
BULLETIN 2000-008-EL/PL

Revised September 4, 2015

STORM SUMP “PUMP” REGULATIONS

Attention All Homeowners, Builders, Mechanical Contractors, and Registered Professionals.

Often buildings have storm and subsurface drainage systems installed at an elevation where pumping becomes necessary. Under these circumstances the design and installation of sump pumps and sump pits must conform to specific standards and regulations in order to provide the public with protection against flooding due to an inadequately designed or improperly installed sump pump. The City of Vancouver’s Engineering Department has determined that there is no universal solution to meet all variations in pumping requirements. Therefore when applying for a plumbing permit for a “pumped” storm sump, the following requirements must be met:

- 1) Each application shall be accompanied by a letter bearing the seal and signature of a Registered Professional of British Columbia who is retained to design and inspect the required sump pump, sump pit, and drainage system upon completion of the project.
- 2) The Registered Professional is required to notify the City’s Manager of Trades Inspections should his/her services be terminated prior to the completion of the construction.

The Registered Professional should consider the following factors when designing and inspecting a sump pump, sump pit and drainage system:

- a) Factors such as flow rates to all perimeter drains, drainage area, groundwater levels, type of backfill in trenches, depth of surrounding impervious stratum relative to the drain pipes etc.
- b) Pumps shall be equipped with a self-resetting thermal overload protection switch and be rated for continuous duty.
- c) The Vancouver Building By-law Plumbing Systems No.10908 contains specific requirement that an approved union, check valve and shut-off (in that order) be used on all discharge piping.
- d) In addition to the requirements of the Vancouver Electrical By-law No. 5563, the following provisions are required:
 - i. The sump pump shall be supplied by a branch circuit that supplies no other outlets or equipment;
 - ii. The branch circuit must be installed in conformance with the applicable requirements of the Canadian Electric Code, Part 1; and
 - iii. The sump pump shall have provisions for a hard-wired direct connection to a watertight outlet within the sump; or a plug in cord or a hard-wired direct connection cord which is long enough to reach a receptacle or an outlet box through a raceway extending above the sump.

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