

# Questions and Answers for Irrigators

## New Rules Effective Date

### **When must I comply with the new rules?**

The current rules are effective for all work that is **completed** by December 31, 2008.

**Beginning January 1, 2009, the new rules are effective, except the requirement to have either an irrigator or irrigation technician on-site during the installation of an irrigation system is effective on January 1, 2010.** Irrigation systems that are completed on or after January 1, 2009, should meet the requirements of the new rules.



### ► **Are any irrigation systems exempt from the rule requirement?**

Yes, there are some irrigation systems that are exempt from the rule requirements. They are:

- On-site Sewage Facilities
- Used on or by an Agricultural Operation
- Connected to a groundwater well used by the property owner for domestic use.

### ► **Will the installer license be converted to an irrigation technician license?**

No, the irrigation technician can perform install, maintenance, alteration, repair and service of an irrigation system in addition to installing a backflow prevention device. The irrigation technician must demonstrate his knowledge and ability to correctly install, maintain, alter, repair or service an irrigation system.

## Irrigation Plan

### ► **When is an irrigation plan required?**

An irrigation plan is required for all new landscape irrigation systems designed or installed on or after January 1, 2009. An irrigation plan is not required for the maintenance, alteration, repair, or service of an irrigation system. The addition of new zones does not trigger the requirement for an irrigation plan; however, irrigation system owners may **request** an irrigation plan.

► **What scale must be used for the irrigation plan?**

An architectural or engineering scale may be used. The plan must be legible. There are no requirements for the scale, irrigators might consider using:

- residential installations – 1” equal to a maximum of 30’
- commercial/athletic installations – 1” equal to a maximum of 40’
- golf course or comparable installations – 1” equal to a maximum of 100’

► **What must be included on the plan?**

Site-specific information:

- **physical features**
- **boundaries**
- **zone flow measurements** for each zone
- location/type of **controllers**
- location/type of **sensors**
- location/type/size of **water source**
- location/type/size of **backflow prevention device**
- location/type/size of **water emission device**
- location/type/size of **valves**
- location/type/size of **pressure regulation component**
- location/type/size of **main line and lateral piping**
- **design pressure**

General information:

- irrigator’s **seal**
- irrigator’s **signature** below seal
- **date** sealed
- **North arrow**
- **legend**
- **scale** used

See [§344.61](#) for more information on the initial plan.

► **Is the plan kept on site during the installation of the irrigation system?**

Yes, the plan should be on site during the installation of the irrigation system. Changes to the plan should be marked in red.

► **What happens to the plan when the project is finished?**

The irrigation plan showing the actual installation of the irrigation system is provided to the irrigation system owner or the owner’s representative as part of the walk through. The irrigator maintains a copy of the plan for a period of three years.

**I use computer generated plans and keep electronic copies of my plans. Do I have to create a hard copy for my files?**

No, you may maintain an electronic file. You may be asked to provide a hard copy for complaint investigation.



- ▶ **If I prepare an electronic plan can I use an electronically generated signature and seal on the plan?**

Yes, an electronic signature and seal is acceptable. The signature and seal should be legible on any copies that are produced.

- ▶ **Since I prepare electronic plans can I make modifications to the initial plan that show the actual installation of the irrigation system, mark the plan as “Installed Irrigation System”, and provide the drawing to the irrigation system owner?**

Yes, it is important that the plan clearly indicate that the drawing represents the installation of the irrigation system.

### **Final Walk Through/Completion of the Irrigation System Installation**

- ▶ **Who can conduct the final walk through?**

The final walk through can be conducted by either the irrigator or the irrigation technician that provided the on-site supervision of the installation. The walk through may be conducted with either the irrigation system owner or someone designated by the irrigation system owner.

- ▶ **What must be included in the final walk through with an irrigation system owner?**

The final walk through is the opportunity to educate the irrigation system owner on how to operate the system correctly to maintain a healthy yard and to conserve our water resources.

