



**WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION  
COMMISSION WORK SESSION**

**AGENDA CATEGORY:** Engineering and Construction

**ITEM NUMBER:**

**DATE:** August 15, 2007

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>SUBJECT</b>                      | Adopt Amendment #1 to the WSSC 2007 Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code to add provisions governing the permitting and inspection requirements of propane installations.  |
| <b>SUMMARY</b>                      | <p>The current WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code does not contain any provisions regarding the regulation of propane installations. Although § 9-102 of Article 29 authorizes WSSC to adopt regulations governing gas installations generally, § 9-103 specifically excepts installations involving only "bottled gas" (i.e. propane) from this regulatory authority.</p> <p>During the 2007 Session, the Maryland General Assembly enacted Chapter 426, 2007 Md. Laws [House Bill 709] which repeals § 9-103 and effectively authorizes WSSC to regulate propane installations to the same extent as natural gas installations. This new law becomes effective on October 1, 2007.</p> <p>Amendment #1 implements the new law by adding the necessary provisions to enable permitting and inspection of propane installations, identical to the natural gas inspection and permitting process. The governing International Fuel Gas Code remains unchanged.</p> |
| <b>PRIOR STAFF REVIEW</b>           | General Counsel's Office, Chief Engineer, General Manager.   |
| <b>COUNTY COORDINATION</b>          | Montgomery County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly<br>Prince George's County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly  |
| <b>RECOMMENDATION TO COMMISSION</b> | Discuss Amendment #1 to the WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code in anticipation of Commissioners' vote on an implementing Resolution at the September 19, 2007 Commission meeting.   |
| <b>COMMISSION ACTION</b>            |  |

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SECRETARY



# Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Procedure/Policy Fact Sheet

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## **Procedure/Policy Topic:**

Vote to adopt Amendment #1 to the WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code to add provisions governing the permitting and inspection requirements of propane installations.

**Procedure/Policy No.:** WSSC 2007 Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code

## **Responsible Team and Group:**

Engineering and Construction Team  
Regulatory Services Group

## **Team Chief/Group Leader:**

Joseph W. Zorica, Chief Engineer  
Zohreh Movahed, Acting Regulatory Services Group Leader

## **Background and Scope:**

The current WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code does not contain any provisions regarding the regulation of propane installations. Although § 9-102 of Article 29 authorizes WSSC to adopt regulations governing gas installations generally, § 9-103 specifically accepts installations involving only “bottled gas” (i.e. propane) from this regulatory authority.

During the 2007 Session, the Maryland General Assembly enacted Chapter 426, 2007 Md. Laws [House Bill 709] which makes certain stylistic changes to § 9-102 and repeals § 9-103. The repeal of § 9-103 effectively authorizes WSSC to regulate propane installations to the same extent as natural gas installations. This new law becomes effective on October 1, 2007. Any added expense from implementing the newly granted regulatory authority over propane installations should be fully covered by permit fees.

Amendment #1 implements the new law by adding the necessary provisions to enable permitting and inspection of propane installations, identical to the natural gas inspection and permitting process. The governing International Fuel Gas Code remains unchanged.

The staff’s recommendation is to proceed with adoption of Amendment #1 without a public hearing. The intention however, is to publish a notice in the largest local newspaper, soliciting public comments in advance of the Commission vote on September 19, 2007. The issue of WSSC’s regulatory authority of propane installations is not controversial. The recently enacted legislation was sponsored by both Montgomery and Prince Georges County delegates. This Amendment will significantly enhance public safety.

## **Plan of Action and Milestones:**

August 15, 2007 – Commissioners’ work session on Amendment #1

August 20, 2007 [on or before] publish WSSC’s intent to amend the code – follow the publication strategy and format used for adoption of the 2007 code.

September 19, 2007 –Commissioners’ vote on Amendment #1

October 1, 2007 [on or before] – publish required 30 day public notice of Commission action approving Amendment #1 – follow the publication strategy and format used for adoption of the 2007 code.







