



Division of Food and Recreational Safety – Policy (POL)

REC-POL-022	Hotels, Motels, and Tourist Rooming Houses
Revision: 1.0	Reinspection Criteria Hotel, Motel, TRH
Approved: 01/01/2026	Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 72

1.0 Purpose

This document will assist in the determination of when a reinspection or administrative follow-up is warranted. Reinspections or administrative follow-ups are to be conducted as soon as possible, based on the scheduled date for the correction(s).

2.0 Scope

This policy is for all state and agent inspection staff at hotels, motels and tourist rooming houses.

3.0 Definitions

N/A – This document does not create or identify any definitions that are not already defined in Wisconsin statutes or Wisconsin Administrative Codes.

4.0 Responsibilities

- 4.1 Division of Food and Recreational Safety (DFRS) and agent inspection staff are responsible for determining when hotels, motels, and tourist rooming houses are operated in compliance and out of compliance with Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 72.

5.0 Policy

- 5.1 A reinspection and the corresponding fee will be assessed if a return visit to the establishment is required to verify compliance. An administrative follow-up and the corresponding fee will be assessed if documentation or other evidence is provided to show satisfactory compliance instead of a physical visit to the establishment.

5.2 Category 1 – Imminent Health Hazards

- 5.2.1 When an inspection, including a complaint inspection, identifies a violation that poses a potential hazard to the health or safety of patrons or employees, and the violation is not able to be corrected during the inspection or investigation, the inspector must verify that the violation has been corrected. Verification can occur either through an onsite visit to the establishment or by administrative follow up.

5.3 Category 2 – Priority Violations

- 5.3.1 When an inspection identifies six (6) or more priority violations, whether corrected onsite or not, a reinspection or administrative follow-up will be conducted to verify that the violations have been corrected or to verify that active managerial control has been established.

5.4 Category 3 – Repeat Violations

- 5.4.1 If repeat violations are documented over three (3) routine, complaint or onsite inspections, whether corrected onsite or not, a reinspection or administrative follow-up will be required to address ongoing noncompliance.

5.5 Category 4 – Excessive Violations

- 5.5.1 An excessive number of violations may result in a reinspection or administrative follow-up. The inspector and their supervisor will determine whether the number and severity of violations indicate a failure to maintain active managerial control.

5.6 Application

- 5.6.1 Category 1 violations apply specifically to the items listed in 5.7.
5.6.2 Category 2 applies to all items denoted in rule with a superscript P – ^P.
5.6.3 Categories 3 and 4 apply to all violations that may be cited during an inspection.

5.7 The following violation(s) will result in a reinspection and applicable reinspection fee under Category 1 – Imminent Health Hazards:

- 5.7.1 Any closing criteria item or condition creating an immediate danger where a lodging facility is not maintained with strict regard to public health and safety.
- 5.7.2 The private well water system has not been tested every 12 months, or laboratory reports confirm unsafe potable water is present.
- 5.7.2.1 Laboratory reports confirm the presence of:
- 5.7.2.1.1 *E. coli*.
- 5.7.2.1.2 Coliform on 3 consecutive well water samples.
- 5.7.2.1.3 Nitrate in excess of 10 mg/L.
- 5.7.2.2 The public water system does not meet DNR groundwater or surface water quality standards.
- 5.7.2.3 Operator fails to notify DATCP/agent of unsafe water.
- 5.7.2.4 Operator fails to provide an alternative drinking water source.
- 5.7.2.5 *Administrative follow-up is allowed if active managerial control is in place and photographic or video documentation along with documentation can be provided.*
- 5.7.3 Presence of a waterborne disease and/or failure to prevent continued exposure to illness through closure, remediation, and water management programs, if applicable.
- 5.7.4 A failed public sewer or private onsite wastewater treatment system (POWTS) as determined by DSPS or local zoning or building inspection and the operator is not in the process of attaining compliance.

- 5.7.5 Water-carried waste plumbing fixtures, such as sinks and toilets, are not discharging into public or private sewer systems.
- 5.7.6 Presence of a slip, trip, or fall hazard.
 - 5.7.6.1 Showers and bathtubs are not provided with a slip-resistant flooring.
 - 5.7.6.2 Handrails and/or guards are not installed, constructed, maintained or provided where required.
 - 5.7.6.3 Bunk bed are not provided with permanently installed guards.
- 5.7.7 Required exits are not provided or are unusable.
 - 5.7.7.1 TRH is not provided with at least 2 exits from each floor used for sleeping.
 - 5.7.7.2 Fire exit doors are blocked or unusable.
- 5.7.8 The fire alarm system is not in working order as determined by local fire department, local building inspection department or warning lights are illuminated on the fire alarm control panel.
 - 5.7.8.1 *Administrative follow-up is allowed if active managerial control is in place and photographic or video documentation along with service documentation can be provided.*
- 5.7.9 Fire extinguishers are not installed where required or are not maintained.
 - 5.7.9.1 *Administrative follow-up is allowed if active managerial control is in place and photographic or video documentation along with service documentation can be provided.*
- 5.7.10 Smoke alarms and/or carbon monoxide alarms are not installed where required, are not maintained in working order, or are expired.
 - 5.7.10.1 *Administrative follow-up is allowed if active managerial control is in place and photographic or video documentation along with a receipt can be provided within 5 days.*
- 5.7.11 Bed bugs, rodents or other pests of public health significance are present in the establishment.
- 5.7.12 Utensils are not being washed, rinsed and sanitized in an approved manner.
- 5.7.13 Prohibited food items are observed being served or provided in the lodging facility.
- 5.7.14 An operator or employee is working while symptomatic or has been diagnosed with a food/waterborne communicable disease.

6.0 References



- 6.1 Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATP 72

7.0 Document History

The most recent changes to this controlled document are listed at the top of the table:

Revision	Author	Change Description	Approval Date
1.0	Ted Tuchalski	New format; revised Reinspection Criteria Lodging/B&B 2019 policy for new ATCP 72.	01/13/2026

8.0 Approval

<input type="checkbox"/> Assigned To	Title	Due Date	Status	Related Content	Outcome
 Sprecker, Troy S	Please approve Reinspecton Criteria Hotel, Motel, TRH DRAFT	12/21/2025	Completed	Reinspecton Criteria Hotel, Motel, TRH DRAFT	Approved
 Brock, Adam D.	Please approve Reinspecton Criteria Hotel, Motel, TRH DRAFT	12/21/2025	Completed	Reinspecton Criteria Hotel, Motel, TRH DRAFT	Approved