City of Columbus
Mayor Michael B. Coleman

Scott Messer - Director

Building and Zoning Services
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February 13, 2006
(Revised July 1, 2014)

Construction Industry Communication # 07

From: Keith Wagenknecht, Chief Building Official
Jeff Cox, Division of Sewage and Drainage

Re: Guideline requirements for compliance to Columbus City Code 1145.75 – Non-stormwater discharge to storm sewers -- for areas such as, but not limited to, parking garages, fuel areas covered by canopy, dumpster pads, can washers, loading docks, etc..

Requirements: Columbus City Code 1145.75 – *Non-stormwater discharge to storm sewers* states: *'Except as authorized by a valid National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit or as authorized in-writing by the director, any direct or indirect discharge to the storm sewer that is not composed* ***entirely*** *of stormwater is prohibited..."*

Background: To eliminate confusion regarding the discharge of wastewater into city's sanitary and storm sewer systems, the Columbus Division of Sewage and Drainage and Building Services Division have determined that covered drains are not intended to collect only stormwater and have the potential for discharge of more concentrated pollutants than exposed storm sewer connections (e.g., surface parking lots). Interior or inlets/floor drains that are covered must be directed to the sanitary sewer system.

Memorandum: Guideline Requirements for Compliance to City Code Section 1145.75 -- for areas such as, but not limited to, parking garages, fuel areas covered by a canopy, dumpster pads, can washers, loading docks:

Exterior drains on a top deck must discharge into a storm system.
Interior drains in parking garages or other covered structures must discharge into a sanitary system.
Drains located inside structures utilized for vehicle and/or equipment maintenance, repair or service must be routed through an interceptor to the sanitary system.

Waste that is a result of interior floor cleaning must discharge into a sanitary system.
A fixture **cannot** receive both stormwater and wastewater. If the discharge is issued by the Ohio EPA, the discharge may be routed to the separate storm system. If the discharge is a composition or has a potential for discharge of matter other than stormwater, it must be routed to the sanitary system. Curbing surrounding the fixture or the addition of a roof or canopy to prevent stormwater from mixing with discharges to the sanitary system may be required.

Questions may be directed to: Jeff Cox, Stormwater and Regulatory Management Section at (614) 645-6311. (Letter dated 2/14/06 from Tom Russell attached)

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Landowners/Engineers/Developers**

FROM: **Tom Russell, P.E.**
Manager, Stormwater and Regulatory Management Section

DAGE: **February 14, 2006**

RE: **Interior Drains, Clarification of Stormwater Plan Approval**

All covered interior drains from basement, garage or other covered areas must be connected to the sanitary sewer system. In general, an oil-water separator is required if the drain is from a facility such as a commercial car wash or the area is used for vehicle maintenance or repair.

Columbus City Codes 1145.75, Non-Stormwater Discharge to Storm Sewers states: "Except as authorized by a valid NPDES permit or as authorized in writing by the Director, any direct or indirect discharge to the storm sewer that is not composed entirely of stormwater is prohibited…" We have determined that covered inlets or drains are not intended to collect stormwater and have the potential for discharge of more concentrated pollutants than exposed storm sewer connections (e.g. surface parking lots).

All proposed connections to the City of Columbus Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) must be shown on the site drainage plans. Approval of site drainage plans is for general conformance to City criteria for site surface drainage of stormwater only.

Connection to the City's separate sanitary sewer system must meet all applicable pretreatment requirements. Please contact Industrial Waste Pretreatment Program at 614-645-5876 for information regarding specific pretreatment requirements.

Please be advised that interior drains are also subject to different design and construction requirements; contact the Plumbing Section of the Building Services Division at 645-6340 for information.