Natural Gas Plumbing Requirements

Water Works, Sewer & Gas Board of the City of Childersburg

1. Purpose and scope

These requirements govern the approval of new natural gas service and the installation, extension, replacement, or material alteration of customer-owned gas piping served by the Water Works, Sewer & Gas Board of the City of Childersburg (CWSG). They supplement, and do not replace, applicable law and fuel-gas codes. CWSG-owned mains, service lines, meters, and regulators remain subject to the Board's operating procedures and applicable pipeline safety rules.

Existing customer piping is not required to be replaced solely because these requirements are adopted, absent applicable law, an unsafe condition, or work that triggers current code requirements.

2. Applicable codes and qualifications

Gas installations shall comply with the currently applicable Alabama minimum technical standards, any controlling requirements of the local authority having jurisdiction, applicable laws and permits, and equipment manufacturers' instructions. As of adoption, Ala. Admin. Code r. 720-X-1-.02 references the 2021 International Residential Code for residential gas work and the 2021 International Fuel Gas Code for commercial gas work. If those legal standards change, the controlling requirements in effect for the work shall apply.

Gas-fitting work shall be performed by appropriately certified or otherwise lawfully authorized persons and, where required, through a properly registered gas-fitting company. Current Alabama gas-fitting credentials or other legally applicable authorization shall be furnished to CWSG upon request. Licenses, permits, inspections, and statutory exemptions are governed by applicable law; a plumbing-only credential is not, by itself, proof of gas-fitting authority.

3. Code-permitted materials and installation methods

CWSG will accept customer-side piping, tubing, fittings, joints, connectors, valves, and installation methods permitted for the particular use by the applicable fuel-gas code. This includes copper tubing, reducing bushings, unions, corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST), steel and approved underground materials when all conditions of approval are met. Material specifications, gas compatibility, corrosion protection, bonding and grounding, physical protection, burial depth, installation location, listing, and manufacturer instructions must be observed.

The former CWSG categorical prohibitions on copper tubing, reducing bushings, and unions are not continued. This provision does not authorize any assembly, material, or location prohibited by the applicable code.

4. Appliance connections, shutoffs, and piping capacity

Gas piping shall be sized for the connected appliance input and required operating pressure in accordance with the governing fuel-gas code. Each appliance shall have the shutoff valves, regulators, connectors, access, and other protections required for that particular installation by the code and manufacturer. CWSG does not establish separate categorical valve or union placement rules beyond the applicable code.

5. Estimated gas-demand information

Before CWSG approves a new gas tap or meter, the applicant or installer shall submit estimated natural gas demand information on the current form or approved electronic submission method designated by CWSG. The submission shall identify the proposed gas appliances, their quantities and input ratings, anticipated future appliance or generator additions, and requested delivery pressure as applicable. CWSG may request clarification or additional equipment data needed to size the meter and regulator or evaluate service capacity.

Updated demand information, using the then-current CWSG form or approved submission method, is required before a customer adds or changes gas loads that could materially increase connected demand or require a different delivery pressure, meter, or regulator. Submission does not guarantee available capacity and does not replace required customer-side piping design.

6. CWSG pressure-test requirement

New, extended, replaced, or materially altered customer-owned gas piping shall be pressure-tested before gas is introduced into the tested piping. CWSG requires a test pressure of not less than twenty pounds per square inch gauge (20 psig) maintained for at least thirty (30) minutes, without an unexplained pressure drop. If the applicable code requires a higher test pressure, longer duration, or stricter test procedure, the more stringent requirement shall be satisfied.

Testing shall be conducted by the installer using an appropriate test medium, instrument, and safety precautions in accordance with the applicable code. No meter, regulator, appliance, or other component may be subjected to a test pressure exceeding its rating. Any failed test shall be corrected and repeated successfully before activation. Where the applicable code requires a test before concealment, that timing requirement also applies.

