201.1 Applicability. For the purpose of this code, the following terms have the meanings indicated in this chapter.

202.0 Definition of Terms.

202.1 General. The definitions of terms are arranged alphabetically according to the first word of the term.

– A –

ABS. Acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene.

**Accepted Engineering Practice.** That which conforms to technical or scientific-based principles, tests, or standards that are accepted by the engineering profession.

Accessible. Where applied to a fixture, connection, appliance, or equipment, “accessible” means having access thereto, but which first may require the removal of an access panel, door, or similar obstruction.

**Accessible, Readily.** Having a direct access without the necessity of removing a panel, door, or similar obstruction.

**Air Break.** A physical separation which may be a low inlet into the indirect waste receptor from the fixture, appliance, or device indirectly connected.

**Air Gap, Drainage.** The unobstructed vertical distance through the free atmosphere between the lowest opening from a pipe, plumbing fixture, appliance, or appurtenance conveying waste to the flood-level rim of the receptor.

**Air Gap, Water Distribution.** The unobstructed vertical distance through the free atmosphere between the lowest opening from a pipe or faucet conveying potable water to the flood-level rim of a tank, vat, or fixture.

**Alternate Water Source.** Nonpotable source of water that includes but not limited to gray water, on-site treated non-potable water, rainwater, and reclaimed (recycled) water.

**Anchors.** See Supports.

**Anesthetizing Location.** An area of a facility that has been designated to be used for the administration of general anesthesia. [NFPA 99:3.3.9]
Appliance. A device that utilizes an energy source to produce light, heat, power, refrigeration, or air conditioning. This definition also shall include a vented decorative appliance.

Appliance, Low-Heat. A fuel-burning appliance that produces a continuous flue gas temperature, at the point of entrance to the flue, of not more than 1000°F (538°C).

Appliance, Medium-Heat. A fuel-burning appliance that produces a continuous flue gas temperature, at the point of entrance to the flue, of more than 1000°F (538°C) and less than 2000°F (1093°C).

Appliance Categorized Vent Diameter/Area. The minimum vent area/diameter permissible for Category I appliances to maintain a nonpositive vent static pressure where tested in accordance with nationally recognized standards.[NFPA 54:3.3.7]

Appliance Fuel Connector. An assembly of listed semi-rigid or flexible tubing and fittings to carry fuel between a fuel-piping outlet and a fuel-burning appliance.

Approved. Acceptable to the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

Approved Testing Agency. An organization primarily established for purposes of testing to approved standards and approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

Area Drain. A receptor designed to collect surface or storm water from an open area.

Aspirator. A fitting or device supplied with water or other fluid under positive pressure that passes through an integral orifice or constriction, causing a vacuum.

Authority Having Jurisdiction. The organization, office, or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, materials, installations, or procedures. The Authority Having Jurisdiction shall be a federal, state, local, or other regional department or an individual such as a plumbing official, mechanical official, labor department official, health department official, building official, or others having statutory authority. In the absence of a statutory authority, the Authority Having Jurisdiction may be some other responsible party. This definition shall include the Authority Having Jurisdiction’s duly authorized representative.

— B —

Backflow. The flow of water or other liquids, mixtures, or substances into the distributing pipes of a potable supply of water from sources other than its intended source. See Backpressure Backflow and Backsiphonage.

Backflow Connection. An arrangement whereby backflow can occur.
**Backflow Preventer.** A backflow prevention device, an assembly, or other method to prevent backflow into the potable water system.

**Backpressure Backflow.** Backflow due to an increased pressure above the supply pressure, which may be due to pumps, boilers, gravity, or other sources of pressure.

**Backsiphonage.** The flowing back of used, contaminated, or polluted water from a plumbing fixture or vessel into a water supply pipe due to a pressure less than atmospheric in such pipe. See Backflow.

**Backwater Valve.** A device installed in a drainage system to prevent reverse flow.

**Bathroom.** A room equipped with a shower, bathtub, or combination bath/shower.

**Bathroom Half.** A room equipped with only a water closet and lavatory.

**Bathroom Group.** Any combination of fixtures, not to exceed one water closet, two lavatories, either one bathtub or one combination bath/shower, and one shower, and may include a bidet and an emergency floor drain.

