

2022 Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code

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# PREFACE

## Introduction to the Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code

The *Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code* (OMSC) is based on the *International Mechanical Code*® (IMC®) and the *International Fuel Gas Code*® (IFGC®).

The IMC establishes minimum requirements for mechanical systems using prescriptive and performance-related provisions. It is founded on broad-based principles that make possible the use of new materials and new mechanical designs.

The IFGC establishes minimum requirements for fuel gas systems and gas-fired appliances using prescriptive and performance-related provisions.

The I-Codes are used in a variety of ways in both the public and private sectors. Most industry professionals are familiar with the I-Codes as the basis of laws and regulations in communities across the US and in other countries. However, the impact of the codes extends well beyond the regulatory arena, as they are used in a variety of nonregulatory settings, including:

- Voluntary compliance programs such as those promoting sustainability, energy efficiency and disaster resistance.
- The insurance industry, to estimate and manage risk, and as a tool in underwriting and rate decisions.
- Certification and credentialing of individuals involved in the fields of building design, construction and safety.
- Certification of building and construction-related products.
- US federal agencies, to guide construction in an array of government-owned properties.
- Facilities management.
- “Best practices” benchmarks for designers and builders, including those who are engaged in projects in jurisdictions that do not have a formal regulatory system or a governmental enforcement mechanism.
- College, university and professional school textbooks and curricula.
- Reference works related to building design and construction.

In addition to the codes themselves, the code development process brings together building professionals on a regular basis. It provides an international forum for discussion and deliberation about building design, construction methods, safety, performance requirements, technological advances and innovative products.

## Development

This 2021 editions of the IMC and the IFGC present the code as originally issued, with changes reflected in the 2003 through 2018 editions and further changes approved by the ICC Code Development Process through 2019. A new edition such as this is promulgated every 3 years.

This code is founded on principles intended to establish provisions consistent with the scope of a mechanical 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.

## Marginal Markings

- ➡ = Indicates where an entire section, paragraph, exception or table has been deleted or an item in a list of items or a table has been deleted from the 2018 edition of the International Code.
- | = Indicates a technical change from the requirements of the 2018 edition of the International Code.
- \* = Indicates that text or a table has been relocated within the code.
- \*\* = Indicates that the text or table immediately following it has been relocated there from elsewhere in the code.
- > = Indicates International model code language deleted by Oregon.
- || = Indicates a State of Oregon amendment has been made to the International Code.
- | = Indicates a State of Oregon amendment has been made to include language from the *International Fire Code* (IFC) language as part of the *Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code* (OMSC).

Minor changes such as section renumbering and removal of references to International Codes are not indicated with a double rule in the margin.

## Italicized Terms

Words and terms defined in Chapter 2, Definitions, are italicized where they appear in code text and the Chapter 2 definitions apply. Where such words and terms are not italicized, common-use definitions apply. The words and terms selected have code-specific definitions that the user should read carefully to facilitate better understanding of the code.

## Effective Use of the Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code

The *Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code* (OMSC), based on the *International Mechanical Code* (IMC) and the *International Fuel Gas Code* (IFGC) regulates the design and installation of mechanical systems, appliances, appliance venting, duct and ventilation systems, combustion air provisions, hydronic systems, solar systems, fuel gas distribution piping and systems, and gaseous hydrogen systems.

The purpose of this code is to establish the minimum acceptable level of safety and to protect life and property from the potential dangers associated with the installation and operation of mechanical systems. The code also protects the personnel that install and replace the systems and appliances addressed by this code.

The OMSC is primarily a prescriptive code with some performance text. The code relies heavily on product specifications and listings to provide much of the appliance and equipment installation requirements. The general Section 105.2 and the exception to Section 403.2 allow designs and installations to be performed by approved engineering methods as alternatives to the prescriptive methods in the code.

# ARRANGEMENT AND FORMAT OF THE 2022 OMSC

The format of the OMSC allows each chapter to be devoted to a particular subject with the exception of Chapter 3, which contains general subject matters that are not extensive enough to warrant their own independent chapter.