Several documents should be provided to the irrigation system owner:

- Manufacturer's manual for the **automatic controller**;
- Seasonal **watering schedule**;
- **List of components that require maintenance** and the **recommended frequency** of service;

- **Irrigation plan** showing the installed system; and
- **Maintenance checklist.**

The **Maintenance Checklist** contains:

- the signature of the irrigation system owner or the owner’s representative;
- the irrigator’s seal, signature and date; **and**
- a statement, “This irrigation system has been installed in accordance with all applicable state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations or orders. I have tested the system and determined that it has been installed according to the Irrigation Plan and is properly adjusted for the most efficient application of water at this time.”

[Sample Maintenance Checklist](#)



**Don’t forget:** To place a **permanent sticker** that has your name, license number, company name, telephone number, and the dates the warranty is valid on the automatic controller. No automatic controller? Put the sticker on the original maintenance checklist.

[Sample Sticker](#)

- ▶ **I can’t schedule a walk through with the irrigation system owner or designated representative. What can I do?**

If the irrigation system’s owner or owner’s representative is unwilling or unable to sign the maintenance checklist, the irrigator should note the time and date of the refusal on the irrigation system’s owner’s signature line. Keep a copy of the maintenance checklist and note the date that the documents were delivered to the irrigation system owner/designated representative.

### **Maintenance, alteration, repair or service of an irrigation system**

- ▶ **I only perform maintenance, alteration, repair, or service of an irrigation system. What will I do differently?**

There are several rule changes that apply to the maintenance, alteration, repair, or service (maintenance) of an irrigation system:

- ✓ Any **trenches or holes** that are created during the maintenance must be returned to the original grade with compacted select backfill.

- ✓ **Colored PVC pipe primer solvent** must be used on pipes and fittings used in maintenance must be in accordance with either the Uniform Plumbing Code (Section 316) or the International Plumbing Code (Section 605).
- ✓ If the maintenance work involves **excavation work at the water meter or a backflow prevention device**, an isolation valve must be installed if an isolation valve is not present.
- ✓ If an irrigation system is connected to a potable water supply and maintenance of the irrigation system requires **opening** to the atmosphere of the irrigation system **main line** at any point prior to the discharge side of the irrigation zone control valve, then the system must be connected through an approved, properly installed backflow prevention method.
- ✓ If an **existing controller is replaced**, a rain or moisture sensor or other technology that is designed to interrupt the operation of an irrigation system during period of rain must be installed. This requirement does not apply in El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Brewster, Terrell, Loving, Winkler, Ward, Reeves, Ector, Crane or Pecos counties.
- ✓ **Written estimates, proposals, bids, and invoices** must contain the TCEQ statement. The TCEQ statement has been changed to include the TCEQ website address. The new statement is, "**Irrigation in Texas is regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) (MC-178), P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. TCEQ's web site is: [www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us).**"
- ✓ Provide the irrigation system's owner or owner's representative a **written document that identifies the materials** furnished in the maintenance of the irrigation system.
- ✓ If a warranty is provided for the maintenance of the irrigation system, the warranty should clearly state the warranty period for the work and or parts and must be honored. The warranty document must include the irrigator's name and business contact information.
- ✓ Be aware of irrigation system **design and installation requirements** ([§344.62](#)) that might impact the work that you perform.
- ✓ Be aware of **record keeping requirements** ([§344.38](#)) that require maintaining archival copies (hard or electronic) of documents given to the irrigation system owner or owner's representative. Records must be maintained for three years and made available to TCEQ or to a local regulatory agency within ten business days of a request.
- ✓ **Local areas may adopt more stringent standards.**
- ✓ **All maintenance, alteration, repairs, or service must promote water conservation.**

## Design and Installation Standards

### ► What are the new design and installation standards?

There are several changes to the rules. Additional information can be obtained in [§344.62](#), Minimum Design and Installation Requirements.



