

SEWER AND STORM DRAIN CONNECTIONS – THE S-PERMIT

8.2 General Conditions or Requirements for an S-Permit

Liability Insurance and Deposit Requirements

1) Liability Insurance

- a) Required - An S-Permit permit required by LAMC, Section 64.12, under which an excavation, tunnel, or the laying of sewer or storm drain pipe in any public street, public place or public easement is contemplated, will not be issued until the applicant has filed with the City Engineer a policy of protective liability insurance in which the City has been named as insured or co-insured with the Permittee. The policy of insurance shall insure the City and its officers and employees while acting within the scope of their duties, against all claims arising out of or in connection with the operations of the Permittee, or any contractor or subcontractor of the Permittee, pursuant to the permit.
- b) Amounts - Bodily Injury \$250,000 each person \$500,000 each occurrence \$500,000 aggregate products and completed operations Property Damage \$100,000 each occurrence. \$250,000 aggregate.

A combined single limit policy with aggregate limits in the amount of \$1 million will be considered equivalent to the required minimum limits.

- c) Coverage - Such policy of insurance shall provide coverage at least as broad as that provided in the Standard Form approved by the National Bureau of Casualty Underwriters, together with such endorsements as are required to cover the risks involved.

2) Deposits

- a) Required - An S-Permit will not be issued until the applicant has deposited with the Board not less than \$1000 in cash, which shall remain on deposit with the Board for not less than six months from the date of the last permit issued to the depositor. Such deposit will be held to insure the faithful performance of the work and the payment of all charges required by LAMC, Section 64.12 to 64.22 inclusive, and the Board is hereby empowered to deduct from the cash deposit all sums due for changes and for any and all damages accruing to this City by reason of faulty or defective work of the Permittee.
- b) Surety Bond in Lieu of Deposit- Whenever a cash deposit in the amount of \$1000 or over is required, the applicant may provide in lieu of such cash deposit, a good and sufficient bond in an amount equal to the amount of such cash deposit, payable to this City, by and executed by the applicant

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as the principal and by a reliable surety company satisfactory to the City. Such bond shall be conditioned upon the payment of all charges required by LAMC, Sections 64.12 to 64.22 inclusive, and the faithful and proper performance of work upon the same terms as those required by such cash deposit in lieu of which such bond is executed. The Board is empowered to enforce collections under the bond for all sums due for charges and for any and all damages accruing to this City by reasons of faulty or defective work of the Permittee.

Exemptions From Liability Insurance and Deposit Requirements

From Federal Government, the State, every county, city, municipal corporation, irrigation district, school district, district established by law, and any political or administrative subdivision of the State or Federal Government will not be required to make a deposit or to post a policy of protective liability insurance as otherwise required by LAMC, Sections 64.15 and 64.15.1.

Permittee's Obligations

Disclose all the known information effecting the issuance of the S-Permit and work to be performed under the permit. The work shall be done in accordance with the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction.

Sewer Problems - The maintenance of the main line sewer (the sewer in the middle of the street and between the maintenance holes) is the responsibility of the City of Los Angeles. The maintenance of a lateral, service connection or house connection sewer (between the property and the main line sewer) is the responsibility of the abutting property owner. Service connections usually break due to age, clogged by debris, or from tree root penetration. There is a simple way to find out if the sewer problem is in the house connection or main line sewer. If your property is the only property on the block that has a sewer problem, then the problem is in your service connection and you need to call a plumber. If the problem were with the mainline sewer, then all properties connected to the line would have sewer problems at the same time. Also if the main line sewer were clogged, the water would be coming out of the maintenance hole cover. In case of a main line problem, please call (213) 485-5884 weekdays, from 6:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and (213) 485-7575 any other time.

The problem of root penetration into the sewer lines can be controlled by periodic chemical treatment of the line. Several trade name products are available on the market specifically for this purpose. Excavation and repair of faulty sewer pipe joints can prevent root penetration. Tree roots do not enter sewer lines unless there is a break or bad joint that leaks moisture and provides an opening encouraging root penetration.

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If you need to excavate and repair your house connection sewer in the public right-of-way (sidewalk, street or alley) or easement (in the yard), then your Bonded Sewer Contractor must contact the appropriate Engineering District Office for an S-Permit. A simple and straightforward S-Permit for a typical house connection repair in the public right-of-way is approximately \$200.00.

A dye test may be administered if there is doubt about the connection of a sewer lateral. Florescent dye is used to determine if a sewer lateral is connected to the City's sewer main. Dye is used to track the flow of water from drain line to sewer main. The dye is deposited in the drain lines of the home or structure. The appearance of dye in the sewer main maintenance hole downstream of the sewer lateral in question results in a "positive" dye test. A positive dye test means the sewer lateral is connected to the sewer main. If no dye appears in the sewer main, then the sewer lateral is not connected to the City's sewer main. This is a "negative" dye test. Dye tests are conducted by the Bureau of Sanitation.

Long established City policy, based on the opinion of the City Attorney, places the responsibility for the construction, maintenance, and repair of house connection sewer lines upon the property owner. The City Attorney states, in part: "...that this rule is not altered by the fact (if it be a fact) that roots of trees growing in the street caused clogging of the sewer line. The privilege is granted to the house owner to connect his house with the main publicly owned sewer and the duty to keep clean the privately owned sewer rests on the owner of such house connecting sewer, not upon the City."

The house connection sewers are not of general benefit since they serve and can be used legally to serve only a single lot. The fact that the house connection sewer is in a public street does not mean that it is of public benefit and that the maintenance and repair should not therefore be performed by City forces at the expense of the general public.

In almost all cases, the owner of private property holds the underlying fee to the center of the street. The public street is actually an easement. The property owner there has a legal right to construct and maintain a house connection sewer between his private property and the public street sewer, subject to permit provisions of the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

A Sewer Permit shall be issued to Bonded Sewer Contractors only or to individuals who satisfactorily comply with the Liability Insurance and Deposit Requirement according to Section [64.15.1](#) of the Los Angeles Municipal code. Please contact the BOE's Central District Office to become a Bonded Sewer Contractor or to comply with the Liability Insurance and Deposit Requirement for

one project. Please contact the appropriate district office to obtain Sewerage Facilities Charge (SFC) and a Sewer Permit for the location of the property.

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Information Required Before an S-Permit Can be Issued

Permitee's name, address, telephone number, and job address are required. If connection to the sewer is made through another property, then a recorded private sewer easement is required. The contractor must be a bonded sewer contractor. Bonded Sewer Contractors are approved by the Board of Public Works.

Safety Requirements

Trenches that are more than five (5) feet deep require shoring and other requirements to comply with California Occupational Safety & Health Community Association (CALOSHA). In general, safety measures in accordance with the current edition of the Work Area Traffic Control Handbook are required for construction work.