

CHAPTER 18

REGULATIONS OF CABLE TELEVISION

Authority

N.J.S.A. 48:5A-10.

Source and Effective Date

R.2003 d.452, effective October 23, 2003.

See: 35 N.J.R. 100(a), 35 N.J.R. 1047(a), 35 N.J.R. 5294(a).

Chapter Expiration Date

Chapter 18, Regulations of Cable Television, expires on December 27, 2006.

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 18, Regulations of Cable Television, was adopted as R.1973 d.117, effective April 27, 1973. See: 5 N.J.R. 54(d), 5 N.J.R. 200(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Subchapter 11, Application by CATV Companies for Municipal Consent, was readopted as R.1983 d.346, effective August 3, 1983. Subchapter 12, Application for Certificate of Approval, was adopted as new rules and Subchapter 12, Miscellaneous Provisions, was recodified as Subchapter 13, Miscellaneous Provisions, by R.1983 d.346, effective September 6, 1983. See: 15 N.J.R. 874(a), 15 N.J.R. 1483(a).

Subchapter 13, Renewals, was adopted as new rules and Subchapter 13, Miscellaneous Provisions, was recodified as Subchapter 14, Miscellaneous Provisions, by R.1987 d.70, effective January 20, 1987. See: 18 N.J.R. 1181(a), 19 N.J.R. 238(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 18, Regulations of Cable Television, was readopted as R.1990 d.415, effective July 26, 1990. Subchapter 3, Service, Subchapter 4, Testing of Service, and Subchapter 7, Bills and Payments for Service, were repealed and Subchapter 3, Customer Rights, Subchapter 4, Cable Operator Rights, Subchapter 7, Reports and Filings, and Subchapter 9, Testing of Service, were adopted as new rules by R.1990 d.415, effective August 20, 1990. See: 22 N.J.R. 1330(b), 22 N.J.R. 2575(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 18, Regulations of Cable Television, was readopted as R.1995 d.313, effective May 25, 1995. See: 27 N.J.R. 873(a), 27 N.J.R. 2430(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 18, Regulations of Cable Television, was readopted as R.2000 d.155, effective March 17, 2000. See: 31 N.J.R. 3061(a), 32 N.J.R. 1402(a).

Chapter 18, Regulations of Cable Television, was readopted as R.2003 d.452, effective October 23, 2003. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

CHAPTER TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 14:18-1.1 Scope of regulations
- 14:18-1.2 Definitions

SUBCHAPTER 2. PLANT

- 14:18-2.1 Plant construction
- 14:18-2.2 Inspection of work performed by contractors
- 14:18-2.3 Construction in existing utility rights-of-way
- 14:18-2.4 Identification of property; buildings and structures
- 14:18-2.5 Identification of property; poles or structures supporting or connecting wires or cables
- 14:18-2.6 Maintenance of plant, equipment and facilities
- 14:18-2.7 Inspection of property

- 14:18-2.8 Construction work near cable television facilities
- 14:18-2.9 Calculation of pole attachment rent
- 14:18-2.10 Rate changes and disputes
- 14:18-2.11 Calculation of duct and conduit rent
- 14:18-2.12 Imputation of rates; modification costs

SUBCHAPTER 3. CUSTOMER RIGHTS

- 14:18-3.1 Scope
- 14:18-3.2 Requests for service
- 14:18-3.3 Customer information
- 14:18-3.4 Tariff information
- 14:18-3.5 Outage credit
- 14:18-3.6 Access to company representatives
- 14:18-3.7 Bills for service; form of bill
- 14:18-3.8 Method of billing
- 14:18-3.9 Due date of payment and notice of discontinuance
- 14:18-3.10 Basis for restoration of discontinued services
- 14:18-3.11 Disputes
- 14:18-3.12 Service call scheduling
- 14:18-3.13 Prompt restoration standards
- 14:18-3.14 Availability of special equipment
- 14:18-3.15 Trial and promotional services
- 14:18-3.16 Notice of rate change
- 14:18-3.17 Notice of alteration in channel allocation
- 14:18-3.18 Periodic notices to customers
- 14:18-3.19 Interest on uncorrected billing errors
- 14:18-3.20 Discounts for senior and/or disabled citizens
- 14:18-3.21 Avoidance of interruption; prompt restoration
- 14:18-3.22 Notice of planned interruptions
- 14:18-3.23 Reimbursement for lost, stolen or damaged equipment
- 14:18-3.24 Late fees and charges
- 14:18-3.25 Refunds and credits
- 14:18-3.26 Pre-termination access to cable home wiring

SUBCHAPTER 4. CABLE TELEVISION OPERATOR RIGHTS

- 14:18-4.1 Permits
- 14:18-4.2 Refusal to connect
- 14:18-4.3 Basis of discontinuance of service
- 14:18-4.4 Access to customer's premises
- 14:18-4.5 Compensation for taking because of installation of cable television facilities
- 14:18-4.6 Deposits to insure credit
- 14:18-4.7 Deposits on auxiliary equipment
- 14:18-4.8 Receipts and records
- 14:18-4.9 Return of deposits
- 14:18-4.10 Consolidated notice
- 14:18-4.11 Disposition of cable home wiring
- 14:18-4.12 Home run wiring in MDU settings
- 14:18-4.13 Access to molding

