Amendments to the

2021 International Fuel Gas Code

City of Merkel, Texas

The following sections, paragraphs, and sentences of the 2021 International Fuel Gas Code are hereby amended as follows:

Appendix E is excluded from adoption.

{101.1; change to read as follows:}

101.1 Title. These regulations shall be known as the Fuel Gas Code of the City of Merkel, hereinafter referred to as "this code".

(Reason: To reflect jurisdiction in charge.)

{Section 102.8; change to read as follows:}

102.8 Referenced codes and standards. The codes and standards referenced in this code shall be those that are listed in Chapter 8 and such codes, when specifically adopted, and standards shall be considered part of the requirements of this code to the prescribed extent of each such reference.

102.8.1 Conflicts. Where conflicts occur between provisions of this code and the referenced standards, the provisions of this code shall apply. Whenever amendments have been adopted to the referenced codes and standards, each reference to said code and standard shall be considered to reference the amendments as well. Any reference to NFPA 70 or the ICC *Electrical Code* shall mean the Electrical Code as adopted.

(Reason: Legal wording to recognize locally adopted codes and amendments adopted with referenced codes.)

{109.2; amend to read as follows:}

109.2 Schedule of permit fees. Permit fees are set by Merkel City Council ordinance. Fees are located here: https://merkeltexas.com/code-enforcementbuilding-inspection/. Fees published are subject to change at any time by Council action to ordinance.

{109.6; amend to read as follows:}

109.6 Refunds. The Building Official shall authorize the refunding of fees as follows:

The building official shall authorize refunding of any fee paid hereunder in which was erroneously paid or collected. The building official may authorize refunding of not more than 80 percent of the permit fee paid when no work has been done under a permit issued in accordance with this code. The building official shall not authorize refunding of any fee paid except on written application filed by the permit holder not later than 180 days after the date of fee payment.

(Reason: Clarification of interpretation.)

{113; Means of Appeal, amend first sentence to read as follows:}

113 General. In order to hear and decide appeals of order, decisions or determinations made by the code official relative to the application and interpretation of this code, a person shall have the right to appeal the decision of the code official to the Merkel City Council.

(Reason: To clarify the appropriate board.)

{114.1; Means of Appeal, amend to read as follows:}

114.1 General. In order to hear and decide appeals of order, decisions or determinations made by the Building official relative to the application and interpretation of this code, appeals may be heard by the Merkel City Council.

(Reason: To allow the municipality to set up requirements for their board.)

{115.4 Violation Penalties; delete section}

(Reason: This is already covered within the Code of Ordinances.)

{116; add last sentence as follows:}

116 Stop work orders. A stop work order release fee in the amount of $200.00 shall be paid prior to work commencing.

(Reason: To clarify the penalty.)

{Section 306.3; change to read as follows:}

[M] 306.3 Appliances in attics. Attics containing appliances 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.)

{Section 306.5; change to read as follows:}

[M] 306.5 Equipment and Appliances on Roofs or Elevated Structures. Where *equipment* requiring *access* or appliances are located on an elevated structure or the roof of a building such that personnel will have to climb higher than 16 feet (4877 mm) above grade to access such equipment or appliances, an interior or exterior means of access shall be provided. Exterior ladders providing roof *access* need not extend closer than 12 feet (2438 mm) to the finish grade or floor level below and shall extend to the *equipment* and appliances' level service space. Such *access* shall . . . *{bulk of section to read the same}* . . . . not require climbing over obstructions greater than 30" in height or walking on roofs having a slope greater than four units vertical in 12 units horizontal (33-percent slope). Such access shall not require the use of portable ladders. Where access involves climbing over parapet walls, the height shall be measured to the top of the parapet wall ... *{remainder of text unchanged}*.

(Reason: To assure safe access to roof appliances. Consistent with IMC amendments.)

{Section 306.5.1; change to read as follows:}

[M] 306.5.1 Sloped roofs. Where appliances, *equipment*, fans or other components that require service are installed on a roof having a slope of three units vertical in 12 units horizontal (25-percent slope) or greater and having an edge more than 30 inches (762 mm) above grade at such edge, a catwalk at least 16 inches in width with substantial cleats spaced not more than 16 inches apart shall be provided from the roof *access* to a level platform at the appliance. …*{remainder of text unchanged}*.

(Reason: To assure safe access to roof appliances. Consistent with IMC amendments.)

{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~~.

404.12.1 Delete in its entirety

(Reason: To provide increased protection to piping systems and address reference number change.)

{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 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. 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 ½"), 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 ½"), a set hand, a minimum of 2/10 pound incrimination 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.)

{Section 409.1; add Section 409.1.4 to read as follows:}

409.1.4 Valves in CSST installations. Shutoff valves installed with corrugated stainless steel (CSST) piping systems shall be supported with an *approved* termination fitting, or equivalent support, suitable for the size of the valves, of adequate strength and quality, and located at intervals so as to prevent or damp out excessive vibration but in no case greater than 12-inches from the center of the valve. Supports shall be installed so as not to interfere with the free expansion and contraction of the system's piping, fittings, and valves between anchors. All valves and supports shall be designed and installed so they will not be disengaged by movement of the supporting piping.

(Reason: To provide proper security to CSST valves. These standards were established in this region in 1999 when CSST was an emerging technology.)

{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.)

{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.)

END