

# GG126-14

## 404.1.2

**Proponent:** Kathleen Petrie, City of Seattle, Department of Planning and Development, representing Regional Code Collaboration (kathleen.petrie@seattle.gov)

**Revise as follows:**

**404.1.2 Irrigation system design and installation.** Where in-ground irrigation systems are provided, the systems shall comply with all of the following:

1. The design and installation of outdoor irrigation systems shall be under the supervision of an irrigation professional accredited or certified by an appropriate local or national body.
2. Landscape irrigation systems shall not direct water onto building exterior surfaces, foundations or exterior paved surfaces. Systems shall not generate runoff or overspray .
3. Where an irrigation control system is used, the system shall be one that regulates irrigation based on weather, climatological or soil moisture status data. The controller shall have integrated or separate sensors to suspend irrigation events during rainfall.
4. Irrigation zones shall be based on plant water needs with plants of similar need grouped together. Turfgrass shall not be grouped with other plantings on the same zone.
5. Microirrigation zones shall be equipped with pressure regulators in accordance with manufacturer's specifications that ensure zone pressure is not greater than 40 psi (275.8 kPa), filters, and flush end assemblies.
6. All required technologies shall be WaterSense labeled where the WaterSense label is available.

**Exception:** Centrally controlled in-ground irrigation systems using weather or soil moisture to automatically adjust irrigation run-times.

7. ~~6. Automatic in-ground irrigation systems~~ Sprinklers shall include the following:
  1. ~~6.4 Drip, micro-irrigation, and spray heads~~ Have nozzles with matched precipitation rates within each zone. 6.2 Be prohibited on landscape areas less than 4 feet (1230 mm) in any dimension. 6.3 Be prohibited on slopes greater than 1 unit vertical to 4 units horizontal (25-percent slope).

**Exception:** Where the application rate of the sprinklers is less than or equal to 0.5 inches (12.7 mm) per hour. ~~6.4 Be permitted for use on turfgrass and crop areas only excepting microsprays of a flow less than 45 gallons (170 liters) per hour.~~

2. ~~6.5 If of the pop-up configuration, pop-up to a height of not less than 4 inches (101mm).~~
3. ~~6.6 Only be installed in zones composed exclusively of s~~ Sprinklers and shall be designed to achieve a lower quarter distribution uniformity of not less than 0.65.
4. Low precipitation rate, high distribution uniformity rotary nozzles for spray heads.
5. A mainline master valve or a combination of a master valve and pressure regulator.
6. Sprinkler heads with internal check valves.

**Reason:** The intent of this proposal is to continue to increase the efficiency of the irrigation system, by specifying the use of watersense where available, eliminating overspray, adding checkvalves, and the such. The proposal also addresses more effective design by matching precipitation rates by zone instead of one rate for all heads. Amidst conservation, we must also be mindful that we do not lose beauty, so the prohibition for use on areas less than 4 feet in any dimension was deleted, because many beautiful landscapes can happen in small places. Item 6.4 was deleted due to that we are hoping the original proponent will revise it this code cycle, however, it can be deleted now if they do not.

**Cost Impact:** Will not increase the cost of construction.

**GG126-14: 404.1.2-PETRIE1151**