

WSSC Regulatory Services Group

Master Plumber & Master Gasfitter Newsletter

Special Announcement:

Strict Enforcement of Outside Chimney Venting Restrictions

In most applications where space heating appliance(s) [furnaces and boilers] are served by an “outside” masonry chimney, the chimney will require the installation of a listed liner when *any* of the existing appliances served by the chimney are replaced. According to the sizing charts contained in the **2012 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC), outside chimneys cannot be utilized “as is” unless a minimum of 300 – 400 Thousand Btu’s are connected.** A water heater(s) may be connected to an

outside chimney providing two conditions are met: 1.) There is not a space heating appliance connected; 2.) The internal cross sectional area of the chimney does not exceed seven (7) times the area of the smallest connected draft hood. Refer to 2012 IFGC code section 504.2.9 and Tables 504.2(3) & 504.2(6) for single appliance venting; refer to code section 504.3.20 and Tables 504.3(6a), 504.3(7a) & 504.3(6b), 504.3(7b) for multi appliance venting.

These IFGC code sections and tables have priority over less restrictive manufacturers instal-

lation instructions including those touted as having “chimney friendly” alternatives.

Important Safety Message -

Be sure to remove all accumulations, each and every time, from the base of chimneys and vents (dirt pockets), prior to placing any equipment into service. This applies to all inside and outside chimneys, which qualify for continued use, as well as metal vent systems. Always check the integrity of the whole venting system!

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Updates to Code Consistency Guidelines:

WSSC is pleased to announce that seven items of significance have been recently clarified within the document known as the Code Consistency Guideline (CCG). The CCG is published as a commentary to the Code and as a means to explain interpretation and enforcement matters. The target audience for the CCG is primarily the plumbing and gasfitting industry and the WSSC inspection staff; and to a lesser degree: designers, general contractors and property owner/developers.

circulation System Requirements and Limitations; Disinfection and Water Quality Testing; Trap Seal Protection Devices; Requirements for Dealing with Homeowners Who Refuse Inspections.

Please find the updated Code Consistency Guidelines at: <http://www.wsscwater.com/file/SystemInspection/WSSC%20Quick%20Reference%20Guide%20to%20Code%20Consistency%2004-2013.pdf>

or: go to wsscwater.com
Pass cursor over ‘Businesses’ on the blue horizontal bar near the center of the page.
Click on ‘Regulatory Services’ from the drop down menu that appears.

Click on the ‘Plumbing and Gas Inspections’ pipe branch.
Click on the ‘Information for Plumbers’ link.
Select the ‘Code Consistency Guidelines’ (second bullet from the top).



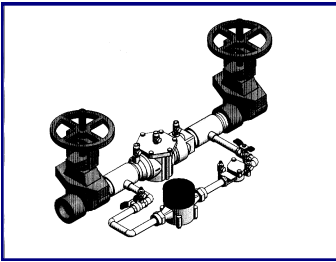
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- Wednesday Dec. 25, 2013
- Wednesday Jan. 1, 2014

The recent subject updates are: **Gas Venting Limitations for Outside Masonry Chimneys;** Carbon Monoxide Alarms; Steel Press Fittings Recognized for Gas Piping Systems; Hot Water Re-

Cross Connection:



The Cross Connection inspection and support staff, as well as the WSSC Information Technology staff, have identified the need to convert the ‘Customer Account Number’ from a non-required field to a mandatory completed field on the test report submission form. This is simply a first notification and we encourage everyone to get into the routine of obtaining and inputting

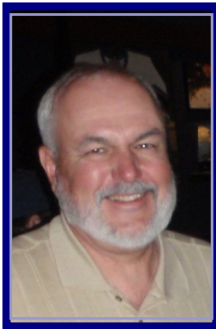
this information. A future “goes live” announcement will be forthcoming.

Program efforts are making a difference! Inspection staff has identified (and had corrected) hundreds of “unprotected” water end-uses such as cooling towers, boilers, vacuum pumps, dry cleaning equipment, etc. They have also identified (and had corrected) thousands of applications where a backflow preventer was present but it was fairly obvious that the **only** test was at the time of installation. And testers are reporting that many assemblies are not producing satisfactory test results, particularly the older ones, resulting in many re-builds and replacements.