**Battery of Fixtures.** A group of two or more similar, adjacent fixtures that discharge into a common horizontal waste or soil branch.

**Bedpan Steamer.** A fixture that is used to sterilize bedpans by way of steam.

**Boiler Blowoff.** An outlet on a boiler to permit emptying or discharge of sediment.

**Bonding Jumper.** A reliable conductor to ensure the required electrical conductivity between metal parts required to be electrically connected. [NFPA 70:100(I)]

**Bottle Filling Station.** A plumbing fixture connected to the potable water distribution system and sanitary drainage system that is designed and intended for filling personal use drinking water bottles or containers not less than 10 inches (254 mm) in height. Such fixtures can be separate from or integral to a drinking fountain and can incorporate a water filter and a cooling system for chilling the drinking water.

**Branch.** A part of the piping system other than a main, riser, or stack.

**Branch, Fixture.** See Fixture Branch.

**Branch, Horizontal.** See Horizontal Branch.

**Branch Vent.** A vent connecting one or more individual vents with a vent stack or stack vent.

**Building.** A structure built, erected, and framed of component structural parts designed for the housing, shelter, enclosure, or support of persons, animals, or property of any kind.
**Building Drain.** That part of the lowest piping of a drainage system that receives the discharge from soil, waste, and other drainage pipes inside the walls of the building and conveys it to the building sewer beginning 2 feet (610 mm) outside the building wall.

**Building Drain (Sanitary).** A building drain that conveys sewage only.

**Building Drain (Storm).** A building drain that conveys storm water or other drainage, but no sewage.

**Building Sewer.** That part of the horizontal piping of a drainage system that extends from the end of the building drain and that receives the discharge of the building drain and conveys it to a public sewer, private sewer, private sewage disposal system, or other point of disposal.

**Building Sewer (Combined).** A building sewer that conveys both sewage and storm water or other drainage.

**Building Sewer (Sanitary).** A building sewer that conveys sewage only.

**Building Sewer (Storm).** A building sewer that conveys storm water or other drainage, but no sewage.

**Building Subdrain.** That portion of a drainage system that does not drain by gravity into the building sewer.

**Building Supply.** The pipe carrying potable water from the water meter or other source of water supply to a building or other point of use or distribution on the lot.

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**Category 1.** Facility systems in which failure of such equipment or system is likely to cause major injury or death of patients or caregivers. [NFPA 99:4.1.1]

**Category 2.** Facility systems in which failure of such equipment is likely to cause minor injury to patients or caregivers. [NFPA 99:4.1.2]

**Category 3.** Facility systems in which failure of such equipment is not likely to cause injury to patients or caregivers, but can cause patient discomfort. [NFPA 99:4.1.3]

**Category 3 Medical Vacuum System.** A medical vacuum distribution system that can be either a wet system designed to remove liquids, air-gas, or solids from the treated area; or a dry system designed to trap liquids and solids before the service inlet and to accommodate air-gas only through the service inlet. [NFPA 99:3.3.23]

**Certified Backflow Assembly Tester.** A person who has shown competence to test and maintain backflow assemblies to the satisfaction of the Authority Having Jurisdiction.
Cesspool. A lined excavation in the ground that receives the discharge of a drainage system or part thereof, so designed as to retain the organic matter and solids discharging therein, but permitting the liquids to seep through the bottom and sides.

Chemical Waste. See Special Wastes.

Chimney. One or more passageways, vertical or nearly so, for conveying flue or vent gases to the outdoors. [NFPA 54:3.3.18]

Chimney, Factory-Built. A chimney composed of listed factory-built components assembled in accordance with the manufacturer’s installation instructions to form the completed chimney. [NFPA 54:3.3.18.2]

Chimney, Masonry. A field-constructed chimney of solid masonry units, bricks, stones, listed masonry chimney units, or reinforced portland cement concrete, lined with suitable chimney flue liners. [NFPA 54:3.3.18.3]

Chimney, Metal. A chimney constructed of metal with a minimum thickness not less than 0.127 inch (3.23 mm) (No. 10 manufacturer’s standard gauge) steel sheet.

