

**CHAPTER 18**

**REGULATIONS OF CABLE TELEVISION**

**Authority**

N.J.S.A. 48:5A-10 and 48:5A-19(b).

**Source and Effective Date**

R.2007 d.154, effective April 13, 2007.  
See: 38 N.J.R. 4822(b), 39 N.J.R. 1766(a).

**Chapter Expiration Date**

Chapter 18, Regulations of Cable Television, expires on April 13, 2012.

**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 Subchapter 3, Service, Subchapter 4, Testing of Service, and Subchapter 7, Bills and Payments for Service, were repealed and Subchapter 3, Customer Rights, Subchapter 4, Cable Operator Rights, Subchapter 7, Reports and Filings, and Subchapter 9, Testing of Service, were adopted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: 35 N.J.R. 100(a), 35 N.J.R. 1047(a), 35 N.J.R. 5294(a).

Chapter 18, Regulations of Cable Television, was readopted as R.2007 d.154, effective April 13, 2007. As a part of R.2007 d.154, Subchapter 13, Renewals, was renamed Municipal-Consent-Based Franchise Renewals, Subchapter 14, Application for System-Wide Franchise and Subchapter 15, System-Wide Franchise Terms and Conditions, were adopted as new rules, and former Subchapter 14, Miscellaneous Provisions, was recodified to Subchapter 16, effective May 7, 2007. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

Subchapter 14, Application for System-Wide Franchise, was renamed System-Wide Franchise Application and Renewal by R.2011 d.058, effective February 22, 2011. See: 42 N.J.R. 2230(a), 43 N.J.R. 445(a).

**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 Information on company's schedule of prices, rates, terms and conditions
- 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 price 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 through 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. MUNICIPAL-CONSENT-BASED FRANCHISE RENEWALS

- 14:18-13.1 Initiation of municipal-consent-based franchise 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 municipal-consent-based franchise renewal process

## SUBCHAPTER 14. SYSTEM-WIDE FRANCHISE APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

- 14:18-14.1 Application for system-wide franchise; who may apply
- 14:18-14.2 Application for system-wide franchise to operate a cable television system
- 14:18-14.3 Public hearings
- 14:18-14.4 Notice of hearing
- 14:18-14.5 Hearings; before whom held
- 14:18-14.6 Amendments to application; notice
- 14:18-14.7 Additional information other than amendatory; notice
- 14:18-14.8 Record of hearing
- 14:18-14.9 Decision; time and contents
- 14:18-14.10 Notification of utilities; negotiations
- 14:18-14.11 Contents of the Board order granting a system-wide franchise
- 14:18-14.12 Appeal of Board denial of system-wide franchise
- 14:18-14.13 Cable television operator system-wide franchise conversion
- 14:18-14.14 Addition of municipalities to system-wide franchise
- 14:18-14.15 Enforcement
- 14:18-14.16 Initiation of system-wide franchise renewal process
- 14:18-14.17 System-wide franchise renewal pre-proposal phase
- 14:18-14.18 Application for renewal of a system-wide franchise
- 14:18-14.19 Denial of renewal of a system-wide franchise
- 14:18-14.20 Conversion of a system-wide franchise to a municipal-consent-based franchise

## SUBCHAPTER 15. SYSTEM-WIDE FRANCHISE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 14:18-15.1 Authority
- 14:18-15.2 Deployment requirements
- 14:18-15.3 Relief from deployment requirements
- 14:18-15.4 Public, educational and governmental access channels; return lines; interconnection
- 14:18-15.5 Provision of free services
- 14:18-15.6 Equipment and training
- 14:18-15.7 Franchise fee payment

## SUBCHAPTER 16. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- 14:18-16.1 Regulations not retroactive
- 14:18-16.2 Deviation and modification
- 14:18-16.3 Schedule of prices, rates, terms and conditions
- 14:18-16.4 Discrimination in rates
- 14:18-16.5 Authority
- 14:18-16.6 Prior regulations
- 14:18-16.7 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).