The following is a chapter-by-chapter synopsis of the scope and intent of the provisions of the OMSC:

## **Chapter 1 Scope and Administration.**

Chapter 1 establishes the limits of applicability of the code and describes how the code is to be applied and enforced. A mechanical code, like any other code, is intended to be adopted as a legally enforceable document and it cannot be effective without adequate provisions for its administration and enforcement. The provisions of Chapter 1 establish the authority and duties of the building official appointed by the authority having jurisdiction and also establish the rights and privileges of the design professional, contractor and property owner.

## **Chapter 2 Definitions.**

Chapter 2 is the repository of the definitions of terms used in the body of the code. Codes are technical documents and every word and term can impact the meaning of the code text and the intended results. The code often uses terms that have a unique meaning in the code and the code meaning can differ substantially from the ordinarily understood meaning of the term as used outside of the code.

The terms defined in Chapter 2 are deemed to be of prime importance in establishing the meaning and intent of the code text that uses the terms. The user of the code should be familiar with and consult this chapter because the definitions are essential to the correct interpretation of the code and because the user may not be aware that a term is defined.

## **Chapter 3 General Regulations.**

Chapter 3 contains broadly applicable requirements related to appliance location and installation, appliance and systems access, protection of structural elements, condensate disposal and clearances to combustibles, among others.

## **Chapter 4 Ventilation.**

Chapter 4 includes means for protecting building occupant health by controlling the quality of indoor air and protecting property from the effects of inadequate ventilation. In some cases, ventilation is required to prevent or reduce a health hazard by removing contaminants at their source.

Ventilation is both necessary and desirable for the control of air contaminants, moisture and temperature. Habitable and occupiable spaces are ventilated to promote a healthy and comfortable environment for the occupants. Uninhabited and unoccupied spaces are ventilated to protect the building structure from the harmful effects of excessive humidity and heat. Ventilation of specific occupancies is necessary to minimize the potential for toxic or otherwise harmful substances to reach dangerously high concentrations in air.

## **Chapter 5 Exhaust Systems.**

Chapter 5 provides guidelines for reasonable protection of life, property and health from the hazards associated with exhaust systems, air contaminants and smoke development in the event of a fire. In most cases, these hazards involve materials and gases that are flammable, explosive, toxic or otherwise hazardous. Where contaminants are known to be present in quantities that are irritating or harmful to the occupants' health or are hazardous in a fire, both naturally and mechanically ventilated spaces must be equipped with mechanical exhaust systems capable of collecting and removing the contaminants.

This chapter contains requirements for the installation of exhaust systems, with an emphasis on the structural integrity of the systems and equipment involved and the overall impact of the systems on the fire safety performance of the building. It includes requirements for the exhaust of commercial kitchen grease- and smoke-laden air; hazardous fumes and toxic gases; clothes dryer moisture and heat; and dust, stock and refuse materials.

## **Chapter 6 Duct Systems.**

Chapter 6 of the code regulates the materials and methods used for constructing and installing ducts, plenums, system controls, exhaust systems, fire protection systems and related components that affect the overall performance of a building's air distribution system and the reasonable protection of life and property from the hazards associated with air-moving equipment and systems. This chapter contains requirements for the installation of supply, return and exhaust air systems. Specific exhaust systems are also addressed in Chapter 5. Information on the design of duct systems is limited to that in Section 603.2. The code is very much concerned with the structural integrity of the systems and the overall impact of the systems on the fire safety and life safety performance of the building. Design considerations such as duct sizing, maximum efficiency, cost-effectiveness, occupant comfort and convenience are the responsibility of the design professional. The provisions for the protection of duct penetrations of wall, floor, ceiling and roof assemblies are extracted from the *Oregon Structural Specialty Code*.

## **Chapter 7 Combustion Air.**

Complete combustion of solid and liquid fuel is essential for the proper operation of appliances, for control of harmful emissions and for achieving maximum fuel efficiency.

The specific combustion air requirements provided in previous editions of the code have been deleted in favor of a single section that directs the user to NFPA 31 for oil-fired appliance combustion air requirements and the manufacturer's installation instructions for solid fuel-burning appliances. For gas-fired appliances, the provisions of Appendix C of this code are applicable.

