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IAPMO/ANSI UMC 1 – 2012

# 2012 UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE<sup>®</sup>



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TABLE OF CONTENTS  
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# An American National Standard

IAPMO/ANSI UMC 1-2012

# 2012 UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE<sup>®</sup>



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Information on referenced publications can be found in Chapter 17.

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## 2012 UMC Foreword

The *Uniform Mechanical Code*<sup>™</sup> (UMC<sup>™</sup>) provides complete requirements for the installation and maintenance of heating, ventilating, cooling, and refrigeration systems, while at the same time allowing latitude for innovation and new technologies.

This code was first published in 1967. With the publication of the 2003 edition of the *Uniform Mechanical Code*, another significant milestone was reached. For the first time in the history of the United States, a mechanical code was developed through a true consensus process. The 2012 edition represents the most current approaches in the mechanical field and is the third edition developed under the ANSI Consensus process. Contributions to the content of this code were made by every segment of the built industry, including such diverse interests as consumers, enforcing authorities, installers/maintainers, labor, manufacturers, research/standards/testing laboratories, special experts, and users.

The public at large is encouraged and invited to participate in IAPMO's open consensus code development process. This code is updated every three years. A code development timeline and other relevant information is available at IAPMO's website at [www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org).

The *Uniform Mechanical Code* is dedicated to all those who, in working to achieve "the ultimate mechanical code," have unselfishly devoted their time, effort, and personal funds to create and maintain this, the finest mechanical code in existence today.

The 2012 *Uniform Mechanical Code* is supported by the American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE), Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA), Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors National Association (PHCC-NA), the United Association (UA), and the World Plumbing Council (WPC). The presence of these logos, while reflecting support, does not imply any ownership of the copyright to the UMC which is held exclusively by IAPMO. Further, the logos of these associations indicates the support of IAPMO's open, consensus process being used to develop IAPMO's codes and standards.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CHAPTER 1</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION . . . . . 1</b>	108.2	Limitations of Authority . . . . . 3
<b>Part I</b>	<b>General . . . . . 1</b>	109.0	Violations . . . . . 3
101.0	Title, Scope, and General. . . . . 1	109.1	General. . . . . 3
101.1	Title. . . . . 1	<b>Part III</b>	<b>Permits and Inspections . . . . . 3</b>
101.2	Purpose . . . . . 1	110.0	Penalties. . . . . 3
101.3	Scope . . . . . 1	110.1	General. . . . . 3
102.0	Application to Existing Mechanical Systems. . . . . 1	111.0	Permits . . . . . 3
102.1	Additions, Alterations, or Repairs . . . 1	111.1	Permits Required . . . . . 3
102.2	Existing Installations. . . . . 1	111.2	Exempt Work . . . . . 3
102.3	Changes in Building Occupancy. . . . 1	112.0	Application for Permit . . . . . 4
102.4	Maintenance. . . . . 1	112.1	Application . . . . . 4
102.5	Moved Buildings . . . . . 1	112.2	Plans and Specifications . . . . . 4
102.6	Existing Buildings . . . . . 2	112.3	Information on Plans and Specifications . . . . . 4
103.0	Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction Equivalency. . . . . 2	113.0	Permit Issuance . . . . . 4
103.1	General. . . . . 2	113.1	Issuance. . . . . 4
104.0	Intent. . . . . 2	113.2	Retention of Plans . . . . . 4
104.1	General. . . . . 2	113.3	Validity of Permit. . . . . 4
105.0	Testing . . . . . 2	113.4	Expiration . . . . . 4
105.1	General. . . . . 2	113.5	Suspension or Revocation . . . . . 5
105.2	Approved Standards. . . . . 2	114.0	Fees . . . . . 5
105.3	Request by the Authority Having Jurisdiction . . . . . 2	114.1	General. . . . . 5
<b>Part II</b>	<b>Organization and Enforcement . . . . . 2</b>	114.2	Permit Fees . . . . . 5
106.0	Powers and Duties of the Authority Having Jurisdiction . . . . . 2	114.3	Plan Review Fees. . . . . 5
106.1	General. . . . . 2	114.4	Expiration of Plan Review. . . . . 5
106.2	Deputies . . . . . 2	114.5	Investigation Fees – Work Without a Permit. . . . . 5
106.3	Right of Entry . . . . . 2	114.6	Fee Refunds . . . . . 5
106.4	Stop Orders . . . . . 2	115.0	Inspections . . . . . 5
106.5	Authority to Disconnect Utilities in Emergencies. . . . . 2	115.1	General. . . . . 5
106.6	Authority to Condemn Equipment . . . . . 2	115.2	Operation of Mechanical Equipment . . . . . 5
106.7	Connection After Order to Disconnect . . . . . 3	115.3	Testing of Equipment . . . . . 6
106.8	Liability . . . . . 3	115.4	Inspection Requests . . . . . 6
106.9	Cooperation of Other Officials and Officers . . . . . 3	115.5	Other Inspections . . . . . 6
107.0	Unsafe Equipment . . . . . 3	115.6	Reinspections . . . . . 6
107.1	General. . . . . 3	116.0	Connection Approval . . . . . 6
108.0	Board of Appeals . . . . . 3	116.1	Energy Connections . . . . . 6
108.1	General. . . . . 3	116.2	Temporary Connections . . . . . 6
		117.0	Unconstitutional . . . . . 6
		117.1	Validity of Code . . . . . 6
		118.0	Validity . . . . . 6
		118.1	Code . . . . . 6
		Table 114.1	Mechanical Permit Fees. . . . . 7

<b>CHAPTER 2</b>	<b>DEFINITIONS . . . . . 9</b>		
201.0	General . . . . . 9	311.2	Concealing Imperfections . . . . . 24
201.1	Applicability . . . . . 9	312.0	Condensate Wastes and Control . . 24
202.0	Accepted Meanings . . . . . 9	312.1	Condensate Disposal . . . . . 24
202.1	General . . . . . 9	312.2	Condensate Control . . . . . 24
		312.3	Condensate Waste Sizing . . . . . 24
		Table 312.3	Minimum Condensate Pipe Size . . 24
<b>CHAPTER 3</b>	<b>GENERAL REQUIREMENTS . . . . 21</b>	312.4	Fuel-Burning Appliance
301.0	General . . . . . 21		Condensate Drains . . . . . 25
301.1	Applicability . . . . . 21	312.5	Condensate Waste . . . . . 25
302.0	Approval . . . . . 21	312.6	Point of Discharge . . . . . 25
302.1	How Obtained . . . . . 21	312.7	Plastic Fittings . . . . . 25
302.2	Complying Design of Equipment . . 21	313.0	Personnel Protection . . . . . 25
302.3	Oil-Burning Appliances . . . . . 21	313.1	General . . . . . 25
303.0	Installation . . . . . 21	314.0	Heating or Cooling Air System . . . 25
303.1	Installation Practices . . . . . 21	314.1	Source . . . . . 25
303.2	Listed Appliances . . . . . 21	314.2	Air Filters . . . . . 25
303.3	Room Large in Comparison to	314.3	Prohibited Source . . . . . 25
	Size of Equipment . . . . . 21	314.4	Return-Air Limitations . . . . . 25
303.4	Unlisted Appliances . . . . . 21	315.0	Water Supply . . . . . 25
303.5	Anchorage of Appliances . . . . . 21	315.1	General . . . . . 25
303.6	Movement . . . . . 21	316.0	Pipe, Tube Hangers, and
303.7	Identification of Equipment . . . . . 21		Supports . . . . . 25
303.8	Liquefied Petroleum Gas	316.1	General . . . . . 25
	Facilities . . . . . 21	316.2	Suspended Piping . . . . . 26
303.9	Equipment on Roofs . . . . . 21	316.3	Piping Support . . . . . 26
304.0	Service and Access	316.4	Strength . . . . . 26
	to Equipment and Appliances . . . . 22	316.5	Hanger Rod Sizes . . . . . 26
304.1	General . . . . . 22	Table 316.5	Hanger Rod Sizes . . . . . 26
304.2	Access to Equipment and	316.6	Gas Piping . . . . . 26
	Appliances on Roofs . . . . . 22	316.7	In Ground . . . . . 26
305.0	Automatic Control Devices . . . . . 22	317.0	Balancing . . . . . 26
305.1	General . . . . . 22	317.1	General . . . . . 26
306.0	Standards . . . . . 23	318.0	Louvers in Hurricane
306.1	General . . . . . 23		Prone Regions . . . . . 26
307.0	Labeling . . . . . 23	318.1	General . . . . . 26
307.1	Marking . . . . . 23	319.0	Protection of Piping, Materials,
307.2	Fuel-Burning Appliances . . . . . 23		and Structures . . . . . 26
307.3	Electric Heating Appliances . . . . . 23	319.1	General . . . . . 26
307.4	Heat Pump and Electric Cooling	320.0	Sleeves for Piping . . . . . 26
	Appliances . . . . . 23	320.1	General . . . . . 26
308.0	Location . . . . . 23	320.2	Bearing . . . . . 26
308.1	Protection Against Damage . . . . . 23	320.3	Sealing . . . . . 26
308.2	Protection Against Flood Damage . 24	320.4	Through Firewall . . . . . 26
309.0	Improper Location . . . . . 24	321.0	Cutting Structure . . . . . 26
309.1	General . . . . . 24	321.1	General . . . . . 26
310.0	Electrical Connections . . . . . 24	322.0	Ratproofing . . . . . 26
310.1	General . . . . . 24	322.1	General . . . . . 26
311.0	Workmanship . . . . . 24	322.2	Ductwork or Pipes . . . . . 26
311.1	Engineering Practices . . . . . 24		

