



2012 INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE®

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2012 IFGC®

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION 1	403	Piping Materials (IFGS) 67
PART 1—SCOPE AND APPLICATION	404	Piping System Installation (IFGC) 69
Section	405	Piping Bends and Changes in Direction (IFGS) 71
101 General (IFGC) 1	406	Inspection, Testing and Purging (IFGS) 71
102 Applicability (IFGC) 2	407	Piping Support (IFGC) 74
PART 2—ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT 2	408	Drips and Sloped Piping (IFGC) 74
103 Department of Inspection (IFGC) 2	409	Shutoff Valves (IFGC) 74
104 Duties and Powers of the Code Official (IFGC) 3	410	Flow Controls (IFGC) 75
105 Approval (IFGC) 3	411	Appliance and Manufactured Home Connections (IFGC) 76
106 Permits (IFGC) 4	412	Liquefied Petroleum Gas Motor Vehicle Fuel-dispensing Facilities (IFGC) 77
107 Inspections and Testing (IFGC) 5	413	Compressed Natural Gas Motor Vehicle Fuel-dispensing Facilities (IFGC) 77
108 Violations (IFGC) 7	414	Supplemental and Standby Gas Supply (IFGC) 79
109 Means of Appeal (IFGC) 7	415	Piping Support Intervals (IFGS) 79
110 Temporary Equipment, Systems and Uses (IFGC) 8	416	Overpressure Protection Devices (IFGS) 79
CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS 9	CHAPTER 5 CHIMNEYS AND VENTS 83	
Section	Section	
201 General (IFGC) 9	501 General (IFGC) 83	
202 General Definitions (IFGC) 9	502 Vents (IFGC) 84	
CHAPTER 3 GENERAL REGULATIONS 17	503 Venting of Appliances (IFGS) 85	
Section	504 Sizing of Category I Appliance Venting Systems (IFGS) 94	
301 General (IFGC) 17	505 Direct-vent, Integral Vent, Mechanical Vent and Ventilation/Exhaust Hood Venting (IFGC) 98	
302 Structural Safety (IFGC) 18	506 Factory-built Chimneys (IFGC) 98	
303 Appliance Location (IFGC) 18	CHAPTER 6 SPECIFIC APPLIANCES 119	
304 Combustion, Ventilation and Dilution Air (IFGS) 19	Section	
305 Installation (IFGC) 22	601 General (IFGC) 119	
306 Access and Service Space (IFGC) 23	602 Decorative Appliances for Installation in Fireplaces (IFGC) 119	
307 Condensate Disposal (IFGC) 25	603 Log Lighters (IFGC) 119	
308 Clearance Reduction (IFGS) 25	604 Vented Gas Fireplaces (Decorative Appliances) (IFGC) 119	
309 Electrical (IFGC) 26	605 Vented Gas Fireplace Heaters (IFGC) 119	
310 Electrical Bonding (IFGS) 28	606 Incinerators and Crematories (IFGC) 119	
CHAPTER 4 GAS PIPING INSTALLATIONS 29	607 Commercial-industrial Incinerators (IFGC) . . . 119	
Section	608 Vented Wall Furnaces (IFGC) 119	
401 General (IFGC) 29		
402 Pipe Sizing (IFGS) 29		

