

longer than six months on the basis of the extent of the inaccuracy found to exist at the time of the test. If, when any meter is tested upon the demand of a consumer, it is found to be accurate, or varies less than three percent, the consumer shall pay the reasonable cost of such testing.

SECTION 623.01 STATE BUILDING CODE; COMPLIANCE REQUIRED.

All piping, connections and appurtenances shall be installed and performed strictly in accordance with the Minnesota State Building Code. Failure to install or maintain the same in accordance therewith, or failure to have or permit required inspections shall, upon discovery by the City, be an additional ground for termination of water service to any proper owner.

SECTION 624.01 DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE.

All municipal utilities may be shutoff or discontinued whenever it is found:

- A. The owner or occupant of the premises served, or any person working on any connection with the municipal utility systems, has violated any requirement of this Code relative thereto;
- B. Any charge for a municipal utility service, or any other financial obligation imposed on the present owner or occupant of the premises served, is unpaid after due notice thereof;
- C. There is fraud or misrepresentation by the owner or occupant in connection with any application for service or delivery or charges therefor.

SECTION 625.01. COLD WEATHER RULE.

Subd. 1. Application; Notice to Residential Property Owners/Occupants.

- A. The City and Commission shall not disconnect the utility service of a property owner/occupant during the period between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit when the following conditions are met:
 1. The property owner/occupant has declared inability to pay on forms provided by the Commission. For the purposes of this Section, a property owner/occupant that is receiving energy assistance is deemed to have demonstrated an inability to pay;
 2. The household income of the property owner/occupant is less than 50% of the State median income;
 3. Verification of the income may be conducted by the Commission, unless the customer is automatically eligible for protection against disconnection as a recipient of any form of public assistance, including energy assistance that uses

income eligibility in an amount at or below the income eligibility in Subparagraph 2 above;

4. A property owner/occupant whose account is current for the billing period immediately prior to October 15 or who, at any time, enters into a payment schedule that considers the financial resources of the household and is reasonably current with payment under the schedule; and
5. The property owner/occupant receives referrals to energy assistance programs, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the property owner/occupant's energy bills.

B. The Commission shall, between August 15 and October 15 of each year, notify all residential property owners/occupants of the provisions of this Section.

Subd. 2. Notice to Residential Property Owners/Occupants Facing Disconnection.

- A. Before disconnecting service to a residential property owner/occupant during the period between October 15 and April 15, the Commission must provide the following information to a property owner/occupant:
 1. A notice of proposed disconnection;
 2. A statement explaining the property owner/occupant's rights and responsibilities;
 3. A list of local energy assistance providers;
 4. Forms on which to declare inability to pay; and
 5. A statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility service.

Subd. 3. Restrictions on Disconnection.

- A. If a residential property owner/occupant is involuntarily disconnected between October 15 and April 15 for failure to comply with the provisions of Subdivision 1, the disconnection shall not occur on a Friday or on a day before a holiday. Further, the disconnection shall not occur until at least 20 days after the notice required in Subdivision 2 has been mailed to the property owner/occupant or 15 days after the notice has been personally delivered to the property owner/occupant.
- B. If a property owner/occupant does not respond to a disconnection notice, the property owner/occupant must not be disconnected until the Commission investigates whether the residential unit is actually occupied. If the unit is found to be occupied, the Commission must immediately inform the property owner/occupant of the provisions of this Section. If the unit is unoccupied, the Commission must give seven days notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making the disconnection.