

**Recommended Amendments to the  
2021 International Fuel Gas Code**

\* **Amendments Specific to the City of Murphy**

\*\* **NCTCOG Recommended Amendment**

\*\*\* **Modified NCTCOG Recommended Amendment**

**\*Section 101.1; fill in the blank.**

**Section 101.1 Title.** These regulations shall be known as the Fuel Gas Code of Murphy, hereinafter referred to as “this code”.

*(Reason: Housekeeping amendment. Amendment to 2015 IFGC carried forward to 2021 IFGC.)*

**\*Section 109.2; change to read as follows:**

**109.2 Schedule of permit fees.** Where work requires a permit, a fee for each permit shall be paid as required, in accordance with the schedule as ~~established by the applicable governing body.~~ as adopted by resolution of the governing body of the jurisdiction.

**\*Section 109.6; change to read as follows:**

**109.6 Refunds.** The code official ~~is authorized to establish a refund policy.~~ shall establish a policy for authorizing the refunding of fees.

*(Reason: To clarify that fees are established by the City Council. Amendment to 2015 IMC carried forward to 2021 IFGC.)*

**\*Section 113; delete entire section and insert the following:**

**SECTION 113 MEANS OF APPEAL**

**113.1 Application for appeal.** Any person shall have the right to appeal a decision of the code official to the board of appeals established by ordinance. The board shall be governed by the enabling ordinance.

**113.2 Application for appeal.** Any person shall have the right to appeal a decision of the code official to the board of appeals established by ordinance. The board shall be governed by the enabling ordinance.

*(Reason: Most jurisdictions already have an ordinance establishing and governing an appeals board for this code. This also calls to the attention of jurisdictions not having such a board that it needs to be established. Amendment to 2015 IFGC carried forward to 2021 IFGC.)*

**\*Add Section 305.13; to read as follows:**

**305.13 Protection of components of plumbing system.** Components of a fuel gas system installed within 3 feet along alleyways, driveways, parking garages or other locations in a manner in which they would be exposed to damage shall be recessed into the wall or otherwise protected in an approved manner.

**Recommended Amendments to the  
2021 International Fuel Gas Code**

*(Reason: Provide a common cutoff point to designate a general separation distance at which plumbing systems should be safe for consistency in enforcement. Amendment to 2015 IFGC carried forward to 2021 IFGC.)*

**\*Section 306.3; change to read as follows:**

**[M] 306.3 Appliances in attics.** Attics containing appliances requiring access shall be provided . . . {bulk of paragraph unchanged} . . . side of the appliance. The clear access opening dimensions shall be a minimum of 20 inches by 30 inches (508 mm by 762 mm), and large enough to allow removal of the largest appliance. As a minimum, for access to the attic space, provide one of the following:

1. A permanent stair.
2. A pull down stair with a minimum 300 lb. (136 kg) capacity.
3. An access door from an upper floor level.
4. Access panel may be used in lieu of items 1, 2, and 3 with prior approval of the code official due to building conditions.

*(Reason: To provide a safe means of accessibility to appliances in attics and to allow for different types of construction limitations. Consistent with regional amendment to IMC 306.3. Amendment to 2015 IFGC carried forward to 2021 IFGC.)*

**\*\*Section 401.5; add a second paragraph to read as follows:**

Both ends of each section of medium pressure gas piping shall identify its operating gas pressure with an approved tag. The tags are to be composed of aluminum or stainless steel and the following wording shall be stamped into the tag:

"WARNING- 1/2 to 5 psi gas pressure. Do Not Remove"

*(Reason: To protect homeowners and plumbers. Amendment to 2015 IFGC carried forward to 2021 IFGC.)*

**\*\*Section 404.12; change to read as follows:**

**404.12 Minimum burial depth.** Underground piping systems shall be installed a minimum depth of ~~12~~ 18 inches (305-458 mm) top of pipe below grade, except as provided for in Section 404.12.1.