November 1, 2007 – Effective date of [propane] Amendment #1 to the WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code

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## WSSC 2007 PLUMBING AND FUEL GAS CODE

### AMENDMENT #1

#### ADDING PROVISIONS GOVERNING THE PERMITTING AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS OF PROPANE INSTALLATIONS

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# HOUSE BILL 709

L5 7lr0830 HB 1090/06 – ENV

By: Montgomery County Delegation and Prince George's County Delegation  
Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2007 Assigned to: Environmental  
Matters

Committee Report: Favorable House action: Adopted Read second time: March 20,  
2007

## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Fuel Gas – Jurisdiction and 3  
Regulations

4 MC/PG 124–07

5 FOR the purpose of altering the authority of the Washington Suburban Sanitary  
6 Commission (WSSC) to adopt regulations for the installation of certain plant 7  
and equipment in connection with fuel gas; authorizing the WSSC to require a 8  
permit and charge a fee for the installation of certain fuel gas plant and 9  
equipment; repealing a provision that states that the WSSC does not have 10  
jurisdiction over bottled gas and that WSSC regulations do not apply to 11  
premises on which only bottled gas is consumed; making stylistic changes; and 12  
generally relating to WSSC jurisdiction and regulations over fuel gas.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, 14 Article 29 – Washington  
Suburban Sanitary District 15 Section 9–102 16 Annotated Code of Maryland 17  
(2003 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

18 BY repealing

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO  
EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from  
existing law. Underlining indicates amendments to bill.  
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by  
amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

2 HOUSE BILL 709

1 Article 29 – Washington Suburban Sanitary District  
2 Section 9–103  
3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
4 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

5 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 6  
MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

7 Article 29 – Washington Suburban Sanitary District

8 9–102.

9 (a) (1) The WSSC may adopt [rules and] regulations that the WSSC 10 considers  
necessary or desirable for the [construction, installation, and equipment] 11  
INSTALLATION of FUEL gas [fixtures, devices,] PIPING, APPLIANCES, 12  
APPURTENANCES, and connections from the [outlet of the meter] POINT OF 13  
SERVICE supplying any [building] PREMISES in the Washington Suburban Sanitary  
14 District. The WSSC may require a permit and charge a fee for [these] THE 15  
INSTALLATION OF FUEL gas [fixtures, devices,] PIPING, APPLIANCES, 16  
APPURTENANCES, and connections.

17 (2) The WSSC shall publish separate notices of any new [rules and] 18  
regulations which are authorized by this section at least 30 days before their  
effective 19 date in at least 2 newspapers published in each county.

20 (b) A person may not violate any of the [rules or] regulations adopted by the 21  
WSSC under this section.

22 [9–103.

23 The WSSC does not have any jurisdiction over bottled gas, and the WSSC's 24  
rules and regulations do not apply to premises on which only bottled gas is  
consumed.]

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act shall take effect 26  
October 1, 2007.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2007-1782  
Adopted: September 19, 2007  
Effective Date: November 1, 2007

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

Subject: A RESOLUTION amending the WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code [2007] by adding provisions governing the permitting and inspection requirements of propane installations.

WHEREAS, the Commission is authorized and empowered pursuant to Section 9-102 of Article 29, Annotated Code of Maryland, to adopt regulations governing fuel gas installations in the WSSD; and

WHEREAS, Section 9-103 of Article 29, Annotated Code of Maryland, has previously excepted installations involving "bottled gas" (i.e. propane) from the regulatory authority set forth in Section 9-102; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is otherwise generally authorized and empowered pursuant to the provisions of Section 9-101 of Article 29, Annotated Code of Maryland, to adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of Article 29 and any other laws the enforcement and administration of which are vested in the WSSC; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the foregoing authorities, the Commission has previously promulgated regulations governing natural gas installations in the WSSD, as contained within the WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code [2007]; and