TABLE OF CONTENTS

609 Floor Furnaces (IFGC) 120

610 Duct Furnaces (IFGC) 120

611 Nonrecirculating Direct-fired Industrial
Air Heaters (IFGC) 120

612 Recirculating Direct-fired Industrial Air
Heaters (IFGC) 121

613 Clothes Dryers (IFGC) 121

614 Clothes Dryer Exhaust (IFGC) 121

615 Sauna Heaters (IFGC) 123

616 Engine and Gas Turbine-powered
Equipment (IFGC) 123

617 Pool and Spa Heaters (IFGC) 124

618 Forced-air Warm-air Furnaces (IFGC) 124

619 Conversion Burners (IFGC) 125

620 Unit Heaters (IFGC) 125

621 Unvented Room Heaters (IFGC) 125

622 Vented Room Heaters (IFGC) 125

623 Cooking Appliances (IFGC) 125

624 Water Heaters (IFGC) 126

625 Refrigerators (IFGC) 126

626 Gas-fired Toilets (IFGC) 126

627 Air-conditioning Appliances (IFGC) 126

628 Illuminating Appliances (IFGC) 127

629 Small Ceramic Kilns (IFGC) 127

630 Infrared Radiant Heaters (IFGC) 128

631 Boilers (IFGC) 128

632 Equipment Installed in Existing
Unlisted Boilers (IFGC) 128

633 Stationary Fuel-cell Power Systems (IFGC) . . . 128

634 Chimney Damper Opening
Area (IFGS) 128

635 Gaseous Hydrogen Systems (IFGC) 128

636 Outdoor Decorative Appliances (IFGC) 128

**CHAPTER 7 GASEOUS HYDROGEN
SYSTEMS 129**

Section

701 General (IFGC) 129

702 General Definitions (IFGC) 129

703 General Requirements (IFGC) 129

704 Piping, Use and Handling (IFGC) 130

705 Testing of Hydrogen Piping Systems (IFGC) . . 131

706 Location of Gaseous
Hydrogen Systems (IFGC) 132

707 Operation and Maintenance of Gaseous
Hydrogen Systems (IFGC) 133

708 Design of Liquefied Hydrogen Systems
Associated with Hydrogen Vaporization
Operations (IFGC) 133

CHAPTER 8 REFERENCED STANDARDS 135

**APPENDIX A SIZING AND CAPACITIES OF
GAS PIPING (IFGS) 139**

**APPENDIX B SIZING OF VENTING SYSTEMS
SERVING APPLIANCES
EQUIPPED WITH DRAFT
HOODS, CATEGORY I
APPLIANCES AND
APPLIANCES LISTED
FOR USE WITH TYPE B
VENTS (IFGS) 151**

**APPENDIX C EXIT TERMINALS OF
MECHANICAL DRAFT AND
DIRECT-VENT VENTING
SYSTEMS (IFGS) 161**

**APPENDIX D RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE
FOR SAFETY INSPECTION OF
AN EXISTING APPLIANCE
INSTALLATION (IFGS) 163**

INDEX 165

PREFACE

Introduction

Internationally, code officials recognize the need for a modern, up-to-date fuel gas code addressing the design and installation of fuel gas systems and gas-fired appliances through requirements emphasizing performance. The *International Fuel Gas Code*[®], in this 2012 edition, is designed to meet these needs through model code regulations that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small.

This comprehensive fuel gas code establishes minimum regulations for fuel gas systems and gas-fired appliances using prescriptive and performance-related provisions. It is founded on broad-based principles that make possible the use of new materials and new fuel gas system and appliance designs. This 2012 edition is fully compatible with all of the *International Codes*[®] (I-Codes[®]) published by the International Code Council (ICC)[®], including the *International Building Code*[®], *International Energy Conservation Code*[®], *International Existing Building Code*[®], *International Fire Code*[®], *International Green Construction Code*[™] (to be available March 2012), *International Mechanical Code*[®], *ICC Performance Code*[®], *International Plumbing Code*[®], *International Private Sewage Disposal Code*[®], *International Property Maintenance Code*[®], *International Residential Code*[®], *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code*[™] (to be available March 2012), *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*[®] and *International Zoning Code*[®].

The *International Fuel Gas Code* provisions provide many benefits, among which is the model code development process that offers an international forum for fuel gas technology professionals to discuss performance and prescriptive code requirements. This forum provides an excellent arena to debate proposed revisions. This model code also encourages international consistency in the application of provisions.

