

APPENDIX B

Uniform Color Scheme for Fire Hydrants

This appendix is for information only and is not a part of AWWA C502.

This appendix includes a revised color scheme based on NFPA 291, *Recommended Practice for Fire Flow Testing and Marking of Hydrants*, 1988 edition. The original color scheme was based on a proposal adopted by the American Water Works Association at its 1937 annual conference held in Buffalo, N.Y., and was originally published in *Jour. AWWA*, 29:4:449 (April 1937). The original color scheme duplicated, in essentials, similar plans adopted by the Maine Water Utilities Association in 1929; the New England Water Works Association on Mar. 21, 1934; and NFPA on May 14, 1936.

The American Water Works Association, recognizing that the adoption of a capacity marking scheme by any water utility is optional, herewith provides the following uniform color scheme for painting hydrants rated in terms of their relative capacity.

SECTION B.1: CLASSIFICATION

Hydrants are classified as follows:

Class AA: Hydrants that on individual test usually have a flow capacity of 1,500 gpm (5,680 L/min) or greater.

Class A: Hydrants that on individual test usually have a flow capacity of 1,000 to 1,499 gpm (3,785 to 5,675 L/min).

Class B: Hydrants that on individual test usually have a flow capacity of 500 to 999 gpm (1,900 to 3,780 L/min).

Class C: Hydrants that on individual test usually have a flow capacity of less than 500 gpm (1,900 L/min).

Sec. B.1.1 Capacity Rating

Capacities are to be rated by flow measurements of individual hydrants at a period of ordinary demand. When initial pressures are over 40 psig (275 kPa [gauge]) at the hydrant under test, the rating is to be based on 20-psig (138-kPa [gauge]) residual pressure, observed at the nearest hydrant connected to the same main and when no water is being drawn. When initial pressures are less than 40 psig (275 kPa [gauge]), residual pressures shall be at least half of the initial pressure.

SECTION B.2: COLOR SCHEME

The following is the capacity-indicating color scheme. The colors shall be as designated in Federal Standard 595A.*

Sec. B.2.1 Public Hydrants

All barrels are to be painted chrome yellow, except in cases where another color is desired. The tops and nozzle caps of hydrants in the classes outlined in Sec. B.1 are to be painted as follows:

Class AA — light blue

Class A — green

Class B — orange

Class C — red

These colors shall be as designated in Federal Standard 595A.

Sec. B.2.2 Private Hydrants

Within private enclosures, hydrant marking is to be at the discretion of the owners. Private hydrants in public streets should be painted to distinguish them from public hydrants.

SECTION B.3: LOCATION MARKERS

All location markers for flush hydrants should carry the same color background as stated for class indication, with such data stenciled or painted thereon as may be deemed necessary.

SECTION B.4: CAPACITY

Hydrant colors shall signify only the approximate capacity of the individual hydrant as tested alone, and not its capacity when more than one hydrant in the vicinity is in use. The marking of the hydrant is not to be considered as in any way guaranteeing the capacity indicated by the color.

*Available from General Services Administration, Specification Section Room 6039, 7th and D Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20407.