WHEREAS, for the technical provisions relating to fuel gas installations, the WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code, in turn, adopts and incorporates therein by reference, with certain amendments thereto, the 2003 editions of the International Residential Code and the International Fuel Gas Code, as published by the International Code Council, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, during its 2007 Session, the Maryland General Assembly enacted Chapter 426, 2007 Md. Laws [House Bill 709], effective October 1, 2007, which makes certain stylistic changes to Section 9-102 of Article 29, Annotated Code of Maryland, and repeals Section 9-103 of Article 29, Annotated Code of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the repeal of Section 9-103 of Article 29, Annotated Code of Maryland, effectively authorizes the Commission to regulate propane installations to the same extent as natural gas installations; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has therefore proposed certain amendments to the Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code, as attached hereto, which will implement Chapter 426, 2007 Md. Laws, by adding to the Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code the necessary provisions covering the technical requirements, permitting and inspection of propane installations; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has duly considered the matters involved, including comments made and views expressed by the public, comments or views of identified stakeholders, and the recommendations of Commission Staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this 19th day of September, 2007, that the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission hereby adopts Amendment #1 to the WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code [2007 edition], as attached hereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the remaining provisions of the Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code remain in full force and effect; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, unless otherwise provided by law, that nothing in this resolution or in the WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code [2007 edition], as amended hereby, shall be construed to affect any pending suit or proceeding of any kind, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause(s) of action acquired or existing under any regulation amended by this resolution as set forth immediately above; nor shall any legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired or affected by this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution or the WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code [2007 edition], as amended hereby, is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution or the regulations. The Commission hereby declares that it would have adopted this resolution and the regulations adopted or amended hereby, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses and phrases be declared unconstitutional; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notice of this resolution and the actions taken hereunder be published in at least two (2) newspapers published in each county of the Washington Suburban Sanitary District as soon as practicable, but in any event not later than October 1, 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution and Amendment #1 to the WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code [2007 edition] hereby adopted shall take effect on November 1, 2007.

A True Copy.

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Charlett Bundy  
Corporate Secretary

## DRAFT

### NEWSPAPER AD

#### **WSSC Intends to Amend Its Plumbing & Fuel Gas Code to Include Propane Installations**

On September 19, 2007 The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) intends to amend the 2007 WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code by adding provisions governing the permitting and inspection requirements of propane installations. This action follows the enactment by the Maryland General Assembly of Chapter 426, 2007 Md. Laws [House Bill 709], which authorizes WSSC to regulate propane installations to the same extent as natural gas installations.

**THE PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE NEW REGULATIONS IS NOVEMBER 1, 2007.**

The WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code, including the new provisions governing propane installations, are available for purchase at the WSSC Headquarters permits counter. Copies of the International Fuel Gas Code and the International Residential Code containing the technical requirements for propane installations are incorporated by reference in the WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code can be purchased online at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).

WSSC is accepting comments on the above noted changes until **September 16, 2007**.

For more information or to submit comments, please contact: Thomas Buckley, WSSC Chief Plumbing Inspector by phone (301) 206-8607, email: [tbuckley@wsscwater.com](mailto:tbuckley@wsscwater.com) or by mail at:

Thomas Buckley, Chief Plumbing Inspector  
Regulatory Services Group  
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission  
14501 Sweitzer Lane  
Laurel, MD 20707



# DRAFT

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### **WSSC Amends Its Plumbing & Fuel Gas Code to Include Propane Installations**

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) has voted to amend the 2007 WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code by adding provisions governing the permitting and inspection requirements of propane installations. This action follows the enactment by the Maryland General Assembly of Chapter 426, 2007 Md. Laws [House Bill 709], which authorizes WSSC to regulate propane installations to the same extent as natural gas installations.

### **THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE NEW REGULATIONS IS NOVEMBER 1, 2007.**

The WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code, including the new provisions governing propane installations, are available for purchase at the WSSC Headquarters permits counter. Copies of the International Fuel Gas Code and the International Residential Code containing the technical requirements for propane installations are incorporated by reference in the WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code can be purchased online at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).

