



Vermont Legislative Resea

Code Enforcement Standards Used

Rental units (and all other dwellings) in Rhode Island are required to meet the standards set by Rhode Island General Law 45-24.3, the Housing Maintenance and Occupancy Code.

Table 1: Housing Inspection Regulations by Municipality

Minimum Frequency
of Inspections

Registration/
Compliance Fee – Due
(Number of Included
Inspections Vary)

Additional

48th units, and \$16 each for every unit after the 48th. Lesser fees are required of three- and four-unit owner occupied buildings.¹²

When looking at rental housing inspection codes and ordinances of the states listed above, all are ultimately dictated by their own statewide standards and regulations but also include a dominating municipal code system; excluding the state of New Jersey.

The frequencies of inspections vary in every state but can always occur when a tenant places a complaint and requests an inspection from the town. The required inspection frequency yields a pattern in some cities where an inspection is necessary when registration or a compliance fee needs to be renewed or granted. Other cities, such as Bangor or Boston, require an inspection every time there is a turnover of occupancy. The cities of Burlington, Barre, Concord, and Portland all leave inspections up to tenant's complaints and requests.

Inspection fees are required and determined by municipalities during registration and when they deem inspections necessary to occur for maintenance and safety reasons. State laws do not interfere in regulating inspection fee amounts, and grant municipalities the jurisdiction to deem the amount and frequency of additional fee payments as they feel appropriate, except for the state of New Jersey. Fees were typically handled by municipal code enforcement or finance departments. The payment fees, if specified to a particular entity, were always under the responsibility of the owner.

Produced at the request of Representative Helen Head by Libby Hedding, Travis Morrison, and Sarah Palma under the Supervision of Professor Anthony Gierzynski on February 20, 2008.

Disclaimer: This report has been prepared by the undergraduate students at the University of Vermont under the supervision of Professor Anthony Gierzynski. The material contained in the reports does not reflect official policy of the University of Vermont.

¹² New Jersey Bureau of Housing Inspection, "Regulations for Maintenance of Hotels and Multiple Dwellings."