

PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL
INTERPRETATION MANUAL



CODE: 2003 IFGC & IRC

DATE:

CODE REF: IFGC 403.4.3 IRC G2414.5.2

3/20/2007

SUBJECT: Copper Piping for Gas Lines

Question:

1. Can copper piping and fittings be used for fuel gas systems?
2. When as copper fuel gas system is need of repair does the copper system need to be replaced?

Answer: 1) The answer to the first question is yes, copper piping and fittings may be used according to the requirements of the 2003 IFGC (403.4.3) and IRC (G2414.5.2). Fuel gas suppliers are mandated to limit the amount of hydrogen sulfide that is in the fuel gas supply to the public. Although there is no guarantee from the suppliers to maintain this level at all times.

2. Chapter 52 permits the repair of existing systems without the requirement of complete compliance to the current code. Therefore, if a leak is detected in a copper gas system and repairs can be made to the copper system as outlined in the code for those repairs the system may remain as originally installed to the code that was in effect at the time of installation.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION CODES

Subchapter I

TITLE AND SCOPE

(b) **Additions, Alterations or Repairs.** 1. An addition, alteration or repair may be made to any structure without requiring the existing structure to comply with all the requirements of the codes, if the addition, alteration or repair conforms to the requirements of the codes for a new structure. No addition or alteration may be made to an existing structure that will cause the existing structure to be in violation of any provision of the codes nor may any addition or alteration cause the existing structure to become unsafe. An unsafe condition is created if an addition or alteration will:

- A. Cause the existing structure to become structurally unsafe or overloaded;
- B. Not provide adequate egress in compliance with the codes or will obstruct existing exits;
- C. Create a fire hazard; or
- D. Reduce required fire resistance or will otherwise create conditions dangerous to human life.

IRC G2414.5.2 & IFGC 403.4.3 Copper and brass.

Copper and brass pipe shall not be used if the gas contains more than an average of 0.3 grains of hydrogen sulfide per 100 standard cubic feet of gas (0.7 milligrams per 100 liters). Threaded copper, brass and aluminum alloy pipe shall not be used with gases corrosive to such materials.

SIGNATURE: *Lonnie Erwin,*

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