**You may maintain a reference library for the components that you use. You do not need to include the manufacturer's publications in your job files. When material becomes dated, you can archive the document until the last installation using that publication information is three years old, then discard the reference copy.**

- ✓ **Do not exceed the manufacturer's published radius or spacing between emission devices.**
- ✓ New irrigation systems **may not utilize above-ground spray emission devices** in landscapes that are **less than 48 inches**, not including impervious surfaces, in either length or width and that **have pedestrian or vehicular traffic surfaces** on two or more sides.
- ✓ **Do not** use any component (including the water meter) in a way that **exceeds the manufacturer's published performance limitations** for the component.
- ✓ **Pop-up sprays or rotary sprinkler** heads used in new irrigation systems must:
  - **Direct flow away from adjacent surfaces**; and
  - Must be **installed no closer than four inches** from a hardscape.
  - Narrow paved walkways, jogging paths, golf cart paths or other small areas **located in cemeteries, parks, golf courses or other public areas** may be exempted from this requirement if the runoff drains into a landscaped area.
- ✓ **Emission devices** must be installed to **operate between the minimum and the maximum** sprinkler head pressure as published by the manufacturer for the nozzle and head spacing that is used.
- ✓ The **flow of water** in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe cannot exceed a velocity of five feet per second.
- ✓ **Separate zones** should be used based on plant material type, microclimate factors, topographic features, soil conditions, and hydrological requirements.
- ✓ All emission devices in a zone should irrigate at the **same precipitation rate**.
- ✓ **No spraying of water over impervious materials.**

- ✓ If a **master valve** is provided, it must be installed on the discharge side of the backflow prevention device.
- ✓ PVC pipe primer solvent must be primed with **colored primer prior** to applying PVC cement and be installed in accordance with the Uniform Plumbing Code (Section 316) or the International Plumbing Code (Section 605).
- ✓ An **isolation valve** is required between the water meter and the backflow prevention device.
- ✓ **Piping** must be installed in accordance to the manufacturer's published specifications for depth of pipe coverage.
- ✓ If the manufacturer does not specify depth coverage for pipe, **the pipe must be buried at least six inches deep**. The pipe must be covered with six inches of **select backfill** between the top of the pipe and the **natural grade of the topsoil**. **Mounding** with select backfill may be used in some instances but must be noted on the **irrigation plan** and discussed with the irrigation system owner to address safety issues. (Note that mounding is appropriate only if the area being irrigated is rock and that lines cannot be buried at the appropriate depth.)
- ✓ Trenches and holes must be **backfilled and compacted** to the original grade.
- ✓ Wiring used to **connect an automatic controller** to any electrical component of the irrigation system must be listed by the **Underwriters Laboratories** as acceptable for burial underground.
- ✓ Electrical wiring connected to an irrigation system must be sized according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- ✓ Electrical splices that may be exposed to moisture must be waterproofed as certified by the wire splice manufacturer.
- ✓ Underground electrical wire used in an irrigation system must be buried with a minimum of six inches of select backfill.
- ✓ **No drinking or domestic use** (filling swimming pools or decorative fountains) connections from the irrigation system are allowed.
- ✓ If a **hose bib** is connected to an irrigation system, the hose bib **must be installed using a quick coupler key installed in a covered purple valve box**. The hose bib and hoses connected to the bib must be labeled "non-potable, not safe for drinking." An **isolation valve** must be installed upstream of the quick coupler.

**What do you mean when you say impervious surfaces or hardscape?**

The terms are used to refer to: building foundations, fences, concrete, asphalt, pavers, stones, brick, wood, stones set with mortar, sidewalks, streets, walls, etc.



**► When is a rain or moisture shut-off device required?**

A rain or moisture shut-off device or another technology that will turn off the irrigation system is required on (1) all new irrigation systems that have an automatic controller and (2) all replacements of automatic controllers at existing irrigation systems. The requirement to install a rain or moisture shut-off device does not apply in El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Brewster, Terrell, Loving, Winkler, Ward, Reeves, Ector, Crane or Pecos counties.

