

**Environmental Health Services Division**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Contractors and Installers

**FROM:** Dave Cantrell, Chief Plumbing Inspector

**DATE:** April 13, 2015

**SUBJECT: PERMIT AND PLAN REVIEW REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL GAS SYSTEMS**

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*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 1<sup>1</sup> and Level 2<sup>2</sup> medical gas systems shall require detailed plans to include all information identified in the 2012 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), Section 1311.0. 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 shall be provided to the Public Health – Seattle & King County inspector at the time of each inspection.** For a final inspection approval, the 3<sup>rd</sup> party verifier's report shall be provided.. Level 3<sup>3</sup> 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 2012 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 general gas piping permit, but not a medical gas permit. Additionally, Section 5306.1 of the state adopted 2012 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.

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<sup>1</sup> **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.

<sup>2</sup> **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.

<sup>3</sup> **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.

## **MEDICAL GAS APPLICATION PROCESS**

When an applicant wishes to apply for a medical gas permit, have them indicate on the application if the system is a Level 1, 2 or 3. Have the applicant read the memo if they are unsure.

### **Level 1 and 2:**

1. Create permit and assign an SR number – take payment for permit at this time.
2. Set status to “Pending”
3. Attach the application to the submitted plans (make sure the assigned SR# is included on the application)
4. Forward plans and application to senior inspectors
5. Once the plan review is completed the permit can be issued. Contact customer to have them pick up the permit and plans.

### **Level 3:**

1. Plans are not required. Permit can be issued over the counter.
2. Insert SR# on a *Medical Gas Piping Installer Test Form* and provide the form to the customer.