## **Chapter 8 Chimneys and Vents.**

Chapter 8 is intended to regulate the design, construction, installation, repair and approval of chimneys, vents and their connections to solid and liquid fuel-burning appliances. The requirements of this chapter are intended to achieve the complete removal of the products of combustion from fuel-burning appliances and equipment. This chapter includes regulations for the proper selection, design, construction and installation of a chimney or vent, along with appropriate measures to minimize the related potential fire hazards. A chimney or vent must be designed for the type of appliance or equipment it serves. Chimneys and vents are designed for specific applications, depending on the flue gas temperatures and the type of fuel being burned in the appliance. Chimneys and vents for gas-fired appliances are covered in Appendix C of this code.

## **Chapter 9 Specific Appliances, Fireplaces and Solid Fuel-burning Equipment.**

Chapter 9 sets minimum construction and performance criteria for fireplaces, appliances and equipment and provides for the safe installation of these items. It reflects the code's intent to specifically address all of the types of appliances that the code intends to regulate. Other regulations affecting the installation of solid fuel-burning fireplaces, appliances and accessory appliances are found in Chapters 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

## **Chapter 10 Boilers, Water Heaters and Pressure Vessels.**

Chapter 10 presents regulations for the proper installation of steam and hot water boilers, water heaters, and pressure vessels and associated piping not regulated by the *Oregon Boiler and Pressure Vessel Specialty Code* and the *Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code* to protect life and property from the hazards associated with those appliances and vessels. It applies to all types of boilers and pressure vessels, regardless of size, heat input, operating pressure or operating temperature.

Because pressure vessels are closed containers designed to contain liquids, gases or both under pressure, they must be designed and installed to prevent structural failures that can result in extremely hazardous situations. Certain safety features are therefore provided in Chapter 10 to reduce the potential for explosion hazards.

## **Chapter 11 Refrigeration.**

Chapter 11 contains regulations pertaining to the life safety of building occupants. These regulations establish minimum requirements to achieve the proper design, construction, installation and operation of refrigeration systems. Refrigeration systems are a combination of interconnected components and piping assembled to form a closed circuit in which a refrigerant is circulated. The system's function is to extract heat from a location or medium, and to reject that heat to a different location or medium. This chapter establishes reasonable safeguards for the occupants by defining and mandating practices that are consistent with the practices and experience of the industry.

## **Chapter 12 Hydronic Piping.**

Hydronic piping includes piping, fittings and valves used in building space conditioning systems. Applications include hot water, chilled water, steam, steam condensate, brines and water/antifreeze mixtures. Chapter 12 contains the provisions that govern the construction, installation, alteration and repair of all hydronic piping systems that affect reliability, serviceability, energy efficiency and safety.

## **Chapter 13 Fuel Oil Piping and Storage.**

Chapter 13 regulates the design and installation of fuel oil storage and piping systems. The regulations include reference to construction standards for above-ground and underground storage tanks, material standards for piping systems (both above-ground and underground) and extensive requirements for the proper assembly of system piping and components. The *Oregon Structural Specialty Code* covers subjects not addressed in detail here. The provisions in this chapter are intended to prevent fires, leaks and spills involving fuel oil storage and piping systems.

## **Chapter 14 Solar Thermal Systems.**

Chapter 14 establishes provisions for the safe installation, operation and repair of solar energy systems used for space heating or cooling, domestic hot water heating or processing. Although such systems use components similar to those of conventional mechanical equipment, many of these provisions are unique to solar energy systems.

## **Chapter 15 Referenced Standards.**

Chapter 15 lists all of the product and installation standards and codes that are referenced throughout Chapters 1 through 14. As stated in Section 102.2, these standards and codes become an enforceable part of the code (to the prescribed extent of the reference) as if printed in the body of the code. Chapter 15 provides the full title and edition year of the standards and codes in addition to the address of the promulgators and the section numbers in which the standards and codes are referenced.

## **Appendix A Chimney Connector Pass-throughs.**

Appendix A provides figures that illustrate various requirements in the body of the code. Figures A101.1(1) and A101.1(2) illustrate the chimney connector clearance requirements of Table 803.10.4.

