

Environmental Health Services Division

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Contractors and Installers

FROM: Dave Cantrell, Chief Plumbing Inspector

DATE: July 1, 2011

SUBJECT: PERMIT AND PLAN REVIEW REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL GAS SYSTEMS

Medical Gas Permits are not available to be applied for or purchased on-line. These types of installations require the submittal of plans and diagrams to be reviewed prior to permit issuance. Application can be made and plans submitted at the Seattle Office or the Bellevue Office.

Level 1¹ and Level 2² medical gas systems shall require detailed plans to include all information identified in the 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), Section 1312.0. Please allow at least 5 working days for the plan review to be completed. Upon approval of the plan review you will be notified that your permit is ready to be issued, at which time you can purchase the permit at the permit counter. At that time you will receive a *Medical Gas Installer Test Form* to be filled out by the installer. A completed and signed copy of the installer test form along with the verifier's report shall be provided to the Public Health – Seattle & King County inspector at the time of final inspection. Level 3³ medical gas systems do not require a plan review, so the permit can be issued over the counter at one of our offices. However, the *Medical Gas Installer Test Form* is still required to be filled out as described above for Level 1 and Level 2 systems.

Medical gas systems in health care facilities are required to meet the provisions of Chapter 13 of the 2009 UPC and the 2005 NFPA 99C. Health care facilities are defined as *buildings or portions in which medical, dental, psychiatric, nursing, obstetrical, or surgical care is provided*. These systems would require a medical gas permit and inspections. Laboratories that are independent of a health care facility would not require medical gas permits or inspections. However, some types of compressed gases may fall under the provisions of the Fire Code or Fuel Gas Code, thus requiring a gas piping permit. Additionally, Section 3006.1 of the state adopted 2009 International Fire Code mandates that compressed gases for veterinary uses comply with the Plumbing Code. Therefore, a veterinary clinic would come under the scope of medical gas as a Level 3 system.

¹ **Level 1** – Systems serving occupancies where interruption of the piped medical gas and vacuum system would place patients in imminent danger of morbidity or mortality.

² **Level 2** – Systems serving occupancies where interruption of the piped medical gas and vacuum system would place patients at manageable risk of morbidity or mortality.

³ **Level 3** – Systems serving occupancies where interruption of the piped medical gas and vacuum system would terminate procedures but would not place patients at risk of morbidity or mortality.