

CHAPTER 24. SUBSTANTIVE RULES APPLICABLE TO WATER AND SEWER SERVICE PROVIDERS.

Subchapter F. CUSTOMER SERVICE AND PROTECTION.

§24.169. Meters.

(a) Meter requirements.

- (1) **Use of meter.** All charges for water service shall be based on meter measurements, except where otherwise authorized in the utility's approved tariff.
- (2) **Installation by utility.** Unless otherwise authorized by the commission, each utility shall provide, install, own and maintain all meters necessary for the measurement of water provided to its customers.
- (3) **Standard type.** No utility shall furnish, set up, or put in use any meter which is not reliable and of a standard type which meets industry standards; provided, however, special meters not necessarily conforming to such standard types may be used for investigation or experimental purposes.
- (4) One meter is required for each residential, commercial, or industrial service connection. An apartment building, condominium, manufactured housing community, or mobile home park may be considered by the utility to be a single commercial facility for the purpose of these sections. The commission may grant an exception to the individual meter requirement if the plumbing of an existing multiple use or multiple occupant building would prohibit the installation of individual meters at a reasonable cost or would result in unreasonable disruption of the customary use of the property.

(b) Meter readings.

- (1) **Meter unit indication.** In general, each meter shall indicate clearly the gallons of water or other units of service for which charge is made to the customer.
- (2) **Reading of meters.**
 - (A) Service meters shall be read at monthly intervals, and as nearly as possible on the corresponding day of each month, but may be read at other than monthly intervals if authorized in the utility's approved tariff.
 - (B) The utility shall charge for volume usage at the lowest block charge on its approved tariff when the meter reading date varies by more than two days from the normal meter reading date.

(c) Access to meters and utility cutoff valves.

- (1) At the customer's request, utility employees must present information identifying themselves as employees of the utility in order to establish the right of access.
- (2) Utility employees shall be allowed access for the purpose of reading, testing, installing, maintaining and removing meters and using utility cutoff valves. Conditions that may hinder access include, but are not limited to, fences with locked gates, vehicles or objects placed on top of meters or meter boxes, and unrestrained animals.
- (3) When access is hindered on an ongoing basis, utilities may, but are not required to, make alternative arrangements for obtaining meter readings as described in paragraphs (4) and (5) of this subsection. Alternative arrangements for obtaining meter readings shall be made in writing with a copy provided to the customer and a copy filed in the utility's records on that customer.
- (4) If access to a meter is hindered and the customer agrees to read his own meter and provide readings to the utility, the utility may bill according to the customer's readings; provided the meter is read by the utility at regular intervals (not exceeding six months) and billing adjustments are made for any overcharges or undercharges.