective 4/25/90]

[Filed 8/31/90, Notice 4/4/90—published 9/19/90, effective 10/24/90]

[Filed 9/14/90, Notice 11/29/89—published 10/3/90, effective 11/7/90]

[Filed 3/28/91, Notice 10/3/90—published 4/17/91, effective 5/22/91]

[Filed 8/11/93, Notice 5/12/93—published 9/1/93, effective 10/6/93]²

[Filed emergency 4/21/94—published 5/11/94, effective 4/21/94]

[Published 6/17/98 to update name and address of board]

[Filed 12/8/99, Notice 4/21/99—published 12/29/99, effective 2/2/00]

[Filed 10/24/03, Notices 2/5/03, 4/2/03—published 11/12/03, effective 12/17/03]

[Filed 12/27/07, Notice 9/26/07—published 1/30/08, effective 3/5/08]

[Editorial change: IAC Supplement 12/29/10]

[Filed ARC 1359C (Notice ARC 1169C, IAB 11/13/13), IAB 3/5/14, effective 4/9/14]

[Filed ARC 1623C (Notice ARC 1460C, IAB 5/14/14), IAB 9/17/14, effective 10/22/14]

- ¹ Effective date of 21.3(12) "a," "b"(1) and (3), and "e" delayed 70 days by the Administrative Rules Review Committee.
- ² Effective date of 21.4(2) "e" delayed until the adjournment of the 1994 Session of the General Assembly pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.8(9) by the Administrative Rules Review Committee at its meeting held September 15, 1993.