WSSC support staff continues to wrestle with recordation challenges. This is certainly a “growing pain” for all of us to deal with, not to least to mention your customers. We are committed to clean-up any bad data we have which includes: duplicate (or near duplicate) serial numbers; obsolete serial numbers caused by undocumented replacements, and records residing in our database at the wrong address. There is blame enough to go around, but resolving these issues are going to take the efforts of all. Please send any discrepancies that you are aware of to: inspectionsupport@wsscwater.com. Be sure to include as much detail as possible. We will send a confirmation

that items have been corrected/updated which you are free to share with your clients.

The Enforcer:



Ed James
Plumbing Inspection
Unit Coordinator

We are currently preparing a list of known companies operating within the WSSC area without WSSC licensed masters representing these companies. All of these documents will be sent to the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, the Maryland Plumbing and HVAC Boards will be included. This list will include not only “unlicensed individuals and companies” it will include several licensee’s that are reciprocated with the State of Maryland and pulling permits for the noted

unlicensed individuals or companies.

Two of the currently documented cases involve State of Maryland apprentice level individuals with MD State Business Licenses advertising and performing plumbing, gasfitting and/or sewer/drain cleaning within the WSSC area and other counties in Maryland. Another individual has a reciprocal Journeyman level license (currently expired in both WSSC and the State) advertising without a Master Licensee in their intranet advertising. This individual also has a WSSC Master pulling the permits, he along with 15 other Masters are standing all inspections.

It should be noted that the WSSC Code language clearly calls out requirements for identi-

fying advertising and vehicle identification. Please visit the following State of Maryland Plumbing Board links:

- <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/pl/plad.shtml>
- <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/pl/plnolic.shtml>
- <http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=09.20.02.09.htm>

WSSC will be cooperating in their efforts and if you encounter individuals or companies providing or attempting to provide plumbing, gasfitting or sewer and draining cleaning services please take photos and all information related to websites and phone numbers.

Please send it to edjames@wsscwater.com or inspectionsupport@wsscwater.com.



FOG UNIT TIPS for NOVs - Part 1

FOG UNIT TIPS for NOVs PART 1
(updated from 2011 newsletter)



The FOG (Fats Oils and Grease) Unit's job is to get every working, qualified food service establishment (FSE) in the WSSD fully inspected, usually on an annual basis. By working, we mean "open for business" and by qualified we mean they meet minimum standards for FOG production, of any quantity.

All routine inspections include noting any and all WSSC Plumbing Code violations, the majority being related to specific FOG-related items.

The most common violations are:

- Improper tail pieces from sinks / potential for overloading the flow rating of a Grease Abatement De-

vice (GAD)*

- Garbage disposal to GAD
- One or more kitchen fixtures not connected to GAD inside or out (flow or volume based)
- Unfamiliarity with maintenance requirements/needs for a GAD.
- Older/outdated/obsolete kitchen devices or plumbing needing modernized.
- Applicable floor drains not connected to interceptor
- Applicable floor mop sink not connected to GAD inside or out
- No interceptor / passive GAD for amount of wastewater that can potentially be discharged
- Wrong / unapproved device for grease removal

*GAD-Grease Abatement Device: categorized as flow or volume based by Section 1003 of WSSC Code.

Whenever an NOV is issued, besides clarifying the NOV verbally, the FSE representative is given a fact/procedure sheet for responding to their NOV.

The info sheet is divided into three sections:

1. READ YOUR NOTICE OF VIOLATION
2. SELECT A PLUMBER LICENSED WITH WSSC
3. INFORM WSSC WHICH PLUMBER YOU SELECTED

This article will cover section 2:

SELECT A PLUMBER LICENSED WITH WSSC

- WSSC recommends obtaining a price quote from at least three WSSC Registered Master Plumbers to complete the repairs as noted on the NOV

- After you have selected a Plumber, provide them with a copy of your NOV, along with the paper titled "INSTRUCTIONS TO PLUMBER"

NOTE: WSSC Staff is not permitted to recommend nor provide a list

of plumbers. If you would like to verify that your Plumber is licensed with WSSC and in good standing, please call 301-206-8588.