For more information, please contact: Thomas Buckley, WSSC Chief Plumbing Inspector by phone (301) 206-8607 or email: [tbuckley@wsscwater.com](mailto:tbuckley@wsscwater.com)

2007 WSSC PLUMBING AND FUEL GAS CODE  
AMENDMENT #1 ADDING PROVISIONS GOVERNING  
THE PERMITTING AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS  
OF PROPANE INSTALLATIONS

## OUTLINE OF CODE CHANGES

| <b>Changed Section</b>           | <b>Reference to the Current Code</b>  |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Page 1- 101 Scope                | Chapter 1- Administration Sec 101.4 pg. 2                                       |
| Page 2- 107.2.1.5 Gas Connection | Chapter 1- Administration; Sec 107.2.1.5 pg. 19                                 |
| Page 3-Point of Delivery         | Chapter 2- Definitions; Sec 202 pgs. 52-53                                      |
| Page 4- 402.24 Amendments of IRC | Chapter 4- Adoption of the International Residential Code; Sec 402.24 pgs 67-68 |
| Page 5- 502.4 Amendments of IFGC | Chapter 5- Adoption of the International Fuel Gas Code; Sec 502.4 pg. 74        |

2007 WSSC PLUMBING AND FUEL GAS CODE  
CHAPTER 1 ADMINISTRATION SEC 101.4 PG. 2  
AMENDMENT #1 ADDING PROVISIONS GOVERNING  
THE PERMITTING AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS  
OF PROPANE INSTALLATIONS

**101.4 Scope.** The provisions of this Code shall apply to: 1) all classes of work usually performed by plumbers, gasfitters, site-utility contractors, and sewer and drain cleaners; including the installation, alteration, repair, relocation, replacement, addition to, use or maintenance of plumbing, fuel gas, and site-utility systems; and 2) industrial and special wastes, generally on private property within the Washington Suburban Sanitary District (WSSD). This Code shall also regulate sanitary and condensate vacuum collection systems.

**101.4.1 Fuel Gas Systems.** This Code shall apply to the installation of *natural AND UNDILUTED LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM (AKA LP OR PROPANE)* gas piping systems, *natural AND LP* gas utilization equipment and related accessories.

**101.4.1.1 FUEL Gas Piping Systems.** This Code shall cover piping systems for *natural* gas with an operating pressure of 125 psig or less AND LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS WITH AN OPERATING PRESSURE OF 20 PSIG OR LESS. Coverage shall extend from the point of delivery, to the outlet of the equipment shutoff valves. Piping system requirements shall include design, materials, components, fabrication, assembly, installation, testing, inspection, operation and maintenance.

**101.4.1.2 FUEL Gas Utilization Equipment.** Requirements for *natural* gas AND LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS utilization equipment and related accessories shall include installation, combustion and ventilation air, venting, and connection to piping systems.

2007 WSSC PLUMBING AND FUEL GAS CODE  
CHAPTER 1 ADMINISTRATION; SEC 107.2.1.5 PG. 19  
AMENDMENT #1 ADDING PROVISIONS GOVERNING  
THE PERMITTING AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS  
OF PROPANE INSTALLATIONS

**107.2.1.5 Gas Connection.** Fuel gas piping may be connected to the serving utilities meter rack OR SECOND STAGE PRESSURE REGULATOR, but shall *not* be activated until the Commission's *fuel gas* CLOSE-IN inspection has been approved.