Table 303.3(1)	Clearances, in Inches, with Specified Forms of Protection . . . . .	27			
Table 303.3(2)	Chimney Connector and Vent Connector Clearances from Combustible Materials . . . . .	28			
Table 303.3(3)	Capacities of Listed Metal Appliance Connectors for Use with Gas Pressures 8-inch or More Water Column . . . . .	29			
Table 303.3(4)	Capacities of Listed Metal Appliance Connectors for Use with Gas Pressures Less than 8-inch Water Column . . . . .	29			
Table 303.4	Standard Installation Clearances in Inches for Unlisted Heat-Producing Appliances . . . . .	30			
Table 316.2	Hanger and Supports . . . . .	32			
<b>CHAPTER 4</b>	<b>VENTILATION AIR SUPPLY . . . . .</b>	<b>33</b>			
401.0	General . . . . .	33			
401.1	Applicability . . . . .	33			
402.0	Ventilation Air . . . . .	33			
402.1	General Requirements . . . . .	33			
402.2	Natural Ventilation . . . . .	33			
402.3	Mechanical Ventilation . . . . .	33			
402.4	Outside Air Intake Protection . . . . .	33			
403.0	Ventilation Rates . . . . .	33			
403.1	General . . . . .	33			
403.2	Zone Calculations . . . . .	33			
403.3	Single-Zone Systems . . . . .	34			
403.4	One Hundred Percent Outdoor Air Systems . . . . .	34			
403.5	Multiple-Zone Recirculating Systems . . . . .	34			
403.6	Design for Varying Operating Conditions . . . . .	34			
403.7	Exhaust Ventilation . . . . .	35			
403.8	Dynamic Reset . . . . .	35			
404.0	Multiple-Zone Systems . . . . .	35			
404.1	General . . . . .	35			
404.2	Zone Ventilation Efficiency . . . . .	35			
Table 402.1	Minimum Ventilation Rates in Breathing Zone . . . . .	36			
Table 403.2.2	Zone Air Distribution Effectiveness . . . . .	38			
Table 403.5.2	System Ventilation Efficiency . . . . .	38			
Table 403.7	Minimum Exhaust Rates . . . . .	39			
			<b>CHAPTER 5</b>	<b>EXHAUST SYSTEMS . . . . .</b>	<b>41</b>
			501.0	General . . . . .	41
			501.1	Applicability . . . . .	41
			<b>Part I</b>	<b>Environmental Air Ducts and Product-Conveying Systems . . . . .</b>	<b>41</b>
			502.0	Product-Conveying Ducts Classification . . . . .	41
			502.1	General . . . . .	41
			503.0	Motors, Fans, and Filters . . . . .	41
			503.1	General . . . . .	41
			503.2	Fans . . . . .	41
			503.3	Air Filters . . . . .	41
			504.0	Environmental Air Ducts . . . . .	41
			504.1	Makeup and Exhaust-Air Ducts . . . . .	41
			504.2	Domestic Range Vents . . . . .	41
			504.3	Clothes Dryers . . . . .	41
			504.4	Heat (Energy) Recovery Ventilators . . . . .	42
			504.5	Termination of Environmental Air Ducts . . . . .	42
			504.6	Gypsum Wallboard Ducts . . . . .	42
			505.0	Design of Product-Conveying Ventilation Systems . . . . .	42
			505.1	General . . . . .	42
			505.2	Minimum Velocities and Circulation . . . . .	42
			Table 505.2	Minimum Conveying Velocities . . . . .	43
			505.3	Makeup Air . . . . .	43
			505.4	Hoods and Enclosures . . . . .	43
			506.0	Product-Conveying Ducts . . . . .	43
			506.1	Materials . . . . .	43
			506.2	Construction . . . . .	43
			Table 506.2(1)	Minimum Sheet Metal Thickness for Round Ducts for Product-Conveying System Ducts . . . . .	44
			506.3	Fittings . . . . .	45
			506.4	Explosion Venting . . . . .	45
			506.5	Supports . . . . .	45
			Table 506.2(2)	Minimum Sheet Metal Thickness for Rectangular Ducts . . . . .	46
			506.6	Fire Protection . . . . .	46
			506.7	Duct Clearances . . . . .	46
			Table 506.7	Reduction of Duct Clearance with Specified Forms of Protection . . . . .	47
			506.8	Protection from Physical Damage . . . . .	48
			506.9	Exhaust Outlets . . . . .	48

<b>Part II</b>	<b>Commercial Hoods and Kitchen Ventilation . . . . .</b>	<b>48</b>		
507.0	General Requirements . . . . .	48	513.1	General . . . . . 60
507.1	Exhaust System . . . . .	48	513.2	Types of Equipment . . . . . 60
507.2	Clearance . . . . .	48	513.3	Simultaneous Operation . . . . . 61
507.3	Drawings . . . . .	49	513.4	Fuel Shutoff . . . . . 61
507.4	Notification of Change . . . . .	49	513.5	Manual Activation . . . . . 61
508.0	Hoods . . . . .	50	513.6	System Annunciation . . . . . 62
508.1	Where Required . . . . .	50	513.7	System Supervision . . . . . 62
508.2	Seams, Joints and Penetrations . . . . .	50	513.8	Special Design and Application . . . . . 62
508.3	Insulation . . . . .	51	513.9	Review and Certification . . . . . 62
508.4	Hood Size . . . . .	51	513.10	Installation Requirements . . . . . 62
508.5	Exhaust Hood Assemblies with Integrated Supply-Air Plenums . . . . .	51	513.11	Portable Fire Extinguishers . . . . . 62
508.6	Listed Hood Assemblies . . . . .	52	513.12	Solid-Fuel Fire-Extinguishing Equipment . . . . . 62
508.7	Solid-Fuel Hood Assemblies . . . . .	52	514.0	Procedures for the Use, Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Equipment . . . . . 62
508.8	Listed Ultraviolet Hoods . . . . .	52	514.1	Operating Procedures . . . . . 62
508.9	Exhaust Outlets . . . . .	52	514.2	Inspection . . . . . 62
509.0	Grease Removal Devices in Hoods . . . . .	52	514.3	Inspection for Grease Buildup . . . . . 63
509.1	Grease Removal Devices . . . . .	52	Table 514.3	Exhaust System Inspection Schedule . . . . . 63
509.2	Installation . . . . .	52	514.4	Cleaning of Exhaust Systems . . . . . 63
509.3	Solid-Fuel Grease Removal Devices . . . . .	53	515.0	Minimum Safety Requirements for Cooking Equipment . . . . . 64
510.0	Exhaust Duct Systems . . . . .	53	515.1	Cooking Equipment . . . . . 64
510.1	General . . . . .	53	515.2	Operating Controls . . . . . 64
510.2	Clearance . . . . .	53	515.3	Cooking Equipment Maintenance . . . . . 64
510.3	Openings . . . . .	53	516.0	Recirculating Systems . . . . . 64
510.4	Listed Grease Ducts . . . . .	54	516.1	General Requirements . . . . . 64
510.5	Other Grease Ducts . . . . .	54	516.2	Design Restrictions . . . . . 64
510.6	Exterior Installations . . . . .	54	516.3	Interlocks . . . . . 65
510.7	Interior Installations . . . . .	55	516.4	Location and Application Restrictions . . . . . 65
510.8	Termination of Exhaust System . . . . .	56	516.5	Additional Fire Safety Requirements . . . . . 65
510.9	Solid-Fuel Duct Systems . . . . .	57	516.6	Use and Maintenance . . . . . 65
511.0	Air Movement . . . . .	57	517.0	Solid-Fuel Cooking Operations . . . . . 66
511.1	Exhaust Fans for Commercial Cooking Equipment . . . . .	57	517.1	Venting Application . . . . . 66
511.2	Airflow . . . . .	59	517.2	Location of Appliances . . . . . 66
511.3	Replacement Air . . . . .	59	517.3	Hoods for Solid-Fuel Cooking . . . . . 66
511.4	Common Duct (Manifold) Systems . . . . .	59	517.4	Exhaust Systems for Solid-Fuel Cooking . . . . . 66
511.5	Solid-Fuel Air Movement Requirements . . . . .	59	517.5	Grease Removal Devices for Solid-Fuel Cooking . . . . . 66
512.0	Auxiliary Equipment . . . . .	59	517.6	Air Movement for Solid-Fuel Cooking . . . . . 66
512.1	Dampers . . . . .	59	517.7	Fire-Extinguishing Equipment for Solid-Fuel Cooking . . . . . 67
512.2	Electrical Equipment . . . . .	59	517.8	Other Safety Requirements . . . . . 67
512.3	Other Equipment . . . . .	60		
512.4	Solid-Fuel Auxiliary Equipment . . . . .	60		
513.0	Fire-Extinguishing Equipment . . . . .	60		

<b>CHAPTER 6</b>	<b>DUCT SYSTEMS . . . . . 69</b>		
601.0	General . . . . . 69	607.10	Exterior Wall and Interior Stud Partitions . . . . . 72
601.1	Applicability . . . . . 69	607.11	Wall Register . . . . . 72
601.2	Sizing Requirements . . . . . 69	607.12	Distance from Combustible . . . . . 72
602.0	Material . . . . . 69	607.13	Vapor Barrier . . . . . 72
602.1	General . . . . . 69	607.14	Prohibition . . . . . 72
602.2	Combustibles Within Ducts or Plenums . . . . . 69	608.0	Automatic Shutoffs . . . . . 72
		608.1	General . . . . . 72
602.3	Factory-Made Air Ducts . . . . . 69	<b>CHAPTER 7</b>	<b>COMBUSTION AIR . . . . . 75</b>
602.4	Joints and Seams of Ducts . . . . . 70	701.0	Air for Combustion and Ventilation . . . . . 75
602.5	Metal . . . . . 70	701.1	General . . . . . 75
602.6	Tin . . . . . 70	701.2	Pressure Difference . . . . . 75
602.7	Vibration Isolators . . . . . 70	701.3	Makeup Air . . . . . 75
603.0	Installation of Ducts . . . . . 70	701.4	Indoor Combustion Air . . . . . 75
603.1	General Ducts Under Floor or Crawl Space . . . . . 70	701.5	Indoor Opening Size and Location . . . . . 75
603.2	Metal Ducts . . . . . 70	701.6	Outdoor Combustion Air . . . . . 76
603.3	Factory-Made Air Ducts . . . . . 70	701.7	Combination Indoor and Outdoor Combustion Air . . . . . 77
603.4	Protection of Ducts . . . . . 71	701.8	Engineered Installations . . . . . 77
603.5	Support of Ducts . . . . . 71	701.9	Mechanical Combustion Air Supply . . . . . 77
603.6	Protection Against Flood Damage . . . . . 71	701.10	Louvers, Grilles and Screens . . . . . 78
604.0	Insulation of Ducts . . . . . 71	701.11	Combustion Air Ducts . . . . . 78
604.1	General . . . . . 71	701.12	Dampers Prohibited . . . . . 78
605.0	Smoke Dampers, Fire Dampers, and Ceiling Dampers . . . 71	702.0	Process Air . . . . . 78
605.1	Smoke Dampers . . . . . 71	702.1	General . . . . . 78
605.2	Fire Dampers . . . . . 71	703.0	Extra Device or Attachment . . . . . 78
605.3	Ceiling Radiation Dampers . . . . . 71	703.1	General . . . . . 78
605.4	Multiple Arrangements . . . . . 71	704.0	Bleed Lines for Diaphragm-Type Valves . . . . . 78
605.5	Access and Identification . . . . . 71	704.1	General . . . . . 78
605.6	Freedom from Interference . . . . . 72	<b>CHAPTER 8</b>	<b>CHIMNEYS AND VENTS . . . . . 79</b>
605.7	Temperature Classification of Operating Elements . . . . . 72	801.0	General . . . . . 79
606.0	Ventilating Ceilings . . . . . 72	801.1	Applicability . . . . . 79
606.1	General . . . . . 72	801.2	Venting of Gas Appliances . . . . . 79
606.2	Requirements . . . . . 72	801.3	Appliances Fueled by Other Fuels . . . . . 79
607.0	Use of Under-Floor Space as Supply Plenum for Dwelling Units . . . . . 72	802.0	Venting of Appliances . . . . . 79
607.1	General . . . . . 72	802.1	Minimum Safe Performance . . . . . 79
607.2	Dwelling Units . . . . . 72	802.2	Connection to Venting Systems . . . 79
607.3	Enclosed . . . . . 72	802.3	Design and Construction . . . . . 79
607.4	Flammable Materials . . . . . 72	802.4	Type of Venting System to be Used . . . . . 80
607.5	Access . . . . . 72	Table 802.4	Type of Venting System to be Used . . . . . 80
607.6	Automatic Control . . . . . 72		
607.7	Temperature Limit . . . . . 72		
607.8	Noncombustible Receptacle . . . . . 72		
607.9	Floor Registers . . . . . 72		

802.5	Masonry, Metal, and Factory-Built Chimneys . . . . .	80
802.6	Gas Vents . . . . .	82
Table 802.6.2	Roof Pitch Height . . . . .	83
802.7	Single-Wall Metal Pipe . . . . .	84
Table 802.7.3.4(1)	Clearance for Connectors. . . . .	85
Table 802.7.3.4(2)	Reduction of Clearances With Specified Forms of Protection . . . . .	86
802.8	Through-the-Wall Vent Termination. . . . .	87
802.9	Condensation Drain . . . . .	87
802.10	Vent Connectors for Category I Appliances . . . . .	87
Table 802.10.1.4	Minimum Thickness for Galvanized Steel Vent Connectors for Low-Heat Appliances . . . . .	88
Table 802.10.1.5	Minimum Thickness for Steel Vent Connectors for Medium-Heat Appliances and Commercial and Industrial Incinerators . . . . .	88
802.11	Vent Connectors for Category II, Category III, and Category IV Appliances . . . . .	90
802.12	Draft Hoods and Draft Controls . . . . .	90
802.13	Manually Operated Dampers . . . . .	90
802.14	Automatically Operated Vent Dampers . . . . .	90
802.15	Obstructions . . . . .	90
802.16	Protection of Gas Appliances from Fumes or Gases Other than Products of Combustion . . . . .	91
803.0	Sizing of Category I Venting Systems . . . . .	91
803.1	Additional Requirements for Single Appliance Vent . . . . .	91
803.2	Additional Requirements for Multiple Appliance Vent Table 803.1.3(7), through Table 803.1.3(15) . . . . .	92
Table 803.2.1	Vent Connector Maximum Length. . . . .	93
Table 803.1.3(1)	Type B Double-Wall Gas Vent . . . . .	97
Table 803.1.3(2)	Type B Double-Wall Gas Vent . . . . .	100
Table 803.1.3(3)	Masonry Chimney. . . . .	102
Table 803.1.3(4)	Masonry Chimney. . . . .	104
Table 803.1.3(5)	Single-Wall Metal Pipe or Type B Asbestos Cement Vent . . . . .	106
Table 803.1.3(6)	Exterior Masonry Chimney . . . . .	107
Table 803.1.3(7)	Type B Double-Wall Vent . . . . .	108
Table 803.1.3(8)	Type B Double-Wall Vent . . . . .	112

Table 803.1.3(9)	Masonry Chimney. . . . .	114
Table 803.1.3(10)	Masonry Chimney. . . . .	116
Table 803.1.3(11)	Single-Wall Metal Pipe or Type B Asbestos Cement Vent . . . . .	118
Table 803.1.3(12)	Exterior Masonry Chimney . . . . .	119
Table 803.1.3(13)	Exterior Masonry Chimney . . . . .	120
Table 803.1.3(14)	Exterior Masonry Chimney . . . . .	121
Table 803.1.3(15)	Exterior Masonry Chimney . . . . .	122

**CHAPTER 9      INSTALLATION OF SPECIFIC APPLIANCES. . . . . 123**

901.0	General. . . . .	123
901.1	Applicability. . . . .	123
902.0	General. . . . .	123
902.1	Nonindustrial Gas Appliance . . . . .	123
902.2	Combustion Air from Bedroom or Bathroom . . . . .	123
902.3	Added or Converted Appliances . . . . .	123
902.4	Type of Gas(es) . . . . .	123
902.5	Building Structural Members. . . . .	123
902.6	Flammable Vapors . . . . .	123
902.7	Combination of Appliances. . . . .	123
903.0	Air-Conditioning Appliances (Gas-Fired Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps). . . . .	123
903.1	Independent Gas Piping. . . . .	123
903.2	Connection of Gas Engine-Powered Air Conditioners. . . . .	123
903.3	Clearances for Indoor Installation . . . . .	123
903.4	Assembly and Installation. . . . .	124
903.5	Furnace Plenums and Air Ducts . . . . .	124
903.6	Refrigeration Coils . . . . .	124
903.7	Switches in Electrical Supply Line . . . . .	124
904.0	Central Heating Boilers and Furnaces . . . . .	124
904.1	Location . . . . .	124
904.2	Clearance . . . . .	124
904.3	Assembly and Installation. . . . .	125
Table 904.2	Clearances to Combustible Material for Unlisted Furnaces, Boilers, and Air Conditioners . . . . .	125
904.4	Temperature- or Pressure-Limiting Devices . . . . .	126
904.5	Low-Water Cutoff . . . . .	126
904.6	Steam Safety and Pressure-Relief Valves. . . . .	126

904.7	Furnace Plenums and Air Ducts . . . . .	126	910.4	Clearance from Combustible Materials . . . . .	130
904.8	Refrigeration Coils . . . . .	126	910.5	Air Supply . . . . .	130
904.9	Cooling Units used with Heating Boilers . . . . .	127	910.6	Atmospheric Vents, Gas Reliefs or Bleeds . . . . .	130
904.10	Appliances in Attics and Under-Floor Spaces . . . . .	127	910.7	Relief Openings . . . . .	130
905.0	Clothes Dryers . . . . .	127	910.8	Purging . . . . .	130
905.1	Clearance . . . . .	127	911.0	Duct Furnaces . . . . .	130
905.2	Exhausting to the Outdoors . . . . .	127	911.1	Clearances . . . . .	130
905.3	Provisions for Makeup Air . . . . .	127	911.2	Installation of Duct Furnaces . . . . .	130
905.4	Exhaust Ducts for Type 1 Clothes Dryers . . . . .	127	911.3	Access Panels . . . . .	130
905.5	Exhaust Ducts for Type 2 Clothes Dryers . . . . .	127	911.4	Location of Draft Hoods and Controls . . . . .	130
905.6	Multiple-Family or Public Use . . . . .	128	911.5	Circulating Air . . . . .	130
906.0	Conversion Burners . . . . .	128	911.6	Duct Furnaces Used with Refrigeration Systems . . . . .	130
906.1	General . . . . .	128	911.7	Installation in Commercial Garages and Aircraft Hangars . . . . .	131
907.0	Decorative Appliances for Installation in Vented Fireplaces . . . . .	128	911.8	Installation in Commercial Garages . . . . .	131
907.1	Prohibited Installations . . . . .	128	911.9	Installation in Aircraft Hangars . . . . .	131
907.2	Installation . . . . .	128	912.0	Floor Furnaces . . . . .	131
Table 907.2	Free Opening Area of Chimney Damper for Venting Flue Gases from Unlisted Decorative Appliances for Installation in Vented Fireplaces . . . . .	128	912.1	Installation . . . . .	131
907.3	Fireplace Screens . . . . .	128	912.2	Temperature Limit Controls . . . . .	131
908.0	Gas Fireplaces, Vented . . . . .	128	912.3	Combustion and Circulating Air . . . . .	131
908.1	Prohibited Installations . . . . .	128	912.4	Placement . . . . .	131
908.2	Installation . . . . .	128	912.5	Bracing . . . . .	131
908.3	Combustion and Circulating Air . . . . .	129	912.6	Support . . . . .	131
909.0	Non-Recirculating Direct Gas- Fired Industrial Air Heaters . . . . .	129	912.7	Clearance . . . . .	131
909.1	Application . . . . .	129	912.8	Access . . . . .	131
909.2	Prohibited Installations . . . . .	129	912.9	Seepage Pan . . . . .	131
909.3	Installation . . . . .	129	912.10	Wind Protection . . . . .	132
909.4	Clearance from Combustible Materials . . . . .	129	912.11	Upper-Floor Installations . . . . .	132
909.5	Air Supply . . . . .	129	912.12	First Floor Installation . . . . .	132
909.6	Atmospheric Vents, Gas Reliefs or Bleeds . . . . .	129	913.0	Food Service Appliance, Floor Mounted . . . . .	132
909.7	Relief Openings . . . . .	129	913.1	Clearance for Listed Appliances . . . . .	132
909.8	Purging . . . . .	129	913.2	Clearance for Unlisted Appliances . . . . .	132
910.0	Recirculating Direct Gas-Fired Industrial Air Heaters . . . . .	129	913.3	Mounting on Combustible Floor . . . . .	132
910.1	Application . . . . .	129	913.4	Installation on Noncombustible Floor . . . . .	132
910.2	Prohibited Installations . . . . .	129	913.5	Combustible Material Adjacent to Cooking Top . . . . .	133
910.3	Installation . . . . .	129	913.6	Use with Casters . . . . .	133
			913.7	Level Installation . . . . .	133

913.8	Ventilation . . . . .	133	922.0	Pool Heaters . . . . .	136
914.0	Food Service Appliances, Counter Appliances . . . . .	133	922.1	Location . . . . .	136
914.1	Vertical Clearance . . . . .	133	922.2	Clearance . . . . .	136
914.2	Clearance for Listed Appliances . . . . .	133	922.3	Temperature or Pressure- Limiting Devices . . . . .	136
914.3	Clearance for Unlisted Appliances . . . . .	133	922.4	Bypass Valves . . . . .	136
914.4	Mounting of Unlisted Appliances . . . . .	133	922.5	Venting . . . . .	136
915.0	Hot Plates and Laundry Stoves . . . . .	133	923.0	Refrigerators . . . . .	136
915.1	General . . . . .	133	923.1	Clearance . . . . .	136
916.0	Household Cooking Appliances . . . . .	133	923.2	Venting or Ventilating Kits Approved for Use With a Refrigerator . . . . .	136
916.1	Floor-Mounted Units . . . . .	133	924.0	Room Heaters . . . . .	136
916.2	Built-In Units . . . . .	134	924.1	Prohibited Installations . . . . .	136
917.0	Illuminating Appliances . . . . .	134	924.2	Installations in Institutions . . . . .	136
917.1	Clearances for Listed Appliances . . . . .	134	924.3	Clearance . . . . .	136
917.2	Clearances for Unlisted Appliances . . . . .	134	924.4	Wall-Type Room Heaters . . . . .	137
Table 917.2	Clearances for Unlisted Outdoor Open-Flame Illuminating Appliances . . . . .	134	925.0	Stationary Gas Engines . . . . .	137
917.3	Mounting on Buildings . . . . .	135	925.1	General . . . . .	137
917.4	Mounting on Posts . . . . .	135	925.2	Connection to the Gas Supply Piping . . . . .	137
917.5	Gas Appliance Pressure Regulators . . . . .	135	926.0	Gas-Fired Toilets . . . . .	137
918.0	Incinerators, Commercial- Industrial . . . . .	135	926.1	Clearance . . . . .	137
918.1	General . . . . .	135	926.2	Installation on Combustible Floors . . . . .	137
919.0	Infrared Heaters . . . . .	135	926.3	Vents . . . . .	137
919.1	Support . . . . .	135	927.0	Unit Heaters . . . . .	137
919.2	Suspended Low-Intensity Infrared Tube Heaters . . . . .	135	927.1	Support . . . . .	137
919.3	Clearance . . . . .	135	927.2	Clearance . . . . .	137
919.4	Combustion and Ventilation Air . . . . .	135	927.3	Combustion and Circulating Air . . . . .	137
919.5	Installation in Commercial Garages and Aircraft Hangars . . . . .	135	927.4	Ductwork . . . . .	137
920.0	Open-Top Broiler Units . . . . .	135	927.5	Installation in Commercial Garages and Aircraft Hangars . . . . .	137
920.1	Listed Units . . . . .	135	928.0	Wall Furnaces . . . . .	137
920.2	Unlisted Units . . . . .	135	928.1	Installation . . . . .	137
920.3	Protection Above Domestic Units . . . . .	135	928.2	Location . . . . .	138
920.4	Commercial Units . . . . .	135	928.3	Combustion and Circulating Air . . . . .	138
921.0	Outdoor Cooking Appliances . . . . .	135	929.0	Appliances for Installation in Manufactured Housing . . . . .	138
921.1	Listed Units . . . . .	135	929.1	General . . . . .	138
921.2	Unlisted Units . . . . .	136	930.0	Small Ceramic Kilns . . . . .	138
			930.1	General . . . . .	138
			930.2	Installation . . . . .	138
			930.3	Fuel-Gas Controls . . . . .	138
			930.4	Electrical Equipment . . . . .	138
			930.5	Installations Inside Buildings . . . . .	138

930.6	Exterior Installations . . . . .	139	1008.0	Gas-Pressure Regulators . . . . .	142
931.0	Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Vehicular Fuel Systems . . . . .	139	1008.1	General . . . . .	142
931.1	General . . . . .	139	1009.0	Low-Water Cutoff . . . . .	142
932.0	Outdoor Open Flame Decorative Appliances . . . . .	139	1009.1	General . . . . .	142
932.1	General . . . . .	139	1010.0	Combustion Regulators - Safety Valves . . . . .	143
933.0	Appliances for Installation in Manufactured Housing . . . . .	139	1010.1	General . . . . .	143
933.1	General . . . . .	139	1011.0	Automatic Boilers . . . . .	143
934.0	Fuel Cell Power Plants . . . . .	139	1011.1	General . . . . .	143
934.1	General . . . . .	139	1012.0	Clearance for Access . . . . .	143
935.0	Evaporative Cooling Systems . . . . .	139	1012.1	General . . . . .	143
935.1	General . . . . .	139	1012.2	Power Boilers . . . . .	143
935.2	Location . . . . .	139	1012.3	Steam-Heating Boilers, Hot Water Boilers, and Power Boilers . . . . .	143
935.3	Access, Inspection, and Repair . . . . .	139	1012.4	Package Boilers, Steam-Heating Boilers and Hot-Water-Heating Boilers . . . . .	143
935.4	Installation . . . . .	139	1013.0	Boiler Rooms and Enclosures . . . . .	143
<b>CHAPTER 10</b>	<b>STEAM AND HOT WATER BOILERS . . . . .</b>	<b>141</b>	1013.1	General . . . . .	143
1001.0	General . . . . .	141	1014.0	Mounting . . . . .	143
1001.1	Applicability . . . . .	141	1014.1	General . . . . .	143
1002.0	Standards . . . . .	141	1015.0	Floors . . . . .	143
1002.1	General . . . . .	141	1015.1	General . . . . .	143
1002.2	Oil-Burning Boilers . . . . .	141	1016.0	Chimneys or Vents . . . . .	143
1002.3	Electric Boilers . . . . .	141	1016.1	General . . . . .	143
1003.0	Workmanship . . . . .	141	1017.0	Drainage . . . . .	143
1003.1	General . . . . .	141	1017.1	General . . . . .	143
1004.0	Detailed Requirements . . . . .	141	1018.0	Boilers, Stokers, and Steam Generators . . . . .	144
1004.1	Safety Requirements . . . . .	141	1018.1	General . . . . .	144
1004.2	Controls . . . . .	141	1019.0	Air for Combustion and Ventilation . . . . .	144
1004.3	Gauges . . . . .	141	1019.1	General . . . . .	144
1004.4	Stack Dampers . . . . .	141	1020.0	Operating Adjustments and Instructions . . . . .	144
1004.5	Welding . . . . .	141	1020.1	General . . . . .	144
1005.0	Expansion Tanks . . . . .	141	1021.0	Inspections and Tests . . . . .	144
1005.1	General . . . . .	141	1021.1	General . . . . .	144
1005.2	Systems with Open Expansion Tanks . . . . .	141	1022.0	Operating Permit . . . . .	144
1005.3	Closed-Type Systems . . . . .	142	1022.1	General . . . . .	144
1005.4	Minimum Capacity of Closed- Type Tank . . . . .	142	1023.0	Maintenance Inspection . . . . .	144
Table 1005.4(1)	Expansion Tank Capacities for Gravity Hot Water Systems . . . . .	142	1023.1	General . . . . .	144
Table 1005.4(2)	Expansion Tank Capacities for Forced Hot Water Systems . . . . .	142	1023.2	Power and Miniature Boilers . . . . .	144
1006.0	Safety or Relief Valve Discharge . . . . .	142	1023.3	Steam- and Water-Heating Boilers . . . . .	144
1006.1	General . . . . .	142	1023.4	Automatic Steam-Heating Boilers . . . . .	144
1007.0	Shutoff Valves . . . . .	142	1023.5	Unfired Pressure Vessels . . . . .	144
1007.1	General . . . . .	142			

1024.0	Operation and Maintenance of Boilers and Pressure Vessels. . . .	144	1107.2	Dimensions. . . . .	151
1024.1	General. . . . .	144	1107.3	Exits. . . . .	151
Table 1011.1	Controls and Limit Devices for Automatic Boilers. . . . .	146	1107.4	Refrigerant-Vapor Alarms. . . . .	151
			1107.5	Separation. . . . .	151
			1107.6	Combustion Air and Return Air. . .	152
			1107.7	Special Requirements. . . . .	152
<b>CHAPTER 11</b>	<b>REFRIGERATION. . . . .</b>	<b>149</b>	1108.0	Refrigeration Machinery Room Ventilation. . . . .	152
1101.0	General. . . . .	149	1108.1	General. . . . .	152
1101.1	Applicability. . . . .	149	1108.2	Refrigeration Machinery Rooms. .	152
<b>Part I</b>	<b>Refrigeration Systems. . . . .</b>	<b>149</b>	1108.3	Distribution of Ventilation. . . . .	152
1102.0	Refrigeration Systems. . . . .	149	1108.4	Intermittent Control of the Ventilation Systems. . . . .	152
1102.1	General. . . . .	149	1108.5	Emergency Control of the Ventilation Systems. . . . .	152
1102.2	Refrigerants. . . . .	149	1108.6	Central Control of Ventilation Systems. . . . .	152
1103.0	Refrigerant Classification. . . . .	149	1108.7	Ventilation Discharge. . . . .	152
1103.1	General. . . . .	149	1108.8	Fans. . . . .	152
1104.0	Classification of Refrigeration Systems. . . . .	149	1108.9	Ventilation Intake. . . . .	152
1104.1	General. . . . .	149	1109.0	Refrigeration Machinery Room Equipment and Controls. . . . .	153
1104.2	High-Probability System. . . . .	149	1109.1	General. . . . .	153
1104.3	Low-Probability System. . . . .	149	1109.2	Electrical. . . . .	153
1105.0	Requirements for Refrigerant and Refrigeration System Use. . . . .	149	1109.3	Storage. . . . .	153
1105.1	System Selection. . . . .	149	1109.4	Emergency Control. . . . .	153
1105.2	Volume of Occupied Space. . . . .	149	1110.0	Refrigeration Piping, Containers, and Valves. . . . .	153
1105.3	Refrigerated Process and Storage Areas. . . . .	149	1110.1	General. . . . .	153
1105.4	Refrigerant Purity. . . . .	149	1110.2	Nonferrous Materials. . . . .	153
1106.0	General Requirements. . . . .	150	1110.3	Ferrous Materials. . . . .	153
1106.1	Human Comfort. . . . .	150	1111.0	Erection of Refrigerant Piping. . .	153
1106.2	Supports and Anchorage. . . . .	150	1111.1	General. . . . .	153
1106.3	Access. . . . .	150	1111.2	Support. . . . .	153
1106.4	Illumination and Service Receptacles. . . . .	150	1111.3	Protection from Damage. . . . .	153
1106.5	Protection from Mechanical Damage. . . . .	150	1111.4	Visual Inspection. . . . .	153
1106.6	Electrical. . . . .	150	1111.5	Prohibited Locations. . . . .	153
1106.7	Ventilation of Rooms Containing Condensing Units. . . . .	150	1111.6	Underground Piping. . . . .	153
1106.8	Prohibited Locations. . . . .	151	1111.7	Joints. . . . .	153
1106.9	Condensation Control. . . . .	151	1111.8	Identification. . . . .	153
1106.10	Condensate. . . . .	151	1112.0	Refrigerant Control Valves. . . . .	153
1106.11	Defrost. . . . .	151	1112.1	Location. . . . .	153
1106.12	Overflows. . . . .	151	1112.2	Support. . . . .	154
1106.13	Condensate, Defrost, and Overflow Disposal. . . . .	151	1112.3	Access. . . . .	154
1106.14	Refrigerant Port Protection. . . . .	151	1112.4	Identification. . . . .	154
1107.0	Refrigeration Machinery Rooms. .	151	1113.0	Pressure-Limiting Devices. . . . .	154
1107.1	Where Required. . . . .	151	1113.1	Where Required. . . . .	154

