

## **2.6 AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS**

A. All Automatic Underground Sprinkler Systems connected to the Town of Holliston water system must be registered with and certified by the HWD in accordance with the following provisions:

1. Definition: For the purposes of these Water Rules and Regulations, an “Automatic Underground Sprinkler System” is defined as any irrigation system comprised of one or more irrigation outlets (or “sprinkler heads”) connected to a subterranean network of hoses or pipes, and capable of unsupervised, automatic or cycling operation, whether or not such system is activated manually or by operation of a timing device.
2. Registration: Any resident owning an Automatic System (“Registrant”) currently connected to the HWD’s system must complete and submit an Underground Sprinkler System Registration Form (“Registration Form”), included in Appendix A. At that time, each Registrant will be given:
  - a. Written information regarding minimum system requirements for Town Certification of Automatic Systems;
  - b. A Certification Form to be filled out and signed by a Massachusetts Certified Backflow Device Inspector (“Inspector”),
  - c. Written information and guidelines concerning water efficient landscaping and efficient operation of Automatic Systems, and;
  - d. The HWD’s Water Rules and Regulations which can be obtained on line.
3. Certification: Registrants shall have from one year from the date of registration to arrange Certification of the Registered System(s), as follows:
  - a. Minimum System Requirements:
    - i. Backflow Prevention: All Systems must be properly connected to the Town water system via an independent plumbing connection incorporating a Massachusetts State Plumbing Code- approved backflow prevention device.
    - ii. Rain Sensor: All Systems must incorporate a functioning rain sensor, sufficient to automatically shut down the System in the event of rain.
  - b. Inspection: All backflow devices must be inspected by a Massachusetts State Certified and Licensed Backflow Prevention Device Inspector. Registrants will be responsible for payment of a reasonable Inspection Fee.
  - c. Certification Form: Each Registrant will be provided with a Certification Form, to be filled out and signed by the Inspector and the Registrant, and returned to the Office of the Water Department. A properly completed Certification Form must include:
    - i. Make and serial number of backflow prevention device(s);
    - ii. The Inspector’s name, State license number, and contact information;
    - iii. The Inspector’s signature, attesting to the fact that he/she has

inspected the System in question, and determined that it does meet the Minimum System Requirements enumerated above; and

- iv. The Registrant's signature, attesting that he/she has read and understands the written materials provided at Registration, including the guidelines concerning water efficient landscaping and efficient operation of Automatic Systems.
4. Inspection by HWD: Pursuant to these Water Rules and Regulations, authorized agents of the HWD shall have the right to inspect, for cause or at random, any Registered Automatic System, to confirm the information submitted in the Certification Form. The HWD reserves the right to withdraw the certification of any system determined to be in violation of this Paragraph.
5. Right to Reject: The HWD, reserves the right to reject any Certification Form, for cause to be stated with specificity at the time of such rejection, and/or to require an additional or alternate Inspection, by HWD's personnel or by an alternate Department-designated Inspector.
6. New Systems: Subject to and without altering or replacing any of the requirements of these Water Rules and Regulations, any Automatic System installed after September 1, 2004 must be registered and certified according to the provisions of this Paragraph prior to initial activation.
7. Violations/Penalties: Any resident discovered to be using an Automatic System not properly registered and certified in accordance with the above provisions shall be:
  - a. On initial violation: advised of the requirements and given a six month period to comply with its provisions;
  - b. On second violation (following expiration of 6 month compliance period); there will be a fine;
  - c. On subsequent violations or failure to remit the second violation fine: subject to increasing fines in increments, and/or disconnection from the Town water system, at the sole discretion of the HWD.
  - d. The second violation fine and subsequent incremental fines will be assessed in accordance with Schedule of Other Charges and Services included in Appendix A.
8. Subsequent Inspections: Pursuant to 310 CMR 22.22(13), all Registrants will be responsible for arranging annual inspections every Spring, before use of Backflow Prevention devices by a Massachusetts State Certified and Licensed Backflow Prevention Device Inspector, and for payment of the associated inspection fee.
  - a. The HWD will send notice to all owners of Registered Systems annually with the Registrant's Water Bill in April.
- B. Applicability of Other Rules and Regulations: Unless stated explicitly herein, no provision of this Paragraph shall be construed to alter or affect the applicability of any State laws or other Paragraph of these Water Rules and Regulations to the use of Automatic Sprinkler Systems. Additionally, any and all temporary restrictions of or bans on irrigation as may from time to time be implemented by the HWD shall apply equally and with the same force to users of Automatic Sprinkler Systems as to users of any and all other means of residential irrigation. (Adopted May 20, 2004)