



**Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT)**  
**Submetering/Allocation Reference Sheet for Apartment Houses**  
**Texas Water Code §§ 13.502 and 13.503**  
**16 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 24, Subchapter I (§§ 24.275-24.287)**

***Introduction***

Please consult this guide before applying for submetering or allocated utility service with the PUCT as an “apartment house.” Under Texas Water Code (TWC) § 13.502(a), an apartment house owner, manufactured home rental community owner, multiple use facility owner, or condominium manager may provide for submetering or allocated utility service. The registration process for submetering or allocated utility service is prescribed by 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §24.275, relating to Owner Registration and Records.

This guide **only** concerns applicants seeking to register a complex for submetering or allocated utility service as an “**apartment house**.”

***“Apartment House”***

To be eligible for submetering or allocated utility service as an “apartment house,” the following criteria must be met.

**“Apartment House” Criteria for Submetering or Allocated Utility Service**

TWC § 13.501(1)/16 TAC § 24.275(c)(2): “Apartment house” means one or more buildings **containing five or more dwelling units** which are occupied primarily for nontransient use, **including a residential condominium** whether rented or owner occupied, and having [rental/rent] paid, if a dwelling unit is rented, at intervals of one month or [longer/more].

NOTE: An “apartment house” must consist of five or more interconnected units (whether with vertical walls or floor/ceiling). Any other configuration does not meet the applicable requirements of the Texas Water Code, Texas Property Code, and the associated PUCT Chapter 24 substantive rules under Subchapter I for an “apartment house.” Please make sure to check the applicable law before applying. Additionally, as an alternative to registering for submetering or allocated utility service, an applicant may use an “all bills paid”/“incidence of tenancy” method.

**The following configurations do not meet the criteria for “apartment house”**

- Single-family homes.
- Duplexes/Triplexes.
- “Horizontal apartments” in which there are four or less interconnected units.
- Commercial or other non-residential property.