DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Plumbing issues for mortuaries

Requirements for plan review

Minnesota Rules, Part 1300.0215, subpart 6, requires that plans and specifications be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) and approved *prior to construction* for any new plumbing installation in a public or commercial building. The purpose of a plan review is to ensure that the design complies with the Minnesota Plumbing Code and that no plumbing system is installed that may endanger the public health.

For plumbing plan review questions and inquiries, please call DLI Plumbing Plan Review at 651/284-5063, or visit our website at http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/get-licenses-and-permits/plumbing.

Plumbing in preparation room

Minnesota Statutes, 149A.92, subdivision 2, requires a hand sink, emergency eyewash equipment, a drench shower, and an approved flush bowl. The "approved flush bowl" specified in the statute shall be an approved flushing rim clinic sink or a flushing rim service sink. The installation of water closets or urinals for the disposal of embalming and preparation room wastes is not permitted. Unless provided as an integral part of the fixture, the flushing rim clinic/service sink fixture shall have a minimum size 3-inch trap.

For licensing questions and inquiries, contact Minnesota Department of Health – Mortuary Science Section at 651/201-3829, or visit https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/providers/mortsci/contact.html

Backflow prevention for aspiration equipment

The potable water connections to embalming equipment, such as aspirators (as required in Minnesota Statutes, 149A.92, subdivision 6) shall be protected against back pressure or back siphonage. If both hot and cold water supply pipes are provided for the embalming equipment, then both pipes must be protected individually. The following methods are acceptable for the prevention of backflow in potable water supplies:

1. **AIR GAP:** Provide a physical air gap between the potable water supply and the aspiration equipment which is 2 times the diameter of the water outlet.

2. **ATMOSPHERIC VACUUM BREAKER, ASSE Standard 1001:** A vacuum breaker may be installed on the potable water supply line connection to the aspiration equipment provided that the following conditions are met:
    a. No shut-off valves located downstream of the atmospheric vacuum breaker; and
    b. No possibility of back pressure from the equipment to the potable water supply may exist.
    c. The vacuum breaker must be located at least 78 inches above the floor.

See reverse for more information. 9/2020

d. The vacuum breaker must be readily accessible; preferably in the same room with the fixture it serves.
e. The vacuum breaker shall not be subject to continuous pressure.

3. **PRESSURE TYPE VACUUM BREAKER, ASSE Standard 1020:** A pressure type vacuum breaker may be installed on the potable water supply line connection to the aspiration equipment if a shut-off valve is located downstream of the device, provided that the following conditions are met:
    a. No possibility of back pressure from the equipment to the potable water supply may exist.
    b. The pressure vacuum breaker must be located at least 78 inches above the floor.
    c. The vacuum breaker must be readily accessible, preferably in the same room with the fixture it serves.
    d. The pressure type vacuum breaker may be subject to continuous line pressure.

4. **REDUCED PRESSURE ZONE TYPE BACKFLOW PREVENTER (RPZ), ASSE Standard 1013:** A reduced pressure zone type backflow preventer must be installed on the potable water supply line to the aspiration equipment when *any* of the following conditions exist:
    a. There are shut-off valves located downstream of the backflow prevention device.
    b. There is the possibility that back pressure could develop in the water supply line.
    c. When an atmospheric or pressure vacuum breaker type backflow preventer cannot be installed at least 78 inches above the floor.
    d. Continuous line pressure is permitted.

    NOTE: The installation of reduced pressure zone backflow preventers is permitted only when periodic testing is done by a trained backflow preventer tester acceptable to the administrative authority. Testing intervals shall not exceed one year, and records must be kept. All devices must be tested after initial installation to assure that debris from the piping installation has not interfered with the functioning of the device. The devices shall be overhauled at least once every five years. The installation of new backflow preventers must be at least 12 inches, but not more than 5 feet above the finished floor.