The rain or moisture sensor device must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s published recommendations.

***All irrigation systems must be designed, installed, maintained, altered, repaired, serviced, and operated in a manner that promotes water conservation.***

<b>Term</b>	<b>Consideration</b>
Microclimate	Structures, paved areas, shade, wind conditions, or direct sunlight
Topographic	Slope, elevation, grade
Hydrological	Grouping like emission devices together so that the maximum gallons per minute of available flow is not exceeded, and performing calculations to determine that the system will operate correctly.
Plant material	Trees, shrubs, and plants should be on different irrigation zones. Plants may need to be broken down into further classifications – a rose bush and a cactus would not have the same watering requirements.
Soil conditions	Sand, clay, loam, combinations

These concepts are taught in basic irrigation courses and continuing education courses that are required to maintain irrigation licenses in Texas.

► **What is select backfill?**

The definition of select backfill is backfill that is “free of building debris and rocks larger than two inches.”

► **Based on the new legislation effective January 1, 2009, can an irrigation inspector inspect the "tie-in" to the private water line that serves the irrigation system or does a licensed plumbing inspector have to inspect that particular item?**

Beginning January 1, 2009, a TCEQ licensed irrigation inspector can inspect the "tie-in" between the backflow prevention device and the water meter as part of the irrigation system.

► **I am installing an irrigation system at a golf course and the flow through the pipes may exceed 5 feet per second. Is this a problem?**

The rules state that water flowing through PVC pipe should not exceed 5 feet per second. If the pipe being used at the golf course is PVC pipe, the irrigation system would not comply with state rules.

### **Reclaimed Water**

► **What is reclaimed water?**

Reclaimed water is domestic or municipal wastewater which has been treated to a quality to make it suitable for beneficial use, such as landscape irrigation.

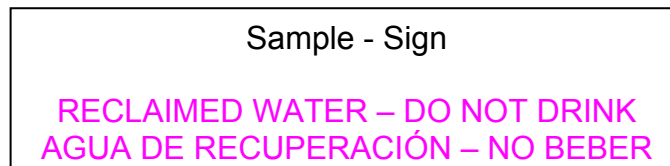
► **Can reclaimed water be used in landscape irrigation systems?**

Yes, check with your local water purveyor to determine if there are any local requirements or restrictions on the use of reclaimed water in landscape irrigation systems. Your local water purveyor can also provide information on the required backflow prevention device and the frequency of any testing that will be required to make sure the backflow prevention device is working correctly.

► **What are the requirements for using reclaimed water in a landscape irrigation system?**

- ✓ **No direct contact** with edible crops, unless the crop is pasteurized (heat-processed to kill bacteria) before consumption (note: see the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's web site at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/fttfruit.html> for additional safety information);

- ✓ **Does not spray water across property lines** that don't belong to the irrigation system's owner;
- ✓ System is installed using purple **components**;
- ✓ Domestic potable water line is connected using an **air gap or a reduced pressure principle** backflow prevention device ([See §290.47\(i\)](#));
- ✓ The **appropriate backflow prevention** device is used; and
- ✓ A **sign** (minimum size is eight inches by eight inches), in English and Spanish, is prominently posted on/in the area.



### Advertising

#### ▶ **When do I use my license number?**

Your license number should appear on:

- ✓ **Vehicles** used in installation, maintenance, alteration, repair, or service of irrigation systems;
- ✓ **Trailers** that advertise irrigation services;
- ✓ **Written and electronic advertisements** for irrigation services including **business cards and estimates** – must include the irrigator's name and license number; and
- ✓ **Contracts, proposals, bids, and invoices.**

#### ▶ **Are there requirements for the license number on my vehicle?**

Yes, the letters must be in the form of "LI\_\_\_\_\_", in a contrasting color of block letters at least two inches high. The number must be displayed on both sides of the vehicle.

#### ▶ **My firm employs several irrigators, which license number should be used?**

The license number of any (or all) of the irrigators may be used. This is a business decision.

