

Environmental Health Services Division

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Public Health 
Seattle & King County

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fuel Gas Piping Installers & Contractors, and Gas Piping Permit Holders

FROM: Dave Cantrell, Chief Plumbing Inspector

DATE: April 21, 2010

SUBJECT: FUEL GAS PIPING IN TOWNHOUSES

Please be aware that the International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) as adopted by the State of Washington, the City of Seattle and unincorporated King County reads as follows:

Section 404.1 Prohibited Locations. *Piping shall not be installed in or through a circulating air duct, clothes chute, chimney or gas vent, ventilating duct, dumbwaiter or elevator shaft. Piping installed downstream of the point of delivery shall not extend through any townhouse unit other than the unit served by such piping.*

The underlined portion was added to the 2006 IFGC through the national code development process. The reason for this change is that townhouse construction creates some unique concerns regarding the arrangement and routing of fuel gas piping. The premise for the change is that gas piping serving a dwelling should be under the control of the occupant of that unit. Additionally, townhouses are separated by a 2-hour wall as opposed to duplexes or other types of multi-family buildings. Therefore, fuel gas piping supplying other units cannot pass through any portion of another unit, such as an attic, crawl space, floor/ceiling assembly, etc. On the next page you will find further explanation and a diagram showing one possible solution that would be code compliant.

Keep in mind that a ***townhouse*** is a single-family dwelling unit constructed in a group of three or more attached units in which each unit extends from foundation to roof and with open space on at least two sides.