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BULLETIN 85-4

Issued: April 1985 Revised: August 2002
Code. Ref. Update: November 2005

Subject: Inspection of Gas Piping and Appliance Installations

Reference: N.J.A.C. 5:23-1.5(a) and 3.22, Fuel Gas Subcode

There have been several instances when subcode officials/inspectors have had disagreements with the gas suppliers' inspectors about gas piping and appliance installation inspections, which resulted in some minor inconveniences to the building owners. In several of these cases, code violations existed. These code violations included items such as the chimney being too close to combustible material and gas piping systems being undersized. In addition, inspection in a housing development involving prototype gas piping and appliances were only selectively inspected instead of totally inspected by the construction subcode officials. In other cases, the gas suppliers' inspectors were utilizing the National Fuel Gas Code (NFPA-54) in lieu of the Fuel Gas Subcode.

An informational meeting with representatives of several natural gas suppliers in the State concluded that cooperation between inspectors (utility and construction enforcement) is required. Therefore, (1) natural gas suppliers **may** continue to perform their "courtesy" inspections as they have done for years; (2) if any construction violations are observed by the gas suppliers' inspectors (based on the Uniform Construction Code), they will notify the proper subcode officials; (3) all construction violations brought to the attention of the subcode official are to be investigated in a timely fashion and reported to the party responsible for the work, as required; (4) the refusal to supply gas service by the utility should be supported when safety violations are present.

The subcode official's/inspector's responsibility for inspection of the gas installation is beyond meter location (excluding meter). The utility inspector's responsibility for inspection of the gas installation is from the utility line to the outlet side of the meter.

NOTE: This bulletin is a revision. The only difference between this and the previous version is that "may" in point (1) of the second paragraph previously read "will." Some had concluded that the "will" meant gas utilities were required to provide courtesy inspections. They do not have to and most are discontinuing the service.