



INFORMATION BULLETIN / PUBLIC - PLUMBING CODE

REFERENCE NO.: LAMC Sec 510-512
LAMC Sec 707.1 & 712.14

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BOILER AND GAS-FIRED WATER HEATER VENTING

Chapter 8 of the Los Angeles Mechanical Code, Sections 510 through 512 of Chapter 5 of the Los Angeles Plumbing Code, and Section 707.1 and 713.4 of the Los Angeles Building Code pertain to vent systems that serve boilers and gas water heaters. This combination of code sections has caused some ambiguity of enforcement responsibility resulting in numerous boiler vent systems which do not conform to any of the above code sections.

To correct this situation, the following procedure shall be used:

A. EXISTING SYSTEMS:

1. The Pressure Vessel Section will inspect existing boiler vent systems.
2. The Commercial Plumbing and Mechanical Inspection or Building Mechanical Inspection Section will inspect gas water heater vents.
3. In those cases where the vent systems specified in the Mechanical Code will adequately serve a boiler, the Pressure Vessel Inspection Section will be responsible for enforcing the vent standards specified in the Mechanical Code.
4. In cases where the vent systems specified in the Mechanical Code cannot be used and a chimney or smokestack is required, the Pressure Vessel Inspection Section shall advise the Building Inspection. The Building Inspection Section will be responsible for enforcing the specifications of the Building Code.

B. NEW AND REPLACEMENT BOILER INSTALLATIONS:

1. When an application for a new or replacement boiler permit is filed, the Pressure Vessel Section shall determine which code sections are applicable and will indicate to applicants which jobs will require a chimney or smokestack and that a building permit may be required through Building Plan Check.
2. The Pressure Vessel Section shall also notify the Commercial Plumbing and Mechanical Inspection Sections of new boiler installations for purposes of gas permits and inspections.

C. NEW AND EXISTING SYSTEMS:

The California Building Code requires vent systems that penetrate through floors or multi-story buildings to be enclosed in fire-resistive shafts. The Pressure Vessel Section and Plumbing and Mechanical Inspection Section will notify the Building Inspection Section when they observe a new or replacement boiler vent system that penetrates through the floors of buildings with three or more stories in height.

D. PRESSURE VESSEL APPROVALS:

Final approval on boiler installations are subject to clearance from the Building Inspection Section when vertical shafts, chimneys or smokestacks are involved.