

MECHANICAL CODE DISCUSSION

Manufacturers' Installation Instructions



THIS PAST WEEK, I had the opportunity to attend the International Code Council (ICC) Public Comment

Hearings, where code officials from across the country debated and voted on new provisions for portions of the 2018 ICC codes. The earliest date for adoption of these codes in Utah is July 1, 2019. With the code development cycle taking four plus years to make a change in the code, how does the code address new products entering the market? Do we know the specific installation requirements for the gas furnaces, boilers or air conditioners you will install in 2020? No, as many of those products do not exist today. For this and several other reasons, the code addresses general requirements, and then refers to the manufacturer's installation instructions for product specific requirements. Completing a quick search on my PDF version of the International Mechanical Code (IMC) and the International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) identified 153 references to *manufacturers' installation instructions*. A couple of those references:

2012 (IMC) Section 304 – Installation

304.1 General. *Equipment and appliances shall be installed as required by the terms of their approval, in accordance with the conditions of the listing, the manufacturers' installation instructions and this code.*

Manufacturers' installation instructions shall be available on the job site at the time of inspection.

2012 (IFGC) Section 305.1 – Installation

305.1 General. *Equipment and appliances shall be installed as required by the terms of their approval, in accordance with the conditions of listing, the manufacturers' instructions and this code. Manufacturers' installation instructions shall be available on the job site at the time of inspection. Where a code provision is less restrictive than the conditions of the listing of the equipment or appliance or the manufacturer's installation instructions, the conditions of the listing and the manufacturer's installation instructions shall apply.*

Is it really important to have the installation instructions on the site for inspection? Consider a few of the situations where I've referred to the installation instruction provided, or asked for the instructions while performing inspections:

- Maxitrol requires 325 series regulators to be installed upright, if the vent leak-limiter is used.



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- Many 90% furnace manufacturers require a short piece of pipe, an elbow or a provided screen on the combustion air intake, if installed in a single pipe configuration.
- Two layers of most bubble foil 'insulation' products installed without air spaces is R-2.2, not R-8.
- Required appliance clearances around the side or the top of equipment are often ignored/wrong. (see photo)
- Venting length and sizing for condensing furnaces.
- Flex duct cannot be kinked or squashed.
- CSST sizing tables.
- Approved venting materials for many gas appliances.
- Fire and smoke damper installations.



I don't recall which one of you provided the picture on the left, an excellent example of failing to follow manufactures' installation

instructions for clearances. (Please send me an email so I can properly recognize you!) ■

Thanks again for your input and support! —Brent