1113.2	Setting . . . . .	154	1121.2	Power and Supervision. . . . .	157
1113.3	Connection . . . . .	154	1121.3	Annunciation . . . . .	157
1113.4	Operation . . . . .	154	1121.4	Installation, Maintenance, and Testing . . . . .	157
1114.0	Pressure-Relief Devices . . . . .	154	1122.0	Emergency Pressure Control System . . . . .	157
1114.1	General . . . . .	154	1122.1	General . . . . .	157
1114.2	Positive-Displacement Compressor . . . . .	154	1123.0	Equipment Identification . . . . .	157
1114.3	Liquid-Containing Portions of Systems . . . . .	154	1123.1	General . . . . .	157
1114.4	Evaporators . . . . .	154	1123.2	Volume and Type . . . . .	157
1114.5	Actuation . . . . .	154	1123.3	Permanent Sign . . . . .	157
1114.6	Stop Valves Prohibited . . . . .	154	1124.0	Testing of Refrigeration Equipment . . . . .	157
1114.7	Location . . . . .	154	1124.1	Factory Tests . . . . .	157
1114.8	Materials . . . . .	154	1124.2	Field Tests . . . . .	157
1115.0	Pressure-Relief Device Settings . . . . .	154	1124.3	Test Medium . . . . .	157
1115.1	Pressure-Relief Valve Setting . . . . .	154	Table 1124.2	Field Leak Test Pressures . . . . .	158
1115.2	Rupture Member Setting . . . . .	154	1124.4	Declaration . . . . .	158
1116.0	Marking of Pressure-Relief Devices . . . . .	155	1124.5	Brine Systems . . . . .	158
1116.1	Pressure-Relief Valves . . . . .	155	1125.0	Maintenance and Operation . . . . .	158
1116.2	Rupture Members . . . . .	155	1125.1	General . . . . .	158
1116.3	Fusible Plugs . . . . .	155	1126.0	Storage of Refrigerants and Refrigerant Oils . . . . .	158
1117.0	Overpressure Protection . . . . .	155	1126.1	General . . . . .	158
1117.1	General . . . . .	155	<b>Part II</b>	<b>Cooling Towers . . . . .</b>	<b>158</b>
1117.2	Type of Protection . . . . .	155	1127.0	General . . . . .	158
1117.3	Three-Way Valve Required . . . . .	155	1127.1	Applicability . . . . .	158
1117.4	Parallel Pressure-Relief Devices . . . . .	155	1128.0	Support and Anchorage . . . . .	158
1117.5	Discharge Capacity . . . . .	155	1128.1	General . . . . .	158
1117.6	Rating of Pressure-Relief Valves . . . . .	155	1129.0	Drainage . . . . .	158
Table 1117.5	Value of Factor Dependent for Equation 1117.5 . . . . .	155	1129.1	General . . . . .	158
1117.7	Rating of Rupture Members and Fusible Plugs . . . . .	156	1130.0	Chemical Treatment Systems . . . . .	158
1117.8	Discharge Location . . . . .	156	1130.1	General . . . . .	158
1118.0	Discharge Piping . . . . .	156	1131.0	Location . . . . .	158
1118.1	General . . . . .	156	1131.1	General . . . . .	158
1119.0	Special Discharge Requirements . . . . .	156	1132.0	Electrical . . . . .	158
1119.1	General . . . . .	156	1132.1	General . . . . .	158
1119.2	Design Requirements . . . . .	156	1133.0	Refrigerants and Hazardous Fluids . . . . .	158
1119.3	Testing . . . . .	157	1133.1	General . . . . .	158
1120.0	Ammonia Discharge . . . . .	157	Table 1102.2	Refrigerant Groups, Properties, and Allowable Quantities . . . . .	159
1120.1	General . . . . .	157	Table 1105.1	Permissible Refrigeration Systems . . . . .	163
1121.0	Detection and Alarm Systems . . . . .	157	<b>CHAPTER 12</b>	<b>HYDRONICS . . . . .</b>	<b>165</b>
1121.1	General . . . . .	157	<b>Part I</b>	<b>Steam and Water Piping . . . . .</b>	<b>165</b>
			1201.0	General . . . . .	165
			1201.1	Applicability . . . . .	165

1201.2	High Pressure Systems . . . . .	165	1303.2	Excavation . . . . .	173
1201.3	Low Pressure Systems . . . . .	165	1303.3	Type of Inspections . . . . .	173
Table 1201.3.1	Materials for Hydronic System Piping, Tubing, and Fittings . . . . .	166	1303.4	Inspection Waived . . . . .	174
1201.4	PEX Tubing . . . . .	169	1304.0	Certificate of Inspection . . . . .	174
Table 1201.4	PEX Tubing Pressure/ Temperature . . . . .	169	1304.1	Issuance . . . . .	174
1201.5	PEX-AL-PEX . . . . .	169	1304.2	Gas Supplier . . . . .	174
Table 1201.5	PEX-AL-PEX Piping Pressure/Temperature . . . . .	169	1304.3	Unlawful . . . . .	174
1201.6	Polypropylene Pipe . . . . .	170	1305.0	Authority to Render Gas Service . . . . .	174
Table 1201.6	Polypropylene Piping Pressure/Temperature . . . . .	170	1305.1	Authorized Personnel . . . . .	174
1201.7	PE-RT Tubing . . . . .	170	1305.2	Outlets . . . . .	174
Table 1201.7(1)	PE-RT Tubing Pressure/Temperature (ASTM F 2623) . . . . .	170	1306.0	Authority to Disconnect . . . . .	174
Table 1201.7(2)	PE-RT Tubing Pressure/Temperature (ASTM F 2769) . . . . .	170	1306.1	Disconnection . . . . .	174
1201.8	PE-AL-PE . . . . .	171	1306.2	Notice . . . . .	174
Table 1201.8	PE-AL-PE Pressure-Temperature . . . . .	171	1306.3	Capped Outlets . . . . .	174
<b>Part II</b>	<b>Hydronic Panel Heating Systems . . . . .</b>	<b>171</b>	1307.0	Temporary Use of Gas . . . . .	174
1202.0	Scope . . . . .	171	1307.1	General . . . . .	174
1202.1	General . . . . .	171	1308.0	Gas Piping System Design, Materials, and Components . . . . .	174
1203.0	Installation . . . . .	171	1308.1	Installation of Piping System . . . . .	174
1203.1	Design and Installation . . . . .	171	1308.2	Provision for Location of Point of Delivery . . . . .	174
1203.2	Pressure Testing . . . . .	171	1308.3	Interconnections Between Gas Piping Systems . . . . .	174
1204.0	Piping Materials . . . . .	171	1308.4	Sizing of Gas Piping Systems . . . . .	175
1204.1	Panel(s) . . . . .	171	Table 1308.4.1	Approximate Gas Input for Typical Appliances . . . . .	175
1204.2	Hot-Water Supply Lines . . . . .	171	1308.5	Acceptable Piping Materials and Joining Methods . . . . .	175
1205.0	Piping Joints . . . . .	171	Table 1308.5.9.2	Specifications for Threading Metallic Pipe . . . . .	176
1205.1	General . . . . .	171	1308.6	Gas Meters . . . . .	178
1206.0	Heat Sources . . . . .	171	1308.7	Gas Pressure Regulators . . . . .	178
1206.1	General . . . . .	171	1308.8	Backpressure Protection . . . . .	179
1207.0	Testing . . . . .	172	1308.9	Low-Pressure Protection . . . . .	179
1207.1	General . . . . .	172	1308.10	Shutoff Valves . . . . .	179
<b>CHAPTER 13</b>	<b>FUEL GAS PIPING . . . . .</b>	<b>173</b>	1308.11	Expansion and Flexibility . . . . .	179
<b>Part I</b>	<b>Fuel Piping . . . . .</b>	<b>173</b>	1309.0	Excess Flow Valve . . . . .	179
1301.0	Scope of Gas Piping . . . . .	173	1309.1	General . . . . .	179
1301.1	Coverage of Piping System . . . . .	173	1310.0	Venting of Gas Appliance Pressure Regulators . . . . .	179
1301.2	Piping System Requirements . . . . .	173	1310.1	General . . . . .	179
1301.3	Applications . . . . .	173	1311.0	Gas Piping Installation . . . . .	180
1302.0	General . . . . .	173	1311.1	Piping Underground . . . . .	180
1302.1	Installation . . . . .	173	1311.2	Installation of Piping . . . . .	181
1303.0	Inspection . . . . .	173	Table 1311.2.5.1	Support of Piping . . . . .	181
1303.1	Inspection Notification . . . . .	173	1311.3	Concealed Piping in Buildings . . . . .	181
			1311.4	Piping in Vertical Chases . . . . .	182
			1311.5	Maximum Design Operating Pressure . . . . .	182