## **Appendix B Recommended Permit Fee Schedule.**

Appendix B provides a sample permit fee schedule for mechanical permits. The local jurisdiction can adopt this appendix and fill in the dollar amounts in the blank spaces to establish their official permit fee schedule. Fees are established by the municipality under the authority of ORS 455.020 and 455.210, or as set forth in OAR Chapter 918, Division 440 where the State of Oregon has jurisdiction.

## Appendix C Fuel Gas.

Appendix C provides installation standards for fuel gas piping systems, fuel gas appliances, gaseous hydrogen systems and related accessories. The base code for the provisions in Appendix C is the *International Fuel Gas Code* (IFGC).

### **Sections C101 through C105 Scope and General Requirements.**

Sections C101 through C105 establish the limits of applicability of the appendix and describe how the appendix is to be applied and enforced. These provisions establish the authority and duties of the building official appointed by the local municipality and also establish the rights and privileges of the design professional, contractor and property owner.

### **Sections C201 and C202 Definitions.**

Sections C201 and C202 are the repository of the definitions of terms used in the body of the appendix. The defined terms are deemed to be of prime importance in establishing the meaning and intent of the text that uses the terms. The user of this appendix should be familiar with and consult these definitions because they are essential for correct interpretation and because the user may not be aware that a term is defined.

### **Sections C301 through C310 General Regulations.**

Sections C301 through C310 contain broadly applicable requirements related to appliance location and installation, appliance and systems access, protection of structural elements, and clearances to combustibles, among others. These sections also cover combustion air provisions for gas-fired appliances.

### **Sections C401 through C417 Gas Piping Installations.**

Sections C401 through C417 cover the allowable materials for gas piping systems and the sizing and installation of such systems. They also cover pressure regulators, appliance connections and overpressure protection devices. Gas piping systems are sized to supply the maximum demand while maintaining the supply pressure necessary for safe operation of the appliances served.

### **Sections C501 through C506 Chimneys and Vents.**

Sections C501 through C506 regulate the design, construction, installation, repair and approval of chimneys, vents, venting systems and their connections to gas-fired appliances. Properly designed chimneys, vents and venting systems are necessary to conduct to the outdoors the flue gases produced by the combustion of fuels in appliances. The provisions of this chapter are intended to minimize the hazards associated with high temperatures and potentially toxic and corrosive combustion gases. These sections address all of the factory-built and site-built chimneys, vents and venting systems used to vent all types and categories of appliances. It also addresses direct-vent appliances, integral vent appliances, side-wall mechanically vented appliances and exhaust hoods that convey the combustion byproducts from cooking and other process appliances.

### **Sections C601 through C635 Specific Appliances.**

Sections C601 through C635 address specific appliances that the appendix intends to regulate. Each main section applies to a unique type of gas-fired appliance and specifies the product standards to which the appliance must be listed. The general requirements found in the previous Appendix C sections also apply and these sections add the special requirements that are specific to each type of appliance.

### **Sections C701 through C708 Gaseous Hydrogen Systems.**

Sections C701 through C708 are specific to gaseous hydrogen generation, storage, distribution and utilization systems, appliances and equipment. Note that hydrogen is not within the definition of "Fuel gas," but it is, none-the-less, commonly used as a fuel for fuel-cell power generation and fuel-cell powered motor vehicles. The scope of these sections is not limited to any particular use of hydrogen. Hydrogen systems have unique potential hazards because of the specific gravity of the gas, its chemical effect on materials and the fact that it is not odorized.

### **Section C801 Referenced Standards.**

Section C801 lists all of the product and installation standards and codes that are referenced throughout Appendix C. As stated in Section C102.2, these standards and codes become an enforceable part of the code (to the prescribed extent of the reference) as if printed in the body of the code. Section C801 provides the full title and edition year of the standards and codes in addition to the address of the promulgators and the section numbers in which the standards and codes are referenced.

**Appendix C-A Sizing and Capacities of Gas Piping.**

This appendix is informative and not part of the code. It provides design guidance, useful facts and data and multiple examples of how to apply the sizing tables and sizing methodologies of Sections C401 through C417.

**Appendix C-B Sizing of Venting Systems Serving Appliances Equipped with Draft Hoods, Category I Appliances and Appliances Listed for Use with Type B Vents.**

This appendix is informative and not part of the code. It contains multiple examples of how to apply the vent and chimney tables and methodologies of Sections C501 through C506.