7. Meter installation versus pressure-test timing

The required customer piping pressure test may be performed either before or after CWSG physically installs the meter. When the meter has already been installed, the customer piping under test must be securely isolated or disconnected from the CWSG meter, service regulator, and other CWSG equipment, using a method consistent with the applicable code and Board safety procedures. A closed meter valve alone shall not be assumed sufficient to protect equipment from test pressure.

Meter installation does not constitute gas-service activation or authorization to introduce gas into unapproved customer piping. CWSG shall not authorize the introduction of gas until it has received an acceptable passing test certification and the required permits, inspections, and safety conditions have been satisfied.

8. Pressure-test certification and documentation

CWSG shall receive a written pressure-test and installer certification on its then-current designated form or approved electronic submission method before gas activation. The certification shall document, at a minimum, the service address, installer or company, actual test pressure, test duration, result, and certifying installer's signature or approved electronic attestation. Legally required gas-fitting credentials or other evidence of lawful authorization shall be provided when requested. The certification must establish compliance with Section 6, regardless of the form version used.

CWSG may continue to use its existing Natural Gas Plumber's Form until management issues an updated version under Section 11. Any outdated code or credential terminology appearing on a form shall not supersede the governing law or this policy. A form does not waive an applicable code requirement, alter the 20-psig/30-minute minimum, or authorize service activation without the approvals required by this policy.

9. Service activation and responsibilities

Only authorized CWSG personnel may install, remove, connect, disconnect, unlock, or operate CWSG-owned meters, regulators, and service facilities. The customer and installer remain responsible for customer-owned piping, permits, code inspections, proper purging, downstream leak checking, appliance commissioning, and correction of deficiencies in accordance with their respective duties.

CWSG may withhold initial gas activation when the required demand information, pressure-test certification, applicable inspection approval, or safe operating conditions are not established. CWSG review, acceptance of documentation, or installation of a meter does not replace the authority having jurisdiction's inspection or transfer responsibility for customer-owned piping to CWSG.

10. Existing facilities, nonstandard service, and exceptions

Minor repairs, appliance replacements, and restoration of existing service shall be evaluated under the testing, leakage-check, and inspection provisions applicable to that work and CWSG operating procedures; they do not automatically require a full new-service submission when no qualifying piping modification or significant load change occurs.

Nonstandard service, including high-pressure, industrial, large commercial, or special metering arrangements, requires coordination with CWSG before installation and may require engineering information or a separate written service agreement. No exception issued by CWSG may waive an applicable law or fuel-gas code. Customer-owned buried piping is subject to applicable maintenance responsibilities and customer notification requirements, including 49 CFR 192.16 when applicable.

11. Administration and effective date

These requirements become effective upon adoption by the Board and replace the local Natural Gas Plumbing Requirements document dated November 4, 2013. They apply prospectively to applications and work undertaken on or after the effective date. The current Estimated Natural Gas Demand Form and Natural Gas Plumber's Form shall continue in use immediately following adoption unless and until replaced by the General Manager under this section. No specific form version is adopted as an exhibit to, or incorporated into, this policy.

The General Manager is authorized to approve, revise, replace, combine, or issue electronic versions of the administrative forms and instructions used to implement this policy, including the estimated-demand and pressure-test certification forms, without further Board action. Such revisions may improve format, terminology, clarity, instructions, required identifying information, and documentation of the standards already established by this policy. The General Manager shall date or version revised forms, maintain the current approved versions, and make them available to applicants and installers. Forms are administrative instruments; if a form conflicts with this policy or applicable law, the policy or controlling law governs. Form revisions shall not change the required 20-psig/30-minute pressure test, when testing is required, lawful materials and credentials, inspection/activation prerequisites, fees, or other substantive Board-approved requirements. Those changes must return to the Board for approval. The General Manager may otherwise implement the policy and refer code-interpretation questions to the authority having jurisdiction.

ADOPTION RECORD

Approved by Board	__November 10, 2026_____ (date)
Effective date	November 10, 2026
Supersedes	Natural Gas Plumbing Requirements, November 4, 2013
Forms in effect	Existing forms initially retained; later administrative form revisions authorized for General Manager