Chimney Classifications:

Chimney, High-Heat Appliance-Type. A factory-built, masonry, or metal chimney suitable for removing the products of combustion from fuel-burning high-heat appliances producing combustion gases in excess of 2000°F (1093°C), measured at the appliance flue outlet.

Chimney, Low-Heat Appliance-Type. A factory-built, masonry, or metal chimney suitable for removing the products of combustion from fuel-burning low-heat appliances producing combustion gases not in excess of 1000°F (538°C) under normal operating conditions, but capable of producing combustion gases of 1400°F (760°C) during intermittent forced firing for periods up to one hour. Temperatures are measured at the appliance flue outlet.

Chimney, Medium-Heat Appliance-Type. A factory-built, masonry, or metal chimney suitable for removing the products of combustion from fuel-burning medium-heat appliances producing combustion gases not in excess of 2000°F (1093°C), measured at the appliance flue outlet.

Chimney, Residential Appliance-Type. A factory-built or masonry chimney suitable for removing products of combustion from residential-type appliances producing combustion
gases not in excess of 1000°F (538°C), measured at the appliance flue outlet. Factory-built Type HT chimneys have high-temperature thermal shock resistance.

**Clarifier.** See Interceptor (Clarifier).

**Clear Water Waste.** Cooling water and condensate drainage from refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment; cooled condensate from steam heating systems; and cooled boiler blowdown water.

**Clinical Sink.** A fixture that has the same flushing and cleansing characteristics of a water closet that is used to receive the wastes from a bedpan. Also known as a bedpan washer.

**Coastal High Hazard Areas.** An area within the flood hazard area that is subject to high velocity wave action, and shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard map as Zone V, VO, VE or V1-30.

**Code.** A standard that is an extensive compilation of provisions covering broad subject matter or that is suitable for adoption into law independently of other codes and standards.

**Combination Temperature and Pressure-Relief Valve.** A relief valve that actuates when a set temperature, pressure, or both is reached. Also known as a T&P Valve.

**Combination Thermostatic/Pressure Balancing Valve.** A mixing valve that senses outlet temperature and incoming hot and cold water pressure and compensates for fluctuations in incoming hot and cold water temperatures, pressures, or both to stabilize outlet temperatures.

**Combination Waste and Vent System.** A specially designed system of waste piping embodying the horizontal wet venting of one or more sinks or floor drains by means of a common waste and vent pipe, adequately sized to provide free movement of air above the flow line of the drain.

**Combined Building Sewer.** See Building Sewer (Combined).

**Combustible Material.** As pertaining to materials adjacent to or in contact with heat-producing appliances, vent connectors, gas vents, chimneys, steam and hot water pipes, and warm air ducts, materials made of or surfaced with wood, compressed paper, plant fibers, or other materials that are capable of being ignited and burned. Such material shall be considered combustible even though flame-proofed, fireretardant treated, or plastered. [NFPA 54:3.3.67.1]

**Common.** That part of a plumbing system that is so designed and installed as to serve more than one appliance, fixture, building, or system.

**Condensate.** The liquid phase produced by condensation of a particular gas or vapor.
Conductor. A pipe inside the building that conveys storm water from the roof to a storm drain, combined building sewer, or other approved point of disposal.

Confined Space. A room or space having a volume less than 50 cubic feet per 1000 British thermal units per hour (Btu/h) (4.83 m³/kW) of the aggregate input rating of all fuel burning appliances installed in that space.

Construction Documents. Plans, specifications, written, graphic, and pictorial documents prepared or assembled for describing the design, location, and physical characteristics of the elements of a project necessary for obtaining a permit.

Contamination. An impairment of the quality of the potable water that creates an actual hazard to the public health through poisoning or through the spread of disease by sewage, industrial fluids, or waste. Also defined as High Hazard.

Continuous Vent. A vertical vent that is a continuation of the drain to which it connects.

Continuous Waste. A drain connecting the compartments of a set of fixtures to a trap or connecting other permitted fixtures to a common trap.

Copper Alloy. A homogenous mixture of two or more metals in which copper is the primary component, such as brass and bronze.

CPVC. Chlorinated Polyvinyl Chloride.