2007 WSSC PLUMBING AND FUEL GAS CODE  
CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS; SEC 202 PGS. 52-53  
AMENDMENT #1 ADDING PROVISIONS GOVERNING  
THE PERMITTING AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS  
OF PROPANE INSTALLATIONS

**DEFINITIONS**

**POINT OF DELIVERY.** For natural gas systems, the point of delivery is the outlet of the service meter assembly or the outlet of the service regulator or service shutoff valve where a meter is not provided. Where a valve is provided at the outlet of the service meter assembly, such valve shall be considered to be downstream of the point of delivery. For undiluted liquefied petroleum (AKA LP OR PROPANE) gas systems, the point of delivery shall be considered the outlet of the SECOND-stage pressure regulator that provides utilization pressure, exclusive of line gas regulators, in the system. *For purposes of gas pipe sizing* from a service regulator or from a line regulator, the first 2-feet (nominal) of piping may be sized the same as the service regulator/meter assembly connection or the line pressure regulator outlet.

2007 WSSC PLUMBING AND FUEL GAS CODE  
CHAPTER 4 ADOPTION OF THE INT'L  
AMENDMENT #1 ADDING PROVISIONS GOVERNING  
RESIDENTIAL CODE; SEC 402.24 PGS 67-68  
THE PERMITTING AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS  
OF PROPANE INSTALLATIONS

**402.24 Amendments of IRC CHAPTER 24 (FUEL GAS)**

**402.24.1 IRC Section G2417.1.2, Repairs and Additions,** is hereby AMENDED by referring to and ADDING thereto new Section G2417.1.2.1, all to read as follows:

(IRC as amended)

**G2417.1.2 (IFGC 406.1.2) Repairs and Additions.** In the event repairs or additions are made after the pressure test, the affected piping shall be tested.

Minor repairs and additions are not required to be pressure tested provided that the work is inspected and connections are tested with a non-corrosive leak-detecting fluid or other approved leak-detecting methods, as cited in Section G2417.1.2.1.

**G2417.1.2.1 Twelve Joint Rule.** Where an existing gas piping system is altered, repaired, or extended, a soap test shall be permitted in lieu of a pressure test, under the following conditions:

- A maximum of 12 joints in the new and disturbed piping are allowed, excluding the equipment connector.
- The new piping and any disturbed piping shall not be concealed.
- The developed length of the new piping shall not exceed 15-feet.
- It shall be the licensee's responsibility to perform the required soap test prior to inspection, and to ensure that the piping does not leak.

2007 WSSC PLUMBING AND FUEL GAS CODE  
CHAPTER 5 ADOPTION OF THE INT'L  
AMENDMENT #1 ADDING PROVISIONS GOVERNING  
FUEL GAS CODE; SEC 502.4 PG. 74  
THE PERMITTING AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS  
OF PROPANE INSTALLATIONS

**502.4 Amendments of IFGC CHAPTER 4, GAS PIPING INSTALLATIONS**

**502.4.1 IFGC Section 406.1.2, Repairs and Additions,** is hereby **AMENDED** by referring to and **ADDING** thereto new Section 406.1.2.1, all to read as follows:

(IFGC as amended)

**406.1.2 (IRC G2417.1.2) Repairs and Additions.** In the event repairs or additions are made after the pressure test, the affected piping shall be tested.

Minor repairs and additions are not required to be pressure tested provided that the work is inspected and connections are tested with a non-corrosive leak-detecting fluid or other approved leak-detecting methods, as cited in Section 406.1.2.1.

**406.1.2.1 Twelve Joint Rule.** Where an existing gas piping system is altered, repaired, or extended, a soap test shall be permitted in lieu of a pressure test, under the following conditions:

- A maximum of 12 joints in the new and disturbed piping are allowed, excluding the equipment connector.
- The new piping and any disturbed piping shall not be concealed.
- The developed length of the new piping shall not exceed 15-feet.
- It shall be the licensee's responsibility to perform the required soap test prior to inspection, and to ensure that the piping does not leak.

**502.4.2 IFGC Section 412, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Motor Vehicle Fuel-Dispensing Stations,** is hereby **DELETED** in its entirety.

**502.4.3 IFGC Section 413, Compressed Natural Gas Motor Vehicle Fuel-Dispensing Stations,** is hereby **DELETED** in its entirety.