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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.


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.