*(Reason: To provide increased protection to piping systems and address reference number change. Amendment to 2015 IFGC carried forward to 2021 IFGC.)*

**Recommended Amendments to the  
2021 International Fuel Gas Code**

**\*Section 404.12.1; Individual outside appliances, delete.**

*(Reason: Individual lines should also be buried to 18 inches. Amendment to 2015 IFGC carried forward to 2021 IFGC.)*

**\*\*Section 406.4; change to read as follows:**

**406.4 Test pressure measurement.** Test pressure shall be measured with a monometer or with a pressure-measuring device designed and calibrated to read, record, or indicate a pressure loss caused by leakage during the pressure test period. The source of pressure shall be isolated before the pressure tests are made. ~~Mechanical gauges used to measure test pressures shall have a range such that the highest end of the scale is not greater than five times the test pressure.~~

*(Reason: To require the use of more accurate diaphragm gauges. Spring gauges do not provide accurate measurement below approximately 17 psig. Amendment to 2015 IFGC carried forward to 2021 IFGC.)*

**\*\*Section 406.4.1; change to read as follows:**

**406.4.1 Test pressure.** The test pressure to be used shall be no less than ~~1 1/2 times the proposed maximum working pressure, but no less than 3~~ 3 psig (20 kPa gauge), or at the discretion of the Code Official, the piping and valves may be tested at a pressure of at least six (6) inches (152 mm) of mercury, measured with a manometer or slope gauge, irrespective of design pressure. Where the test pressure exceeds 125 psig (862 kPa gauge), the test pressure shall not exceed a value that produces a hoop stress in the piping greater than 50 percent of the specified minimum yield strength of the pipe. For tests requiring a pressure of 3 psig, diaphragm gauges shall utilize a dial with a minimum diameter of three and one half inches (3 1/2"), a set hand, 1/10 pound incrementation and pressure range not to exceed 6 psi for tests requiring a pressure of 3 psig. For tests requiring a pressure of 10 psig, diaphragm gauges shall utilize a dial with a minimum diameter of three and one-half inches (3 1/2"), a set hand, a minimum of 2/10 pound incrementation and a pressure range not to exceed 20 psi. For welded piping, and for piping carrying gas at pressures in excess of fourteen (14) inches water column pressure (3.48 kPa) (1/2 psi) and less than 200 inches of water column pressure (52.2 kPa) (7.5 psi), the test pressure shall not be less than ten (10) pounds per square inch (69.6 kPa). For piping carrying gas at a pressure that exceeds 200 inches of water column (52.2 kPa) (7.5 psi), the test pressure shall be not less than one and one-half times the proposed maximum working pressure.

Diaphragm gauges used for testing must display a current calibration and be in good working condition. The appropriate test must be applied to the diaphragm gauge used for testing.

*(Reason: To provide for lesser pressures to coordinate with the use of more accurate diaphragm gauges. Amendment to 2015 IFGC carried forward to 2021 IFGC.)*

**\*\*Section 406.4.2; change to read as follows:**

**406.4.2 Test duration.** Test duration shall be held for a length of time satisfactory to the Code Official, but in no case for less than fifteen (15) minutes. For welded piping, and for piping carrying gas at pressures in excess of fourteen (14) inches water column pressure (3.48 kPa), the test duration shall be held for a length of time satisfactory to the Code Official, but in no case for less than thirty (30) minutes. (Delete remainder of section.)

**Recommended Amendments to the  
2021 International Fuel Gas Code**

*(Reason: To comply with accepted regional practices. Amendment to 2015 IFGC carried forward to 2021 IFGC.)*

**\*\*Section 410.1; add a second paragraph and exception to read as follows:**

Access to regulators shall comply with the requirements for access to appliances as specified in Section 306.

Exception: A passageway or level service space is not required when the regulator is capable of being serviced and removed through the required attic opening.

*(Reason: To require adequate access to regulators. Amendment to 2015 IFGC carried forward to 2021 IFGC.)*

**\*\*Section 621.2; add exception as follows:**

**621.2 Prohibited use.** One or more unvented room heaters shall not be used as the sole source of comfort heating in a dwelling unit.

**Exception:** Existing approved unvented heaters may continue to be used in dwelling units, in accordance with the code provisions in effect when installed, when approved by the Code Official unless an unsafe condition is determined to exist as described in Section 108.7.

*(Reason: Gives code official discretion. Amendment to 2015 IFGC carried forward to 2021 IFGC.)*