

199—21.6(476) Meter testing for water service.

21.6(1) *Periodic and routine tests.* Each utility shall adopt schedules approved by the commission for periodic and routine tests and repair of the utility's meters.

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

21.6(3) *Accuracy requirements.* All meters shall be in good mechanical condition and accurate to the following standards:

a. Test flow limits. For determination of minimum test flow and normal test flow limits, the utility 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 will not be placed in service if it registers less than 95 percent of the volume 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 meter will 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 will 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 will be tested in the condition as found in the customer's service. Tests will be made at intermediate and maximum rates of flow, and the meter error will be the algebraic average of the errors of the two tests.

21.6(6) *Request tests.* A utility will test any meter upon written request of a customer no more than once every 18 months. The customer will be given the opportunity to be present at the requested test.

21.6(7) *Commission-ordered tests.* The commission shall order tests of meters as follows:

a. Application. Upon written application to the commission by a customer or a utility, a test will be made of the customer's meter as soon as practicable.

b. Guarantee. The application will be sent by mail and accompanied by payment or money order made payable to the utility in the amount of \$25.

c. Conduct of test. On receipt of a request from a customer, the commission will forward the deposit to the utility and notify the utility of the requirement for the test. The utility will not knowingly remove or adjust the meter until tested. The utility will furnish all instruments, load devices, and other facilities necessary for the test and will perform the test and 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 paragraph 21.4(6) "a," the amount paid to the utility will be returned to the customer by the utility.

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

f. Utility report. The utility will make a written report of the results of the test and send the report to the customer and commission.

21.6(8) *Sealing of meters.* Upon completion of adjustment and test of any water meter, the utility will 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 paragraph 21.6(3) "a."

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

e. Statement of any repairs.

f. If the meter test is made using a standard meter, the utility will 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 will 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, will be retained for a minimum of three years.

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