Critical Care Area. See Patient Care Room. [NFPA 99:3.3.31]

Critical Level. The critical level (C-L or C/L) marking on a backflow prevention device or vacuum breaker is a point conforming to approved standards and established by the testing laboratory (usually stamped on the device by the manufacturer) that determines the minimum elevation above the flood level rim of the fixture or receptor served at which the device may be installed. Where a backflow prevention device does not bear a critical level marking, the bottom of the vacuum breaker, combination valve, or the bottom of such approved device shall constitute the critical level.

Cross-Connection. A connection or arrangement, physical or otherwise, between a potable water supply system and a plumbing fixture or a tank, receptor, equipment, or device, through which it may be possible for nonpotable, used, unclean, polluted, and contaminated water, or other substances to enter into a part of such potable water system under any condition.
Debris Excluder. A device installed on the rainwater catchment conveyance system to prevent the accumulation of leaves, needles, or other debris in the system.

Department Having Jurisdiction. The Authority Having Jurisdiction, including any other law enforcement agency affected by a provision of this code, whether such agency is specifically named or not.

Design Flood Elevation. The elevation of the “design flood,” including wave height, relative to the datum specified on the community’s legally designated flood hazard map. In areas designated as Zone AO, the design flood elevation is the elevation of the highest existing grade of the building’s perimeter plus the depth number (in feet) specified on the flood hazard map. In areas designated as Zone AO where a depth number is not specified on the map, the depth number is taken as being equal to 2 feet (610 mm).

Developed Length. The length along the center line of a pipe and fittings.

Diameter. Unless specifically stated, “diameter” is the nominal diameter as designated commercially.

Direct-Vent Appliances. Appliances that are constructed and installed so that air for combustion is derived directly from the outdoors and flue gases are discharged to the outdoors. [NFPA 54:3.3.6.3]

Domestic Sewage. The liquid and water-borne wastes derived from the ordinary living processes, free from industrial wastes, and of such character as to permit satisfactory disposal, without special treatment, into the public sewer or by means of a private sewage disposal system.

Downspout. The rain leader from the roof to the building storm drain, combined building sewer, or other means of disposal located outside of the building. See Conductor and Leader.

Drain. A pipe that carries waste or waterborne wastes in a building drainage system.

Drainage System. Includes all the piping within public or private premises that conveys sewage, storm water, or other liquid wastes to a legal point of disposal, but does not include the mains of a public sewer system or a public sewage treatment or disposal plant.

Drinking Fountain. A plumbing fixture connected to the potable water distribution system and sanitary drainage system that provides drinking water in a flowing stream so that the user can consume water directly from the fixture without the use of accessories. Drinking fountains
should also incorporate a bottle filling station, and can incorporate a water filter and a cooling system for chilling the drinking water.

**Dry Vent.** A vent that does not receive the discharge of any sewage or waste.

**Durham System.** A soil or waste system in which all piping is threaded pipe, tubing, or other such rigid construction, using recessed drainage fittings to correspond to the types of piping.

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**Effective Ground-Fault Current Path.** An intentionally constructed, low-impedance electrically conductive path designed and intended to carry current under ground-fault conditions from the point of a ground fault on a wiring system to the electrical supply source and that facilitates the operation of the overcurrent protective device or ground-fault detectors on high-impedance grounded systems. [NFPA 54:3.3.36]

**Effective Opening.** The minimum cross-sectional area at the point of water supply discharge measured or expressed in terms of: (1) diameter of a circle or (2) where the opening is not circular, the diameter of a circle of equivalent cross-sectional area. (This is applicable to an air gap)

**Essentially Nontoxic Transfer Fluid.** Essentially nontoxic at practically nontoxic, Toxicity Rating Class 1 (reference "Clinical Toxicology of Commercial Products" by Gosselin, Smith, Hodge, & Braddock).

**Exam Room Sink.** A sink used in the patient exam room of a medical or dental office with a primary purpose for the washing of hands.

**Excess Flow Valve (EFV).** A valve designed to activate where the fuel gas passing through it exceeds a prescribed flow rate. [NFPA 54:3.3.104.3]

**Existing Work.** A plumbing system or any part thereof that has been installed prior to the effective date of this code.

**Expansion Joint.** A fitting or arrangement of pipe and fittings that permits the contraction and expansion of a piping system.

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**F Rating.** The time period that the penetration fire stop system limits the spread of fire through the penetration, where tested in accordance with ASTM E814 or UL 1479.

