



City of Ashland Building Safety Division

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Policies / Interpretations / Procedures

BD-PP-0002

INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR GAS PRESSURE TESTS

Policy Summary:

Outlines criteria for waiving gas piping pressure tests.

Background:

Section C102 of the Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code and Section G2417 of the Oregon Residential Specialty Code specify the requirements for conducting and approving gas piping pressure tests. These codes state that all piping must be in place and pressurized when the inspection is requested. This requirement has caused problems for installers in the case of changeouts of existing equipment since a required gas pressure test adds an additional step in the installation process which, unless well coordinated, causes an additional trip for the contractor and the inspector. Because of this problem we have historically waived the gas pressure test under the following conditions:

- The piping is not concealed; and,
- The installer conducts a "soap test" of all new joints; and,
- There is less than 6 feet of new or reconfigured piping; and,
- There are a maximum of 3 joints which have been affected by the changeout; and,
- The installer is a contractor registered with the Construction Contractors Board.

Discussion:

This past practice related to changeouts has worked well for both the installers and the inspectors. In the past few years the practice has also been utilized in new construction in cases where the new gas piping would interfere with the work of other subcontractors installing gypsum board, plumbing systems, and electrical wiring. As in the case of changeouts, the practice has worked well.

It should be noted that the term "soap test" as used in this policy refers to the use of a professional leak detecting solution which contains low chlorides. Chlorides have been specifically cited by manufacturers as causing corrosion on various metal pipes. Common kitchen detergents are generally high in chloride and not recommended for a "soap test."

Policy:

Pressure tests for gas piping may be waived by the Building Official when the criteria listed above are met.