

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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**Testing at Working Pressure**

**Code:** 2012 NC Plumbing Code  
**Section:** 312.5

**Date:** August 28, 2014

**Question 1:**

What pressure is defined as working pressure in section 312.5?

**Answer:**

There is no definition of working pressure in the NC plumbing code. Working pressure as defined by ASSE is the maximum pressure in a water piping system or its appurtenances allowable under normal working conditions. Maximum water pressure is limited to 80 psi by section 604.8 of the plumbing code.

Therefore the testing of a section of or the entire water supply system, including the distribution and service piping, will be tested to either a minimum of 80 psi working water pressure or a minimum of 100 psi air pressure per section 312.5 of the plumbing code. The pressure is to be held for a minimum of 15 minutes. When doing alterations or repairs the new work shall be isolated from the remainder of the system and tested separately. Only the affected portion of the system needs to be tested after repairs or alterations.

**Keywords:**

P0312.5 testing at working pressure.doc