**Appendix C-C Exit Terminals of Mechanical Draft and Direct-vent Venting Systems.**

This appendix is informative and not part of the code. It consists of a figure and notes that visually depict code requirements from Sections C501 through C506 for vent terminals with respect to the openings found in building exterior walls.

**Appendix C-D Recommended Procedure for Safety Inspection of an Existing Appliance Installation.**

This appendix is informative and not part of the code. It provides recommended procedures for testing and inspecting an appliance installation to determine if the installation is operating safely and if the appliance is in a safe condition.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CHAPTER 1 SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION ..</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>CHAPTER 4 VENTILATION .....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
<i><b>PART 1—SCOPE AND APPLICATION.....</b></i>	<i><b>1-1</b></i>	Section	
Section		401 General.....	4-1
101 Scope and General Requirements.....	1-1	402 Natural Ventilation.....	4-1
102 Applicability.....	1-1	403 Mechanical Ventilation .....	4-2
<i><b>PART 2—ADMINISTRATION AND</b></i>		404 Enclosed Parking Garages .....	4-8
<i><b>ENFORCEMENT .....</b></i>	<i><b>1-3</b></i>	405 Systems Control.....	4-8
103 Code Compliance Agency .....	1-3	406 Ventilation of Uninhabited Spaces .....	4-8
104 Duties and Powers of the Building Official .....	1-3	407 Ambulatory Care Facilities and Group I-2	
105 Approval.....	1-3	Occupancies.....	4-8
106 Permits .....	1-4	<b>CHAPTER 5 EXHAUST SYSTEMS.....</b>	<b>5-1</b>
107 Construction Documents .....	1-5	Section	
108 Notice of Approval.....	1-5	501 General.....	5-1
109 Fees.....	1-6	502 Required Systems.....	5-2
110 Service Utilities .....	1-7	503 Motors and Fans.....	5-8
111 Temporary Equipment, Systems and Uses.....	1-7	504 Clothes Dryer Exhaust.....	5-9
112 Inspections and Testing .....	1-7	505 Domestic Cooking Exhaust Equipment.....	5-10
113 Board of Appeals .....	1-8	506 Commercial Kitchen Hood Ventilation	
114 Reserved.....	1-9	System Ducts and Exhaust Equipment .....	5-11
115 Violations.....	1-9	507 Commercial Kitchen Hoods.....	5-16
116 Stop Work Order .....	1-10	508 Commercial Kitchen Makeup Air .....	5-20
<b>CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS .....</b>	<b>2-1</b>	509 Fire Suppression Systems .....	5-20
Section		510 Hazardous Exhaust Systems .....	5-20
201 General.....	2-1	511 Dust, Stock and Refuse Conveying Systems....	5-23
202 General Definitions .....	2-1	512 Subslab Soil Exhaust Systems.....	5-24
<b>CHAPTER 3 GENERAL REGULATIONS .....</b>	<b>3-1</b>	513 Smoke Control Systems.....	5-24
Section		514 Energy Recovery Ventilation Systems .....	5-28
301 General.....	3-1	<b>CHAPTER 6 DUCT SYSTEMS.....</b>	<b>6-1</b>
302 Protection of Structure .....	3-2	Section	
303 Equipment and Appliance Location.....	3-3	601 General.....	6-1
304 Installation .....	3-3	602 Plenums .....	6-2
305 Piping Support .....	3-6	603 Duct Construction and Installation .....	6-4
306 Access and Service Space .....	3-6	604 Insulation .....	6-6
307 Condensate Disposal .....	3-8	605 Air Filters.....	6-7
308 Clearance Reduction.....	3-9	606 Smoke Detection Systems Control .....	6-7
309 Temperature Control .....	3-10	607 Duct and Transfer Openings .....	6-8
310 Heating and Cooling Load		608 Balancing .....	6-13
Calculations .....	3-11	<b>CHAPTER 7 COMBUSTION AIR .....</b>	<b>7-1</b>
		Section	
		701 General.....	7-1

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**CHAPTER 8 CHIMNEYS AND VENTS..... 8-1**