#### ▶ **Are there any other changes to the advertising requirements?**

When you display your license number, you do not need to include the leading zeros (for example, LI 98765).

► **Can the TCEQ logo be used in my advertising materials?**

Individuals that are in a regulatory relationship with the TCEQ may not use the TCEQ logo because it may be perceived as a TCEQ endorsement. You may advertise that you are licensed by TCEQ. You may also advertise that you are regulated by the TCEQ and may provide a link to the TCEQ Web site. The State of Texas has intellectual property rights in TCEQ's logo and our logo may not be used without TCEQ's permission.

► **With regards to seal requirements, is an embossing seal with a raised impression or a rubber stamp allowed?**

Both types of seals would be appropriate, as long as they are photographically reproducible.

► **How should the irrigator's license number be displayed on the seal?**

The license number should be displayed horizontally in the center, excluding "LI" and the leading zeros. For example, LI0001234 would become simply 1234.

### **Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection**

► **What backflow prevention devices are acceptable for use?**

Irrigation systems that are connected to a potable water supply must be connected to the water supply using a **backflow prevention device approved** by the:

- ✓ American Society of Sanitary Engineers;
- ✓ Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research, University of Southern California;
- ✓ Uniform Plumbing Code; or
- ✓ Any other laboratory that has equivalent capabilities for laboratory and field evaluation.

The **installation** must be in accordance with the laboratory approval standards **or** if there is no specific installation information, in accordance with the manufacturer's published recommendations.

► **When must backflow prevention devices be tested?**

All backflow devices must be **tested upon installation** prior to placing the irrigation system in service. Irrigators must ensure that the **test results** are provided to the water purveyor and the irrigation system's owner or owner's representative within ten business days of the backflow prevention device test. Backflow prevention devices used in health hazard applications must be **tested**

**annually**, in addition to the initial test. **Check with your local water purveyor to determine if there are more stringent local requirements.**

► **What type of backflow prevention device must be used?**

If a health hazard exists, an air gap, reduced pressure principle, pressure vacuum breaker or atmospheric vacuum breaker must be used. The following table describes the conditions that apply to each type of backflow prevention device. **Local areas may have more stringent standards.**

Type of Backflow Prevention Device	Conditions (See <a href="#">§344.50</a> and <a href="#">§344.51</a> ).
<b>Air gap</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Unobstructed</b> physical separation</li> <li>✓ Distance from the lowest point of the water supply outlet to the flood rim of the assembly into which the outlet discharges is at least one inch <b>or</b> is twice the diameter of the water supply outlet, <b>whichever is greater</b></li> <li>✓ If a <b>chemical</b> is added to the irrigation system</li> <li>✓ More than one <b>water source</b></li> </ul>
<b>Reduced pressure principle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Installed at least <b>12 inches</b> above the ground</li> <li>✓ Assembly will <b>not be submerged</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Drainage</b> provided for any discharge from the relief valve</li> <li>✓ If a <b>chemical</b> is added to the irrigation system by aspiration, injection or is imbedded in an emission system component</li> <li>✓ If the irrigation system is installed on a property served by an <b>on-site sewage facility</b> and is connected to a potable water supply</li> </ul>
<b>Pressure vacuum breaker</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ No <b>back-pressure</b> conditions</li> <li>✓ Installation is at least <b>12 inches above</b> any downstream piping and the highest downstream opening (measure pop-up sprinklers in the retracted position and from the top of the sprinkler)</li> </ul>
<b>Atmospheric vacuum breaker</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ No <b>back-pressure</b></li> <li>✓ No <b>shutoff valves</b> downstream from the device</li> <li>✓ Installation is a minimum of <b>six inches above</b> downstream piping and the highest downstream opening</li> <li>✓ <b>No continuous pressure</b> on the supply side of the device for more than 12 hours in any 24 hour period</li> <li>✓ <b>Separate</b> atmospheric vacuum breaker is installed on the discharge side of each irrigation control valve</li> </ul>

► **When can a double check valve be used?**

A double check valve can be used if:

- ✓ The **local water purveyor does not prohibit** the use of a double check valve;
- ✓ **Backpressure** could cause a reversal of the normal flow of water or **back-siphonage** conditions from reduced pressure in the system might exist;
- ✓ Test cocks are used for **testing only**.