Development

The first edition of the *International Fuel Gas Code* (1997) was the culmination of an effort initiated in 1996 by a development committee appointed by ICC and consisting of representatives of the three statutory members of the International Code Council at that time, including: Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) and Southern Building Code Congress International (SBCCI) and the gas industry. The intent was to draft a comprehensive set of regulations for fuel gas systems and gas-fired appliances consistent with and inclusive of the scope of the existing mechanical, plumbing and gas codes. Technical content of the latest model codes promulgated by BOCA, ICBO, SBCCI and ICC and the *National Fuel Gas Code* (ANSI Z223.1) was utilized as the basis for the development. This 2012 edition presents the code as originally issued, with changes reflected in subsequent editions through 2009, and with code changes approved through the ICC Code Development Process through 2010 and standard revisions correlated with ANSI Z223.1-2012. A new edition such as this is promulgated every three years.

This code is founded on principles intended to establish provisions consistent with the scope of a fuel gas code that adequately protects public health, safety and welfare; provisions that do not unnecessarily increase construction costs; provisions that do not restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction; and provisions that do not give preferential treatment to particular types or classes of materials, products or methods of construction.

Format

The *International Fuel Gas Code* is segregated by section numbers into two categories - "code" and "standard" - all coordinated and incorporated into a single document. The sections that are "code" are designated by the acronym "IFGC" next to the main section number (e.g., Section 101). The sections that are "standard" are designated by the acronym "IFGS" next to the main section number (e.g., Section 304). A subsection may be individually redesignated as an "IFGS" section where it is located under an "IFGC" main section.

Adoption

The *International Fuel Gas Code* is available for adoption and use by jurisdictions internationally. Its use within a governmental jurisdiction is intended to be accomplished through adoption by reference in accordance with proceedings establishing the jurisdiction's laws. At the time of adoption, jurisdictions should insert the appropriate information in provisions requiring specific local information, such as the name of the adopting jurisdiction. These locations are shown in bracketed words in small capital letters in the code and in the sample ordinance. The sample adoption ordinance on page ix addresses several key elements of a code adoption ordinance, including the information required for insertion into the code text.

Maintenance

The *International Fuel Gas Code* is kept up to date through the review of proposed changes submitted by code enforcing officials, industry representatives, design professionals and other interested parties. Proposed changes are carefully considered through an open code development process in which all interested and affected parties may participate. The code development process of the *International Fuel Gas Code* is slightly different than the process for the other *International Codes*.

Proposed changes to text designated "IFGC" are subject to the ICC Code Development Process. For more information regarding the code development process, contact the Codes and Standards Development Department of the International Code Council.

Proposed changes to text designated as "IFGS" are subject to the standards development process which maintains the *National Fuel Gas Code* (ANSI Z223.1). For more information regarding the standards development process, contact the American Gas Association (AGA) at 400 N. Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001.

While the development procedure of the *International Fuel Gas Code* ensures the highest degree of care, the ICC, its members, the AGA and those participating in the development of this code do not accept any liability resulting from compliance or noncompliance with the provisions because the ICC, its founding members and the AGA do not have the power or authority to police or enforce compliance with the contents of this code. Only the governmental body that enacts the code into law has such authority.

Code Development Committee Responsibilities (Letter Designations in Front of Section Numbers)

In each code development cycle, proposed changes to the code are considered at the Code Development Hearings by the International Fuel Gas Code Development Committee, whose action constitutes a recommendation to the voting membership for final action on the proposed change. Proposed changes to a code section that has a number beginning with a letter in brackets are considered by a different code development committee. For example, proposed changes to code sections that have [B] in front of them (e.g., [B] 302.1) are considered by the appropriate International Building Code Development Committee (IBC-Structural) at the code development hearings.

The content of sections in this code that begin with a letter designation is maintained by another code development committee in accordance with the following:

- [A] = Administrative Code Development Committee;
- [B] = International Building Code Development Committee (IBC—Fire Safety, General, Means of Egress or Structural);
- [M] = International Mechanical Code Development Committee; and
- [F] = International Fire Code Development Committee.