1311.6	Gas Pipe Turns . . . . .	182	1316.11	Piping System Leak Test . . . . .	188
1311.7	Drips and Sediment Traps . . . . .	183	1316.12	Purging Requirements . . . . .	188
1311.8	Outlets . . . . .	183	Table 1316.12.1	Size and Length of Piping. . . . .	188
1311.9	Branch Pipe Connection. . . . .	183	1317.0	Interconnections between Gas-Piping Systems . . . . .	189
1311.10	Manual Gas Shutoff Valves . . . . .	183	1317.1	Interconnections Supplying Separate Users. . . . .	189
1311.11	Prohibited Devices . . . . .	184	1317.2	Interconnections for Standby Fuels. . . . .	189
1311.12	Systems Containing Gas-Air Mixtures Outside the Flammable Range . . . . .	184	1318.0	Required Gas Supply . . . . .	189
1311.13	Systems Containing Flammable Gas-Air Mixtures. . . . .	184	1318.1	General. . . . .	189
1311.14	Electrical Bonding and Grounding. . . . .	185	1318.2	Volume . . . . .	189
1311.15	Electrical Circuits . . . . .	185	1318.3	Gas Appliances . . . . .	189
1311.16	Electrical Connections . . . . .	185	1318.4	Size of Piping Outlets . . . . .	189
1312.0	Appliance Connections to Building Piping . . . . .	185	1319.0	Required Gas Piping Size . . . . .	190
1312.1	Connecting Gas Appliances . . . . .	185	1319.1	Pipe Sizing Methods. . . . .	190
1312.2	Use of Nonmetallic Gas Hose Connectors . . . . .	186	1319.2	Tables for Sizing Gas Piping Systems . . . . .	190
1312.3	Connection of Portable and Mobile Industrial Appliances. . . . .	186	1319.3	Sizing Equations. . . . .	190
1312.4	Appliance Shutoff Valves and Connections . . . . .	186	Table 1319.3	<i>Cr</i> and <i>Y</i> for Natural Gas and Undiluted Propane at Standard Conditions. . . . .	190
1312.5	Quick-Disconnect Devices . . . . .	186	1319.4	Sizing of Piping Sections . . . . .	190
1312.6	Gas Convenience Outlets. . . . .	186	1319.5	Engineering Methods . . . . .	191
1312.7	Sediment Trap . . . . .	186	1319.6	Variable Gas Pressures . . . . .	191
1312.8	Installation of Piping . . . . .	187	Table 1319.2(1)	Schedule 40 Metallic Pipe . . . . .	193
1313.0	Appliance Overpressure Protection . . . . .	187	Table 1319.2(2)	Schedule 40 Metallic Pipe . . . . .	194
1313.1	General. . . . .	187	Table 1319.2(3)	Schedule 40 Metallic Pipe . . . . .	195
1314.0	Safety Shutoff Devices for Unlisted LP-Gas Appliance Used Indoors . . . . .	187	Table 1319.2(4)	Schedule 40 Metallic Pipe . . . . .	196
1314.1	General. . . . .	187	Table 1319.2(5)	Schedule 40 Metallic Pipe . . . . .	197
1315.0	Liquefied Petroleum Gas Facilities and Piping . . . . .	187	Table 1319.2(6)	Schedule 40 Metallic Pipe . . . . .	198
1315.1	General. . . . .	187	Table 1319.2(7)	Semi-Rigid Copper Tubing . . . . .	199
1316.0	Pressure Testing and Inspection . . . . .	187	Table 1319.2(8)	Semi-Rigid Copper Tubing . . . . .	200
1316.1	Piping Installations . . . . .	187	Table 1319.2(9)	Semi-Rigid Copper Tubing . . . . .	201
1316.2	Inspection Requirements . . . . .	187	Table 1319.2(10)	Semi-Rigid Copper Tubing . . . . .	202
1316.3	Repairs and Additions . . . . .	187	Table 1319.2(11)	Semi-Rigid Copper Tubing . . . . .	203
1316.4	New Branches . . . . .	187	Table 1319.2(12)	Semi-Rigid Copper Tubing . . . . .	204
1316.5	Piping System. . . . .	187	Table 1319.2(13)	Semi-Rigid Copper Tubing . . . . .	205
1316.6	Regulators and Valves . . . . .	187	Table 1319.2(14)	Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) . . . . .	206
1316.7	Test Medium. . . . .	187	Table 1319.2(15)	Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) . . . . .	207
1316.8	Test Preparation. . . . .	187	Table 1319.2(16)	Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) . . . . .	208
1316.9	Test Pressure . . . . .	188	Table 1319.2(17)	Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) . . . . .	209
1316.10	Detection of Leaks and Defects . . . . .	188	Table 1319.2(18)	Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) . . . . .	210

Table 1319.2(19)	Polyethylene Plastic Pipe . . . . .	211	1326.0	Cathodic Protection Requirements . . . . .	228
Table 1319.2(20)	Polyethylene Plastic Pipe . . . . .	212	1326.1	General . . . . .	228
Table 1319.2(21)	Polyethylene Plastic Pipe . . . . .	213	1327.0	Manufactured Home Community LPG Supply Systems . . . . .	229
Table 1319.2(22)	Polyethylene Plastic Tubing . . . . .	214	1327.1	General . . . . .	229
Table 1319.2(23)	Polyethylene Plastic Tubing . . . . .	214	1328.0	Required Gas Supply . . . . .	229
Table 1319.2(24)	Schedule 40 Metallic Pipe . . . . .	215	1328.1	General . . . . .	229
Table 1319.2(25)	Schedule 40 Metallic Pipe . . . . .	216	Table 1328.1	Demand Factors for Use in Calculating Gas Piping Systems in M/H Communities . . . . .	229
Table 1319.2(26)	Schedule 40 Metallic Pipe . . . . .	217	1329.0	Gas Pipe Sizing and Pressure . . . . .	229
Table 1319.2(27)	Schedule 40 Metallic Pipe . . . . .	218	1329.1	Size . . . . .	229
Table 1319.2(28)	Semi-Rigid Copper Tubing . . . . .	219	1329.2	Pressure . . . . .	229
Table 1319.2(29)	Semi-Rigid Copper Tubing . . . . .	220	1330.0	Gas Piping Materials . . . . .	229
Table 1319.2(30)	Semi-Rigid Copper Tubing . . . . .	221	1330.1	Metal . . . . .	229
Table 1319.2(31)	Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) . . . . .	222	1330.2	Protection Coatings for Metal Gas Piping . . . . .	229
Table 1319.2(32)	Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) . . . . .	223	1330.3	Plastic . . . . .	229
Table 1319.2(33)	Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) . . . . .	224	1331.0	Gas Piping Installation . . . . .	229
Table 1319.2(34)	Polyethylene Plastic Pipe . . . . .	225	1331.1	Minimum Burial Below Ground Level and Clearances . . . . .	229
Table 1319.2(35)	Polyethylene Plastic Pipe . . . . .	226	1331.2	Metallic Gas Piping . . . . .	229
Table 1319.2(36)	Polyethylene Plastic Tubing . . . . .	227	1331.3	Plastic Gas Piping . . . . .	230
<b>Part II</b>	<b>Fuel Supply: Manufactured/Mobile Home Parks and Recreational Vehicle Parks . . . . .</b>	<b>228</b>	1331.4	Gas Piping System Shutoff Valve . . . . .	230
1320.0	Fuel Gas Piping System . . . . .	228	1332.0	Liquefied Petroleum Gas Appliances . . . . .	230
1320.1	General . . . . .	228	1332.1	General . . . . .	230
1320.2	Recreational Vehicle Park Fuel-Gas Equipment and Installations . . . . .	228	1333.0	Oil Supply . . . . .	230
1321.0	Gas Supply Connections . . . . .	228	1333.1	General . . . . .	230
1321.1	General . . . . .	228	1333.2	Minimum Oil Supply Tank Size . . . . .	230
1321.2	Location of Gas Supply Connection . . . . .	228	1333.3	Oil Supply Connections . . . . .	230
1322.0	Single and Multiple Manufactured Home Site Fuel Supply Systems . . . . .	228	1334.0	Fuel Supply Systems Installation . . . . .	230
1322.1	Gas Supply Connections-Underground Gas Piping . . . . .	228	1334.1	Flexible Gas Connector . . . . .	230
1323.0	Manufactured Home Site Gas Shutoff Valve . . . . .	228	1334.2	Use of Approved Pipe and Fittings of Extension . . . . .	230
1323.1	General . . . . .	228	1334.3	Mechanical Protection . . . . .	231
1324.0	Gas Meters . . . . .	228	1334.4	Special Rules on Atmospherically Controlled Regulators . . . . .	231
1324.1	Support of Meters . . . . .	228	1334.5	Fuel-Gas Piping Test . . . . .	231
1324.2	Location of Meters . . . . .	228	1334.6	Oil Tanks . . . . .	231
1324.3	Meter Shutoff Valve or Cock . . . . .	228	1335.0	Manufactured Home Accessory Building Fuel Supply Systems . . . . .	231
1325.0	Multiple Manufactured Home Site Fuel Distribution and Supply Systems . . . . .	228	1335.1	General . . . . .	231