**Fixture Branch.** A water supply pipe between the fixture supply pipe and the water distribution pipe.
**Fixture Drain.** The drain from the trap of a fixture to the junction of that drain with any other drain pipe.

**Fixture Fitting.** A device that controls and guides the flow of water.

**Fixture Supply.** A water supply pipe connecting the fixture with the fixture branch.

**Fixture Unit.** A quantity in terms of which the load-producing effects on the plumbing system of different kinds of plumbing fixtures are expressed on some arbitrarily chosen scale.

**Flammable Vapor or Fumes.** The concentration of flammable constituents in air that exceeds 25 percent of its lower flammability limit (LFL).

**Flood Hazard Area.** The greater of the following two areas:

1. The area within a floodplain subject to a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.
2. The area designated as a flood hazard area on a community’s flood hazard map, or otherwise legally designated.

**Flood Level.** See Flooded

**Flood-Level Rim.** The top edge of a receptor from which water overflows.

**Flooded.** A fixture is flooded where the liquid therein rises to the flood-level rim.

**Flue Collar.** That portion of an appliance designed for the attachment of a draft hood, vent connector, or venting system. [NFPA 54:3.3.46]

**Flush Tank.** A tank located above or integral with water closets, urinals, or similar fixtures for the purpose of flushing the usable portion of the fixture.

**Flush Valve.** A valve located at the bottom of a tank for the purpose of flushing water closets and similar fixtures.

**Flushometer Tank.** A tank integrated within an air accumulator vessel that is designed to discharge a predetermined quantity of water to fixtures for flushing purposes.

**Flushometer Valve.** A valve that discharges a predetermined quantity of water to fixtures for flushing purposes and is actuated by direct water pressure.

**FOG Disposal System.** A grease interceptor that reduces nonpetroleum fats, oils, and grease (FOG) in effluent by separation, mass, and volume reduction.

**Fuel Gas.** Natural, manufactured, liquefied petroleum, or a mixture of these.

**Fuel Gas Quick-Disconnect.** A hand-operated device that provides a means for connecting and disconnecting an appliance or an appliance connector to a gas supply and that is equipped with
an automatic means to shut off the gas supply where the device is disconnected. [NFPA 54:3.3.29.3]

**Fuel Gas Vent.** A listed factory-made vent pipe and vent fittings for conveying flue gases to the outdoors.

**Fuel Gas Venting System.** A continuous open passageway from the flue collar or draft hood of an appliance to the outdoors for the purpose of removing flue or vent gases. [NFPA 54:3.3.99.7]

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**Gang or Group Shower.** Two or more showers in a common area.

**Gas Piping.** An installation of pipe, valves, or fittings that is used to convey fuel gas, installed on a premises or in a building, but shall not include:

1. A portion of the service piping.
2. An approved piping connection 6 feet (1829 mm) or less in length between an existing gas outlet and a gas appliance in the same room with the outlet.

**Gas Piping System.** An arrangement of gas piping or regulators after the point of delivery and each arrangement of gas piping serving a building, structure, or premises, whether individually metered or not.

**General Care Areas.** See Patient Care Room. [NFPA 99:3.3.64]

**Governing Body.** The person or persons who have the overall legal responsibility for the operation of a health care facility. [NFPA 99:3.3.65]

**Grade.** The slope or fall of a line of pipe in reference to a horizontal plane. In drainage, it is usually expressed as the fall in a fraction of an inch (mm) or percentage slope per foot (meter) length of pipe.

**Gravity Grease Interceptor.** A plumbing appurtenance or appliance that is installed in a sanitary drainage system to intercept nonpetroleum fats, oils, and greases (FOG) from a wastewater discharge and is identified by volume, 30 minute retention time, baffle(s), not less than two compartments, a total volume of not less than 300 gallons (1135 L), and gravity separation. [These interceptors comply with the requirements of Chapter 10 or are designed by a registered design professional.] Gravity grease interceptors are generally installed outside.

**Gray Water.** Untreated wastewater that has not come into contact with toilet waste, kitchen sink waste, dishwasher waste or similarly contaminated sources. Gray water includes wastewater
from bathtubs, showers, lavatories, clothes washers, and laundry tubs. Also known as grey water, graywater, and greywater.