SUBCHAPTER 5. OFFICES

- 14:18-5.1 Location and closing
- 14:18-5.2 Personnel to be contacted

SUBCHAPTER 6. RECORDS

- 14:18-6.1 Availability of records
- 14:18-6.2 Plant and operating records
- 14:18-6.3 Accidents or injury to personnel
- 14:18-6.4 Public records
- 14:18-6.5 Complaints records
- 14:18-6.6 Reporting and records of interruptions and outages
- 14:18-6.7 Complaint recording and reporting

SUBCHAPTER 7. REPORTS AND FILINGS

- 14:18-7.1 Periodic reports

- 14:18-7.2 Special reports
- 14:18-7.3 Other filings
- 14:18-7.4 Notification of system rebuilds, upgrades, hub and headend relocations
- 14:18-7.5 Written procedures for use of public, educational and governmental access channels
- 14:18-7.6 Telephone system information
- 14:18-7.7 Telephone system performance
- 14:18-7.8 Telephone customer service

SUBCHAPTER 8. LIABILITY INSURANCE

- 14:18-8.1 Liability insurance

SUBCHAPTER 9. TESTING OF SERVICE

- 14:18-9.1 Equipment for testing
- 14:18-9.2 Proof of performance

SUBCHAPTER 10. TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR SYSTEM OPERATION

- 14:18-10.1 Scope
- 14:18-10.2 Technical performance requirements
- 14:18-10.3 Requirements for specialized NTSC video or MPEGx and non-video signals
- 14:18-10.4 (Reserved)
- 14:18-10.5 (Reserved)
- 14:18-10.6 Additional tests to ensure compliance
- 14:18-10.7 through 14:18-10.13 (Reserved)

SUBCHAPTER 11. APPLICATION BY CABLE TELEVISION COMPANIES FOR MUNICIPAL CONSENT

- 14:18-11.1 Application for municipal consent; who may apply
- 14:18-11.2 Application for municipal consent to operate a cable television system
- 14:18-11.3 Appointment of citizens' committee; duties
- 14:18-11.4 Hearing date
- 14:18-11.5 Ex parte communications; prohibitions
- 14:18-11.6 Notice of hearing
- 14:18-11.7 Hearings; before whom held
- 14:18-11.8 Procedure at hearing
- 14:18-11.9 Amendments to application; notice
- 14:18-11.10 Additional information other than amendatory; notice
- 14:18-11.11 Record of hearing
- 14:18-11.12 Adjournments of hearing
- 14:18-11.13 Decision; time; contents
- 14:18-11.14 Notification of utilities; negotiations
- 14:18-11.15 Form of consent
- 14:18-11.16 Contents of ordinance
- 14:18-11.17 Restrictions
- 14:18-11.18 Office review
- 14:18-11.19 Acceptance by company
- 14:18-11.20 Commencement date
- 14:18-11.21 (Reserved)

SUBCHAPTER 12. APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

- 14:18-12.1 Filing for a certificate of approval
- 14:18-12.2 Information to accompany petition for certificate of approval
- 14:18-12.3 Requirements for plant rearrangement verification

SUBCHAPTER 13. RENEWALS

- 14:18-13.1 Initiation of renewal process
- 14:18-13.2 Optional pre-proposal phase
- 14:18-13.3 Municipal consent
- 14:18-13.4 Mandatory pre-proposal phase
- 14:18-13.5 Cable television operator proposal
- 14:18-13.6 Automatic renewals
- 14:18-13.7 Hearing before an Administrative Law Judge

- 14:18-13.8 Compliance with Federal terms and conditions for sale
- 14:18-13.9 Applicability of N.J.A.C. 14:18-11 to renewal process

SUBCHAPTER 14. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- 14:18-14.1 Regulations not retroactive
- 14:18-14.2 Deviation and modification
- 14:18-14.3 Tariffs
- 14:18-14.4 Discrimination in rates
- 14:18-14.5 Authority
- 14:18-14.6 Prior regulations
- 14:18-14.7 Effective competition

APPENDIX A

SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Law Reviews and Journal Commentaries

Multiple Channels of Cable Service Refranchising. Robert G. Goode, 148 N.J.L.J. 16 (1992).

14:18-1.1 Scope of regulations

(a) These regulations are promulgated in accordance with the authority provided the Office of Cable Television, Board of Public Utilities, under N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq. to regulate cable television corporations in the public interest.

(b) The purpose and intent of these regulations is to enforce the statutory mandate of the Legislature, which directs the Office of Cable Television, Board of Public Utilities, to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to effect the purposes of the act.

(c) These regulations apply to:

1. Cable television companies which own, control, operate or manage a cable television system;
2. Municipalities, cities and counties where applicable.

(d) These regulations do not limit the duties now imposed upon these companies but merely serve to define such duties and to establish standards for their performance.

Amended by R.1990 d.415, effective August 20, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 1330(b), 22 N.J.R. 2575(b).

Added (d).

Amended by R.2000 d.155, effective April 17, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3061(a), 32 N.J.R. 1402(a).

Law Review and Journal Commentaries

Multiple Channels of Cable Service Refranchising. Robert G. Goode, 148 N.J.Law. 16 (Mag.) (Sept./Oct. 1992).

Case Notes

Municipal ownership and operation of a cable television system is authorized by the Cable Television Act. Atty.Gen.F.O.1978, No. 5.

14:18-1.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise: