



BRUNSWICK COUNTY
Code Administration

**CODE
INTERPRETATION**

Mechanical/Plumbing

Code Volume Reference: NC Plumbing Code (2018) and the 2018 NCRC

Code Chapter Reference: P2604.1.4 / 306.2.4

Subject: Tracer Wire

Effective Date: 6/1/21

CODE:

306.2.4 Tracer wire. For plastic sewer piping, an insulated copper tracer wire or other approved conductor shall be installed adjacent to and over the full length of the piping. Access shall be provided to the tracer wire or the tracer wire shall terminate at the cleanout between the building drain and building sewer. The tracer wire size shall be not less than 14 AWG and the insulation type shall be listed for direct burial.

INTERPRETATION:

Prepared by: Consistency Team

When building sewer is present, per P2604.1.4 and 306.2.4 of the 2021 amendments, a tracer wire will be required "adjacent to and over the full length of the piping". This would include the portion that is defined as building drain as well. The amendment only used the term "piping", not "sewer piping" when describing the need for a tracer. This is required after 10 feet of developed length of pipe, or in the case of discharge to a septic system, after 25 feet.

The intent of the tracer is to assist in finding underground piping when it is not obvious of the location. When a septic system is within 25 feet of a home, with a cleanout in-between the home and tank in the distribution piping, the pipe location is easy discernable. After of 25 feet of developed length of pipe is a reasonable amount before a tracer is required for a septic system. The exception appears to be in place to try to exclude drains to septic systems except in the case of excessive underground piping.

This would not apply to grinder pump discharge unless the pump was customer owned.

Approved by: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Slate", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael Slate, BC Code Administration Director