**Gray Water Diverter Valve.** A valve that directs gray water to the sanitary drainage system or to a subsurface irrigation system.

**Grease Interceptor.** A plumbing appurtenance or appliance that is installed in a sanitary drainage system to intercept nonpetroleum fats, oil, and greases (FOG) from a wastewater discharge.

**Grease Removal Device (GRD).** A hydromechanical grease interceptor that automatically, mechanically removes non-petroleum fats, oils and grease (FOG) from the interceptor, the control of which are either automatic or manually initiated.

**Grounding Electrode.** A conducting object through which a direct connection to earth is established. [NFPA 70:100(I)]

– H –

**Hangers.** See Supports.

**Heat-Fusion Weld Joints.** A joint used in some thermoplastic systems to connect pipe to fittings or pipe lengths directly to one another (butt-fusion). This method of joining pipe to fittings includes socket-fusion, electro-fusion, and saddle-fusion. This method of welding involves the application of heat and pressure to the components, allowing them to fuse together forming a bond between the pipe and fitting.

**High Hazard.** See Contamination.

**Horizontal Branch.** A drain pipe extending laterally from a soil or waste stack or building drain with or without vertical sections or branches, which receives the discharge from one or more fixture drains and conducts it to the soil or waste stack or to the building drain.

**Horizontal Pipe.** A pipe or fitting that is installed in a horizontal position or which makes an angle of less than 45 degrees (0.79 rad) with the horizontal. Hot Water. Water at a temperature exceeding or equal to 120°F (49°C).

**House Drain.** See Building Drain.

**House Sewer.** See Building Sewer.

**Hydromechanical Grease Interceptor.** A plumbing appurtenance or appliance that is installed in a sanitary drainage system to intercept nonpetroleum fats, oil, and grease (FOG) from a wastewater discharge and is identified by flow rate, and separation and retention efficiency. The
design incorporates air entrainment, hydromechanical separation, interior baffling, or barriers in combination or separately, and one of the following:

1. External flow control, with air intake (vent), directly connected.
2. External flow control, without air intake (vent), directly connected.
3. Without external flow control, directly connected.
4. Without external flow control, indirectly connected.

These interceptors comply with the requirements of Table 1014.2.1. Hydromechanical grease interceptors are generally installed inside.

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**Indirect-Fired Water Heater.** A water heater consisting of a storage tank equipped with an internal or external heat exchanger used to transfer heat from an external source to heat potable water. The storage tank either contains heated potable water or water supplied from an external source, such as a boiler.

**Indirect Waste Pipe.** A pipe that does not connect directly with the drainage system but conveys liquid wastes by discharging into a plumbing fixture, interceptor, or receptacle that is directly connected to the drainage system.

**Individual Vent.** A pipe installed to vent a fixture trap and that connects with the vent system above the fixture served or terminates in the open air.

**Industrial Waste.** Liquid or water-borne waste from industrial or commercial processes, except domestic sewage.

**Insanitary.** A condition that is contrary to sanitary principles or is injurious to health. Conditions to which “insanitary” shall apply include the following:

1. A trap that does not maintain a proper trap seal.
2. An opening in a drainage system, except where lawful, that is not provided with an approved liquid-sealed trap.
3. A plumbing fixture or other waste discharging receptor or device that is not supplied with water sufficient to flush and maintain the fixture or receptor in a clean condition.
4. A defective fixture, trap, pipe, or fitting.
5. A trap, except where in this code exempted, directly connected to a drainage system, the seal of which is not protected against siphonage and backpressure by a vent pipe.
(6) A connection, cross-connection, construction, or condition, temporary or permanent, that would permit or make possible by any means whatsoever for an unapproved foreign matter to enter a water distribution system used for domestic purposes.

(7) The foregoing enumeration of conditions to which the term “insanitary” shall apply, shall not preclude the application of that term to conditions that are, in fact, insanitary.

**Interceptor (Clarifier).** A device designed and installed so as to separate and retain deleterious, hazardous, or undesirable matter from normal wastes and permit normal sewage or liquid wastes to discharge into the disposal terminal by gravity.

**Invert.** The lowest portion of the inside of a horizontal pipe.