



**Amador County Environmental Health Department  
(209) 223-6439**

**Cal-Code Water System Requirements**

**(For Food Facilities with Private Water Wells that Do Not Meet the Definition of Either a Public Water System or State Small Water System)**

*Retail food facilities not served by a public water system have a responsibility to assure a safe water supply. California Retail Food Code (Cal-Code), Section 114192, states that "an adequate, protected, pressurized, potable supply of hot water and cold water shall be provided," and Cal-Code, Section 113869 states that "potable water means water that complies with the standards for transient non-community (public) water systems pursuant to the California Safe Drinking Water Act, Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 116270) of Part 12, to the extent permitted by federal law."*

*A **Public Water System** is defined in the California Health and Safety Code as a system that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 persons daily at least 60 days out of the year. A **State Small Water System** serves at least 5 but not more than 14 connections and does not regularly serve drinking water to more than an average 25 individuals daily for more than 60 days out of the year.*

*If your facility is served by a private well source, but does **not** meet the definition of either a public water system or state small water system, your facility still requires what is called a **Cal-Code Water System operating permit**.*

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**Steps for Obtaining a Cal-Code Water System Operating Permit**

The following information shall be submitted to the Environmental Health Department:

1. **"Water System Information Sheet"** (blank form attached).
2. A plan review fee.
3. **Information on your well water source:**
  - a. Existing well source: Provide construction information on the existing well (e.g. Department of Water Resources Well Completion Report.)
  - b. New well source: If you intend to construct a new well for your facility, it must be drilled by a licensed well driller under **permit** from this Department. Note that a **NEW** well must be constructed with a minimum **50-ft sanitary seal**.
  - c. Any well source to be used by a Cal-Code water system must have sanitary surface features (see handout enclosed).
4. **Sampling results:** Your well must be equipped with a sample tap located between the wellhead and the check valve. Sample each proposed well source for the following:

**Required Initial Wellhead Sampling Requirements: Cal-Code Water Systems**

Coliform bacteria	Sodium
Bicarbonate, carbonate, and hydroxide alkalinity	Specific Conductance
Calcium	Total Hardness
Iron	Fluoride
Magnesium	Nitrate (as NO <sub>3</sub> )
Manganese	Nitrite (as Nitrogen)
pH	Nitrate plus Nitrite (sum as Nitrogen)

5. **Water system schematic.** This schematic may be hand drawn. It must show the location of your water source, water lines, other wells, and any other water system components (such as storage tanks, pressure tanks, treatment units, etc.). Also show septic systems, water bodies, and structures.
  
6. **“Bacteriological Sample Siting Plan”** (Blank form attached). Ongoing quarterly monitoring of the distribution system is required for Cal-Code water systems. The first routine bacteriological sample shall be submitted and absent for coliform bacteria before a Cal-Code permit will be issued.
  
7. **Schedule an inspection of your water system.** During this inspection, Department staff will verify the sanitary condition of your well and water system components. Depending on the complexity of the water system, there may also be requirements for backflow prevention and cross connection control.
  
8. **Annual Cal-Code Water System operating permit fee.** You will be billed annually thereafter.

Note: It is your responsibility to contact **other County agencies** for the approvals and/or permitting that they require. Such agencies include the Amador County Planning Department (209-223-6380), Building Department (223-6422), and the Public Works Department (209-223-6429).

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**Ongoing Routine Water Quality Monitoring - Cal Code Water Systems**

Once you have obtained a Cal Code Water System permit, you will be responsible for the following ongoing monitoring of your system’s water quality:

<b>Sampling Location</b>	<b>Constituent</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Distribution System	Coliform Bacteria	Quarterly*
Well	Nitrate as NO <sub>3</sub>	Annually
Well	Nitrite as N	Every 3 Years
Well	Nitrate+Nitrite (sum as N)	Every 3 Years

*\*More frequent sampling may be required if coliform contamination is found and/or this Department determines the water system is vulnerable to bacteriological contamination.*

*Please note: The above requirements are subject to change as the State of California modifies and/or clarifies its regulations.*