Section

801 General ..... 8-1  
802 Vents. .... 8-2  
803 Connectors ..... 8-3  
804 Direct-vent, Integral Vent and Mechanical  
Draft Systems ..... 8-4  
805 Factory-built Chimneys ..... 8-5  
806 Metal Chimneys ..... 8-6

**CHAPTER 9 SPECIFIC APPLIANCES,  
FIREPLACES AND SOLID  
FUEL-BURNING EQUIPMENT .... 9-1**

Section

901 General ..... 9-1  
902 Masonry Fireplaces ..... 9-1  
903 Factory-built Fireplaces ..... 9-1  
904 Pellet Fuel-burning Appliances ..... 9-1  
905 Fireplace Stoves and Room Heaters ..... 9-1  
906 Factory-built Barbecue Appliances ..... 9-1  
907 Incinerators and Crematories ..... 9-1  
908 Cooling Towers, Evaporative  
Condensers and Fluid Coolers ..... 9-1  
909 Vented Wall Furnaces ..... 9-2  
910 Floor Furnaces ..... 9-2  
911 Duct Furnaces ..... 9-3  
912 Infrared Radiant Heaters ..... 9-3  
913 Clothes Dryers ..... 9-3  
914 Sauna Heaters ..... 9-3  
915 Engine and Gas Turbine-powered  
Equipment and Appliances ..... 9-3  
916 Pool and Spa Heaters ..... 9-3  
917 Cooking Appliances ..... 9-4  
918 Forced-air Warm-air Furnaces ..... 9-4  
919 Conversion Burners ..... 9-4  
920 Unit Heaters ..... 9-4  
921 Vented Room Heaters ..... 9-4  
922 Kerosene and Oil-fired Stoves ..... 9-4  
923 Small Ceramic Kilns ..... 9-4  
924 Stationary Fuel Cell Power Systems ..... 9-5  
925 Masonry Heaters ..... 9-5  
926 Gaseous Hydrogen Systems ..... 9-5  
927 Reserved ..... 9-5  
928 Evaporative Cooling Equipment ..... 9-5  
929 Solid Fuel-burning Devices ..... 9-5  
930 Unvented Alcohol Fuel-burning  
Decorative Appliances ..... 9-6

931 Large-diameter Ceiling Fans ..... 9-6

**CHAPTER 10 BOILERS, WATER HEATERS  
AND PRESSURE VESSELS..... 10-1**

Section

1001 General ..... 10-1  
1002 Water Heaters ..... 10-1  
1003 Boilers and Pressure Vessels ..... 10-1  
1004 Permits Required ..... 10-1  
1005 Detailed Requirements ..... 10-1  
1006 Expansion Tanks ..... 10-2  
1007 Safety or Relief Valve Discharge ..... 10-2  
1008 Gas Pressure Regulators ..... 10-2  
1009 Clearance for Access ..... 10-2  
1010 Boiler Room Enclosures ..... 10-2  
1011 Floors ..... 10-2  
1012 Chimneys or Vents ..... 10-2  
1013 Drainage ..... 10-2  
1014 Fuel Supply Piping ..... 10-2  
1015 Air for Combustion and Ventilation ..... 10-2  
1016 Steam and Hot Water Piping ..... 10-2

**CHAPTER 11 REFRIGERATION ..... 11-1**

Section

1101 General ..... 11-1  
1102 System Requirements ..... 11-1  
1103 Refrigeration System Classification ..... 11-2  
1104 System Application Requirements ..... 11-9  
1105 Machinery Room, General Requirements ..... 11-10  
1106 Machinery Room, Special Requirements ..... 11-13  
1107 Piping Material ..... 11-13  
1108 Joints and Connections ..... 11-14  
1109 Refrigerant Pipe Installation ..... 11-15  
1110 Refrigeration Piping System Test ..... 11-17

**CHAPTER 12 HYDRONIC PIPING..... 12-1**

Section

1201 General ..... 12-1  
1202 Material ..... 12-1  
1203 Joints and Connections ..... 12-1  
1204 Pipe Insulation ..... 12-4  
1205 Valves ..... 12-4  
1206 Piping Installation ..... 12-4  
1207 Transfer Fluid ..... 12-5  
1208 Tests ..... 12-5  
1209 Embedded Piping ..... 12-5