On random occasions-even after being told that no recommendations for plumbers can be made, and being directed to re-read it in the written notice, an FSE owner will attempt to query the Investigator again (and again). The Investigator must stand firm. However, this does not prevent an FSE owner from pursuing only one plumber and saying "WSSC recommended him" regardless of the accuracy of the statement. So far in 2013, over 50 plumbing firms had FOG NOV work that were submitted to the FOG Unit from over 1400 NOVs issued.

In the next newsletter we will cover the general expectations of the Plumber performing work on FOG NOVs.

E-Permitting Update & E-Plan Review:

E-Permitting:

WSSC is, once again, fully engaged into bringing a web based permit application process to the plumbing and gasfitting community. In September, WSSC management entered into a contract with an information technology service provider for implementation of a Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) permitting system. While an official roll-out date is certainly premature, both sides are targeting a one year effort.

This new system will feature the following web based (online) functionality:

1. Permit applications for:
 - Long form plumbing & gasfit-

ting (including SDC calculations)

- Short form plumbing & gasfitting
- Service connections
- Abandonments
- Fixture credit applications (SDC credit)
- Cross connection test reports

2. Inspections:

- Scheduling
- Realtime *inspection results, viewable by all. (*as inspectors are e-upgraded)

3. License activity:

- Applications
- Renewals
- Status checks by public

4. Site Utility & Mainline water & sewer design review & construction:

- Approval status
- Release for service status

E-Plan Review:

Don't wait for the new permitting system to go live. Begin utilizing the e-Plan Review system (ProjectDox) now. Once the new permitting system is live, medium and large plumbing plans **will be required** to be submitted electronically. So get acclimated with e-Plan Review now.

Current procedure: After you visit the permit counter, bring your

validated permit application form to the plan review counter. A Reviewer will gather some information from you and then you'll receive an email "invite" to upload your electronic plan files; which you can do from the comfort of your office or where ever. All status notifications will be email. See a plan reviewer for more details.



Online Account Tips:

Here are some tips for frequently asked online account questions:

How do I change my User ID?

Go to www.wsscwater.com
Click on "Self Service / Log In" at the top right hand corner of the screen.
Click on "Change User ID".
Follow the on screen prompts.

I don't remember my security question answer?

Log into your online account as usual.
Click on "Short Form Permits" under "Commercial Permitting Services".
At the top right hand corner of the screen, click on "Edit Profile".
Scroll down the page until you see the "security question and answer".

How do I modify my Proxy List?

Log into your online account as usual.
Click on "Short Form Permits" under "Commercial Permitting Services".
Under your license information on the left hand side of the page you will see "Modify Proxy List".

I forgot my Pin #?

Log into your online account as usual.
Click on "Short Form Permits" under "Commercial Permitting Services".
Under your license information next to Modify Proxy List you will see "Reset My Pin".

Contact Us:

Plan Review.....	301-206-8886
CC/Bkflow P.G. Co.....	301-206-8601
CC/Bkflow Mont. Co.....	301-206-7932
Licensing.....	301-206-8588
Schedule Inspection SF Permit.....	301-206-4004
Schedule Inspection LF Permit.....	301-206-8383
Anacostia Depot.....	301-206-4363
Gaithersburg/Seneca Depot.....	301-206-7365
Lyttonville Depot.....	301-206-7340
Temple Hills Depot.....	301-206-7302
FOG.....	301-206-8575
Permits.....	301-206-4003
COI Fax.....	301-206-8884

COIs can also be emailed to:
insurancecertificate@wsscwater.com

Some Facts on Leaks:



- The average household's leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year, or enough water to wash nearly 10 months' worth of laundry.
- Household leaks can waste more than 1 trillion gallons annually nationwide. That's enough water to supply Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico for more than a year.
- Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners more than 10 percent on their water bills.
- Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day.
- A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year.
- One leaking toilet can lose as many as three to five gallons each minute.
- A showerhead leaking at 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons per year.

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Let us hear from you:

Is there something you would like to see in future issues of this newsletter? Email your suggestions or comments to: bhouser@wsscwater.com