1336.0	Community Building Fuel Supply Systems in Manufactured Home Communities . . . . .	231	<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS . . . . .</b>	<b>255</b>
1336.1	Fuel-Gas Piping and Appliance Installations . . . . .	231	Appendix A	Residential Plan Examiner Review Form for HVAC System Design . . . . .	257
1336.2	Oil Supply Systems in M/H Communities . . . . .	231	Appendix B	Procedures to be Followed to Place Gas Equipment in Operation . . . . .	259
1336.3	Oil-Burning Equipment and Installation . . . . .	232	Appendix C	Installation and Testing of Oil (Liquid) Fuel-Fired Equipment . . . . .	261
<b>CHAPTER 14</b>	<b>PROCESS PIPING . . . . .</b>	<b>233</b>	Appendix D	Unit Conversion Tables . . . . .	267
1401.0	General . . . . .	233	Appendix E	Sustainable Practices . . . . .	273
1401.1	Applicability . . . . .	233	Appendix F	Sizing of Venting Systems Serving Appliances Equipped with Draft Hoods, Category I Appliances, and Appliances Listed for Use with Type B Vents . . . . .	359
1402.0	Permit . . . . .	233	Appendix G	Example Calculation of Outdoor Air Rate . . . . .	369
1402.1	General . . . . .	233	Index	. . . . .	371
1403.0	Plans Required . . . . .	233			
1403.1	General . . . . .	233			
1404.0	Workmanship . . . . .	233			
1404.1	General . . . . .	233			
1405.0	Inspections . . . . .	233			
1405.1	General . . . . .	233			
1405.2	Required Inspections . . . . .	233			
1405.3	Other Inspections . . . . .	233			
1406.0	Piping and Tubing . . . . .	233			
1406.1	General . . . . .	233			
1406.2	Hazardous Process Piping (HPP) . . . . .	233			
1406.3	Special Requirements for HPP Gases . . . . .	234			
<b>CHAPTER 15</b>	<b>SOLAR SYSTEMS . . . . .</b>	<b>235</b>			
1501.0	General . . . . .	235			
1501.1	Applicability . . . . .	235			
<b>CHAPTER 16</b>	<b>STATIONARY POWER PLANTS . . . . .</b>	<b>237</b>			
1601.0	Stationary Fuel Cell Power Plants . . . . .	237			
1601.1	General . . . . .	237			
1602.0	Stationary Engine Generators . . . . .	237			
1602.1	General . . . . .	237			
<b>CHAPTER 17</b>	<b>REFERENCED STANDARDS . . . . .</b>	<b>239</b>			
1701.0	General . . . . .	239			
1701.1	Applicability . . . . .	239			
1701.2	Standards . . . . .	239			
Table 1701.0	Referenced Standards . . . . .	240			



# CHAPTER 1

## ADMINISTRATION

### Part I – General.

#### 101.0 Title, Scope, and General.

**101.1 Title.** These regulations shall be known as the Uniform Mechanical Code, may be cited as such, and will be referred to herein as “this code.”

**101.2 Purpose.** The purpose of this code is to provide minimum standards to safeguard life or limb, health, property, and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, installation, quality of materials, location, operation, and maintenance or use of heating, ventilating, cooling, and refrigeration systems; incinerators; and other miscellaneous heat-producing appliances within this jurisdiction.

The purpose of this code is not to create or otherwise establish or designate a particular class or group of persons who will or should be especially protected or benefited by the terms of this code.

**101.3 Scope.** The provisions of this code shall apply to the addition to or erection, installation, alteration, repair, relocation, replacement, use, or maintenance of heating, ventilating, cooling, refrigeration systems; incinerators; or other miscellaneous heat-producing appliances within this jurisdiction.

Additions, alterations, repairs to, and replacement of equipment or systems shall be in accordance with the provisions for new equipment and systems, except as otherwise provided in Section 102.0 of this code.

**101.3.1 Conflicts.** Where, in a specific case, different sections of this code or referenced standards specify different materials, methods of construction, or other requirements, the most restrictive shall govern as determined by the Authority Having Jurisdiction. Where there is a conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement, the specific requirement shall prevail.

**101.3.1.1 Conflicts Between Codes.** Where the requirements within the jurisdiction of this mechanical code conflict with the requirements of the plumbing code, the plumbing code shall prevail.

**101.3.2 Design and Testing.** The design and testing of equipment regulated by this code shall be subject to the approval of the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

**101.3.3 Appendices.** The provisions in the appendices are intended to supplement the requirements of this code and shall not be considered part of this code unless formally adopted as such.

#### 102.0 Application to Existing Mechanical Systems.

**102.1 Additions, Alterations, or Repairs.** Additions, alterations, or repairs shall be permitted to be made to a mechanical system without requiring the existing mechanical system to be in accordance with the requirements of this code, provided the addition, alteration, or repair is in accordance with that required for a new mechanical system. Additions,

alterations, or repairs shall not cause an existing system to become unsafe or create unhealthy or overloaded conditions.

Minor additions, alterations, and repairs to existing mechanical systems shall be permitted to be installed in accordance with the law in effect at the time the original installation was made, where approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

**102.2 Existing Installations.** Mechanical systems lawfully in existence at the time of the adoption of this code shall be permitted to have their use, maintenance, or repair continued where the use, maintenance, or repair is in accordance with the original design and location and no hazard to life, health, or property has been created by such mechanical systems.

**102.3 Changes in Building Occupancy.** Mechanical systems that are a part of a building or structure undergoing a change in use or occupancy, as defined in the building code, shall be in accordance with the requirements of this code that are applicable to the new use or occupancy.

**102.4 Maintenance.** Mechanical systems, materials, and appurtenances, both existing and new, and parts thereof shall be maintained in operating condition in accordance with the original design and in a safe and hazard-free condition. Devices or safeguards that are required by this code shall be maintained in accordance with the code edition under which installed. The owner or the owner’s designated agent shall be responsible for maintenance of mechanical systems and equipment. To determine compliance with this subsection, the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall be permitted to cause a mechanical system or equipment to be reinspected.

**102.4.1 Commercial HVAC Systems.** Commercial HVAC systems both existing and new, and parts thereof shall be inspected and maintained in operating condition in accordance with ASHRAE/ACCA 180. The owner or the owner’s designated agent shall be responsible for maintenance of mechanical systems and equipment. To determine compliance with this subsection, the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall be permitted to cause a HVAC system to be reinspected.

**102.4.2 Residential HVAC Systems.** Residential HVAC systems both existing and new, and parts thereof shall be inspected in accordance with ACCA 4 QM. The owner or the owner’s designated agent shall be responsible for maintenance of mechanical systems and equipment. To determine compliance with this subsection, the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall be permitted to cause a HVAC system to be reinspected.

**102.5 Moved Buildings.** Mechanical systems or equipment that is a part of buildings or structures moved into or within this jurisdiction shall be in accordance with the provisions of this code for new installations.