If the double check valve is installed below ground:

- ✓ Test cocks must be **plugged** (except during testing);
- ✓ Test cock plugs must be threaded, water-tight, and made of non-ferrous material;
- ✓ A **y-type strainer** is installed on the inlet side of the double check valve;
- ✓ **Adequate clearance** between fill material and the bottom and sides of the double check valve to allow space to testing and repairing.

A y-type strainer is only required when a double check valve is installed below ground. You are encouraged to use a y-type strainer on all backflow prevention devices .

► **Where should an automatic master valve be located?**

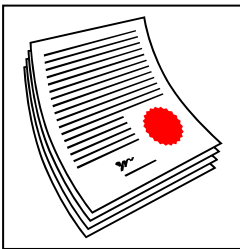
If a master valve is used on an irrigation system connected to a potable water supply through a double check valve, pressure vacuum breaker or reduced pressure principle backflow assemble, the master valve must be installed on the **discharge** side of the backflow prevention device.

► **What should an irrigator do if a homeowner refuses to have a backflow prevention device or an isolation valve installed during a repair?**

The irrigator should inform the homeowner before starting a repair job that a backflow prevention device or an isolation valve might be needed during the repair. The irrigator can point to TCEQ's rules and other information (such as this Question and Answer document) to educate the homeowner about the need to protect health and conserve water. If the homeowner refuses, the irrigator should notify the water purveyor that there is no backflow prevention device or that the wrong type of backflow prevention device has been used. Ultimately, if the homeowner refuses to have a backflow prevention device or an isolation valve installed, an irrigator that repairs the irrigation system without installing the backflow prevention device or isolation valve, the irrigator is violating state (and in areas with irrigation rules or ordinances) and local requirements.

## Other Requirements

- ✓ All irrigators are expected to be knowledgeable of **local requirements** (where business is being performed) related to landscape irrigation systems.
- ✓ Irrigators must **display their license certificate** in the place that they conduct irrigation business. Signs are not required at job sites where irrigation systems are installed.
- ✓ When requested by a regulatory authority, irrigation system's owner, or prospective owner, an irrigator must **present his/her license**.
- ✓ **Maintain archival copies** of all records given to the irrigation system owner or owner's representative. Electronic copies may be maintained. Copies must be maintained for three years.
- ✓ Make copies of records available within ten days of a request by a regulatory authority.
- ✓ The "TCEQ statement" has been changed to include the Agency's web address. The new statement is, "**Irrigation in Texas is regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) (MC-178), P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. TCEQ's web site is: [www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us).**"
- ✓ The seal should be visible and legible on the original document and copies or reproductions of the original document.
- ✓ Include the date that a document is sealed.
- ✓ **Documents that require the seal:** the irrigation plan and any specifications that may accompany the irrigation plan, contracts, addenda to contracts, change orders, warranty, and the maintenance checklist.



Seal	
<i>Irrigator's Signature</i>	<i>Month, Day, Year</i>
<b>Sample - Signature Block</b>	

### ► Who has jurisdiction to enforce landscape irrigation rules or ordinances?

Situation	Authority
An irrigation system is installed in the city limits of a municipality.	Municipality
An irrigation system is installed in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a city.	Municipality
An irrigation system is installed in a water district with landscape irrigation rules.	Water District
An irrigation system is installed in an area that does not have landscape irrigation rules or ordinances. (TCEQ does not require	TCEQ

a permit) TCEQ may also enforce local rules and ordinances.	
An irrigation system is installed in a water district that is located in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality with a landscape irrigation ordinance.	Municipality
An irrigation system is installed in a water district that has landscape irrigation rules that are more stringent than the adjacent municipality. The water district is in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the municipality.	Municipality

### **Irrigator-in-Charge, Exempt Businesses**

#### **► What is an irrigator-in-charge?**

Businesses may provide irrigation services if they employ a licensed irrigator to provide consulting services, design, installation, maintenance, alteration, repairing, or servicing an irrigation system. An irrigator-in-charge is responsible for (and should be knowledgeable of) all permits, contracts, agreements, advertising, and other irrigation services secured and performed using the irrigator's license.

