How to Classify Service Lines with Different Ownership Types

Every service line in a community or non-transient, non-community water system's distribution system must be included in the lead service line inventory (inventory) due October 16th, 2024, regardless of ownership type. The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) has developed a template for the inventory. Ownership information is documented in the "Inventory Summary" tab of the inventory template. There are two required classification columns in the "Detailed Inventory" tab: System-owned portion service line material classification (column G) and Customer-owned portion service line material classification (column P).


Both columns must be completed to accurately classify the service line. This guidance reviews how to classify service lines for different numbers of owners.

One Owner

If one entity owns the entire service line, both classification columns must still be completed. If there is only one material type for the entire line, enter the same material type in both columns. If there is more than one material type, put the upstream material type in the system-owned column and the downstream material type in the customer-owned column.

Two Owners
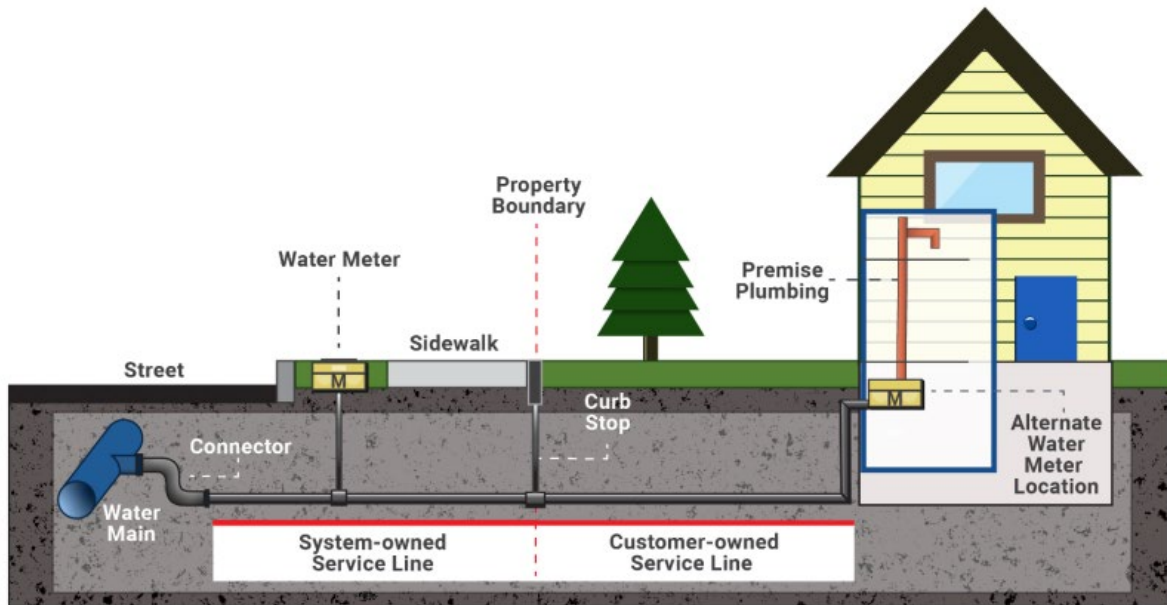
The inventory template is set up for systems where the service line has two owners. Classify the system-owned (or upstream owner) portion of the service line under the system-owned column and the customer-owned (or downstream owner) portion of the service line in the customer-owned column.

Three or More Owners
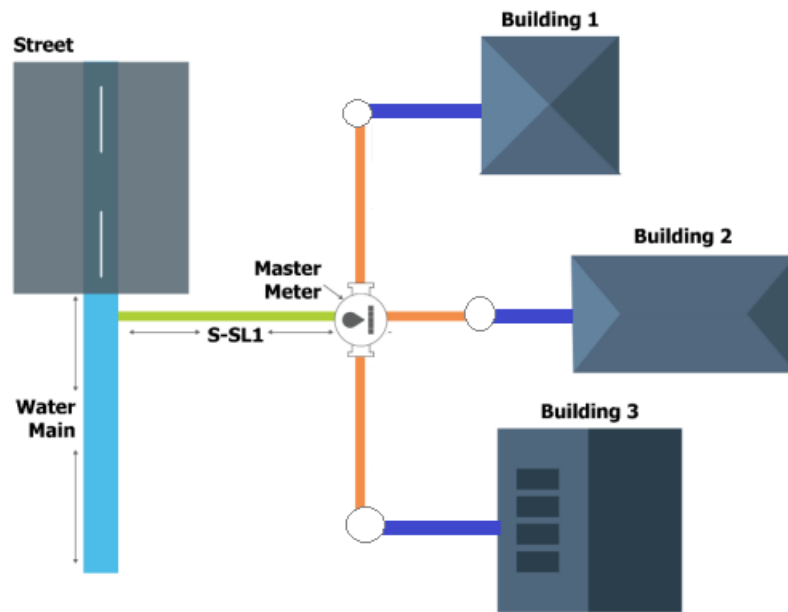
In this example, the green service line is owned by the water system, the orange service line is owned by a private company, such as an HOA or a developer, and the blue service line is owned by a private homeowner.

In this case, the green system-owned service line would be classified under the system-owned column. The customer-owned column would be classified as the highest priority material type of the orange or blue service line. The materials of the lower priority service lines should be documented in the Notes column (column W).

In order of priority:

1. Lead
2. Galvanized
3. Unknown
4. Non-lead – Copper
5. All other non-lead