



CITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

Code Memorandum

To: Department of Buildings Plan Reviewers and Inspectors

From: Judith Frydland, Commissioner 

Date: November 17, 2016

RE: Gas Distribution Piping Inside of Buildings

The following shall apply to the review, permitting and inspection of gas piping effective immediately.

1. Only rigid non-flexible schedule 40 black steel gas piping meeting the requirements of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) A53/A53M shall be installed for the distribution of natural gas within a wall of a building and past the outlet side of the gas meter or appliance. Rigid non-flexible schedule 40 black steel gas piping shall be installed in conformance with the International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) 2000 Edition.
2. Gas fittings with an inside diameter of two inches (2") or less shall be class 150 malleable iron meeting the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) B16.3. Gas fittings with an inside diameter greater than two inches (2") shall be rigid non-flexible schedule 40 black steel welded fittings. The use of Press Type fittings or Dresser Couplings for gas piping installed inside of the wall or on the outlet side of the gas meter or appliance (the House Pipe gas distribution piping) is prohibited.
3. Gas piping with an inside diameter greater than two inches (2") or carrying more than 5 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) pressure shall be welded. All welding of gas piping shall be by individuals with a currently valid Welder's Certification meeting the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section IX and said welding of gas piping shall be performed in accordance with the requirements of ASME B31.8, ASME Pressure Piping Code – Gas Transmission and Distribution Piping Systems.
4. The use of Flexible Appliance Connectors (FAC) up to six foot (6'- 0") (maximum) in length from a rigid non-flexible gas pipe outlet/stub-out shall be permissible to provide a flexible hook up to a gas burning laundry, cooking or similar gas burning appliance. The FAC cannot extend inside of a wall and must be readily open to visual inspection. The FAC shall be listed and labeled and meet the requirements of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard Z21.24, including the requirement that the FAC be coated.
5. Every connection to a fuel-burning appliance to the gas piping system shall have its own gas shutoff valve; that shall be no less than the nominal size of the connector and located ahead of the connector. For FAC Connections to fuel-burning appliances, the shutoff valve shall be located no more than six feet (6'- 0") from the appliance. For Hard Gas Pipe Connections to fuel burning appliances, the shutoff valve shall be located no more than two feet (2'- 0") from the appliance. This shut-off valve shall be located in the same room or space as the appliance and be visible and readily accessible for usage.
6. All gas piping when newly installed, altered, repaired or restored after an interruption of service of twenty-four (24) hours or more shall be pressure tested to meet the requirements of ANSI Z223.1 - National Fuel Gas Code. If a gas piping system fails the pressure test, the system shall be inspected and all required repairs shall be made to the system until such time that the system meets the requirement of ANSI Z223.1.
7. External gas piping exposed to the elements shall be marked with yellow paint, coating or labels with the word "Gas" in black letters. These identifiers shall be spaced at intervals not exceeding five feet (5'-0").
8. The same standards above shall apply to above grade gas piping and connections to outside gas appliances, including but not limited to, gas grills and gas fire pits, that connect to the building's gas system.
9. Nothing in this memo shall limit the Department's authority to conduct a plan review and/or a field inspection for compliance with the Code.