



Interpretation Number: BLD INT 21-001	Title: Drinking Fountain and Water Dispenser options
Effective Date: 11/1/2021	Division: Building Division
Approved Date: 10/19/2021	Approved By: <i>B. Stoller</i>

Applicability: 2018 IBC 202, 1109.5, 2902.7, High-Low Drinking Fountains, Definition and Substitution and 2018 IPC Section 410 with City of Prescott Amendments.

Definitions: **Code Change:** IBC Section 202 add WATER DISPENSER. A plumbing fixture that is manually controlled by the user for the purpose of dispensing potable drinking water into a receptacle such as a cup, glass or bottle. Such fixture is connected to the potable water distribution system of the premises. This definition includes a freestanding apparatus for the same purpose that is not connected to the potable water distribution system and that is supplied with potable water from a container, bottle or reservoir.

Interpretation Statement: In response to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, and to align with the 2021 code revisions option, the City of Prescott will permit a 100 percent substitution of traditional drinking fountains with water dispensers provided that the unit is equipped with a permanent water supply, a cup dispenser is installed within the minimum reach ranges required by 2017 ICC A117.1 Section 308, and a clear floor space complying with 2017 ICC A117.1 Section 305 is maintained at the front approach of the dispenser.

Documentation:

1. **Code Change: 2018 IPC Section 410.1, Drinking Fountain, Approval**
 - a. **410.1 Approval.** Drinking fountains shall conform to ASME A112.19.1/CSA B45.2 or ASME A112.19.2/CSA B45.1, or ASME A112.19.3/CSA B45.4 and *water coolers* shall conform to ASHRAE 18. Drinking fountains, *water coolers* and *water dispensers* shall conform to NSF 61, Section 9. Electrically operated, refrigerated drinking *water coolers* and *water dispensers* shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 399.
2. **Code Change: IBC Section 1109.5, 2902.7, Water Dispenser**

Water Dispensers shall be provided in accordance with Sections 1109.5.1 and 1109.5.2.

- a. **1109.5.1 Minimum number.** Not fewer than two Water Dispensers shall be provided. One Water Dispenser shall comply with the requirements for people who use a wheelchair and one drinking fountain shall comply with the requirements for standing persons.

i. **Exceptions:**

1. A single Water Dispenser with two separate spouts that complies with the requirements for people who use a wheelchair and standing persons shall be permitted to be substituted for two separate Water Dispensers.
2. Where Water Dispensers are primarily for children's use, Water Dispensers for people using wheelchairs shall be permitted to comply with the children's provisions in ICC A117.1 and Water Dispensers for standing children shall be permitted to provide the spout at 30 inches (762 mm) minimum above the floor.

- b. **1109.5.2 More than the minimum number.** Where more than the minimum number of Water dispensers specified in Section 1109.5.1 is provided, 50 percent of the total number of water Dispensers provided shall comply with the requirements for persons who use a wheelchair and 50 percent of the total number of drinking fountains provided shall comply with the requirements for standing persons.

i. **Exceptions:**

1. Where 50 percent of the Water dispenser yields a fraction, 50 percent shall be permitted to be rounded up or down, provided that the total number of water dispensers complying with this section equals 100 percent of the drinking fountains.
2. Where water dispensers are primarily for children's use, water dispensers for people using wheelchairs shall be permitted to comply with the children's provisions in ICC A117.1 and drinking fountains for standing children shall be permitted to provide the spout at 30 inches (762 mm) minimum above the floor.