A business may employ many irrigators to perform these services but must designate one person as the irrigator-in-charge. An irrigator may work for numerous companies providing irrigation services but may only serve as the irrigator-in-charge at two businesses – his or her own company and one exempt business.

#### **► What are the requirements for a business owner who provides irrigation services?**

A company that provides irrigation services must ensure that all irrigation services are supervised by a licensed irrigator. The business owner must verify the validity of the licenses that belong to an irrigator, installer or irrigation technicians providing irrigation services for the business. The business owner must designate an irrigator-in-charge.

#### **► How does an exempt business owner seal landscape irrigation documents?**

The licensed landscape irrigator should seal all of the required landscape irrigation documents.

## Contracts, Invoices, and Warranties

### ► **What is required in a contract for landscape irrigation services?**

A written contract is required for all irrigation system installations. The contract must specify the irrigator's name, license number, business address, current business telephone number(s), the date each party signed the agreement, the total agreed price, the warranty dates, and must include the statement, "Irrigation in Texas is regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), MC-178, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. TCEQ's website is: [www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us)." Contracts must include the irrigator's seal, signature, and date.

### ► **What is required on an invoice?**

If maintenance, alterations, repairs, or service is made to an existing irrigation system, the owner should be provided a written document that identifies the materials furnished. The invoice must include the irrigator's name, license number, business address, and current business telephone number(s).

### ► **What is required in a warranty?**

The warranty document must specify the irrigator's name, business address, business telephone number(s) and the statement, "Irrigation in Texas is regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), MC-178, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. TCEQ's website is: [www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us)." The warranty must include the irrigation system's owner or owner's representative signature to confirm receipt of the warranty. A warranty is required for newly installed irrigation systems, irrigators may choose to provide a warranty for maintenance, alteration, repair, or service of a landscape irrigation system.

Irrigators must honor the warranty.

### ► **Are there requirements for estimates, proposals, or bids?**

Yes, an estimate, proposal or bid relating to the installation or repair of an irrigation system must include the irrigator's name, license number, business address, business telephone number(s) and the statement, "Irrigation in Texas is regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), MC-178, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. TCEQ's website is: [www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us)."

## Homeowner Installed Irrigation Systems

### ► **What are the requirements for homeowners that install an irrigation system?**

A homeowner is not required to be licensed in order to install a landscape irrigation system if the person is performing irrigation work at that person's home. A homeowner must meet all of the local requirements such as backflow devices or freeze sensors as part of the installation of their irrigation system. The TCEQ Landscaping Irrigation rules require a homeowner to install an irrigation system that meets the standards for spacing, water pressure, must not spray water over impervious materials, install a rain or moisture shut-off device (or other technology) and install an isolation valve. The Public Drinking Water rules also require an appropriate backflow prevention device. A homeowner is not required to prepare a plan for the irrigation system.

### ► **If a homeowner installs an irrigation system using a contractor, what are the requirements?**

If a contractor is used to install the irrigation system, then the system is not considered to be a "homeowner installed" irrigation system and must meet all of the Chapter 344 rule requirements.

### ► **Can I sell a design or consult with a homeowner that wants to install their own irrigation system?**

Yes, the design would need to meet all state and local requirements. The homeowner is not required to adhere to all of the state requirements. Designing and consulting with a homeowner installing an irrigation system is an opportunity to promote water conservation by educating the homeowner. The owner should be advised that hiring anyone to help with installation of the irrigation system would trigger all requirements.