

ORDINANCE NO. 3614

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 98, ARTICLE VII, OF THE NORTH RICHLAND HILLS CODE OF ORDINANCES, ADOPTING THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE AS AMENDED AS THE FUEL GAS CODE OF THE CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS; PROVIDING A PENALTY; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES AND REPEAL OF CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of North Richland Hills, Texas ("the City") is a home rule city acting under its power adopted by the electorate pursuant to Article XI, Section 5 of the Texas Constitution and Chapter 9 of the Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the International Fuel Gas Code is developed by construction industry professionals and adopted around the world as the model code based on the best, most recent building science; and

WHEREAS, updates to the building codes are meant to track with changes in building industry standards, practices, innovations, and technologies; and

WHEREAS, the North Richland Hills City Council desires to adopt the 2018 International Fuel Gas Code with amendments recommended by the North Central Texas Council of Governments and other local amendments in order to better provide for the health, safety, and welfare of its residents, businesses and their property, as well as all occupants and users of buildings and structures within the community; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City of North Richland Hills to update its building codes every six years; and

WHEREAS, updated codes benefit North Richland Hills citizens by establishing consistency of code adoptions with other local jurisdictions; ensuring the best rating possible by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO); Contributes to the city's good standing in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) which enables discounted flood insurance rates for our residents; and

WHEREAS, the North Richland Hills Construction Code Appeals Board acting in its capacity as the Construction Advisory Board on September 12th, 2019 reviewed and unanimously recommended the adoption of the 2018

International Fuel Gas Code with the amendments recommended by the North Central Texas Council of Governments and other local amendments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS:

SECTION 1: The City Council hereby finds the recitals above to be true and correct, and such recitals are hereby incorporated into this Ordinance as if written herein.

SECTION 2: THAT Chapter 98, Article VII, Section 98-284 of the North Richland Hills Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 98-284. International Fuel Gas Code adopted.

The International Fuel Gas Code, 2018 Edition, as adopted by the International Code Council, Inc., a copy of which is on file in the office of the city secretary, as amended by the recommended amendments of the North Central Texas Council of Governments, as modified by the city technical code committee, a copy of which is also on file in the office of the city secretary, is hereby adopted by reference and designated as the fuel gas code of the city, the same as though such code were copied at length herein."

SECTION 3: THAT Chapter 98, Article VII, Section 98-285 of the North Richland Hills Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 98-285. Amendments to the International Fuel Gas Code.

The following sections, paragraphs, and sentences of the 2018 International Fuel Gas Code are hereby amended as follows:

**** Section 101.1; change to read as follows:**

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

**** Section 102.2; add an exception to read as follows:**

Exception: Existing dwelling units shall comply with Section 621.2.

****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. Where differences 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.

****Section 304.10; change to read as follows:**

304.10 Louvers and grilles. The required size of openings for combustion, ventilation and dilution air shall be based on the net free area of each opening. Where the free area through a design of louver, grille or screen is known, it shall be used in calculating the size opening required to provide the free area specified. Where the design and free area of louvers and grilles are not known, it shall be assumed that wood louvers will have 25-percent free area and metal louvers and grilles will have 50-percent free area. Screens shall have a mesh size not smaller than ¼ inch (6.4 mm). Nonmotorized louvers and grilles shall be fixed in the open position. Motorized louvers shall be interlocked with the appliance so that they are proven to be in the full open position prior to main burner ignition and during main burner operation. Means shall be provided to prevent the main burner from igniting if the louvers fail to open during burner start-up and to shut down the main burner if the louvers close during operation.

****Section 304.11; change item #8 to read as follows:**

304.11 Combustion air ducts. Combustion air ducts shall comply with all of the following:

8. Combustion air intake openings located on the exterior of a building shall have the lowest side of such openings located not less than 12 inches (305 mm) vertically from the adjoining ground level or the manufacturer's recommendation, whichever is more restrictive.

****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.

Exceptions:

1. The passageway and level service space are not required where the *appliance* is capable of being serviced and removed through the required opening.
2. Where the passageway is not less than ... *{bulk of section to read the same}*.

****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, an a permanent interior or exterior means of access shall be provided. Permanent 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}*. . . on roofs having a slope greater than 4 units vertical in 12 units horizontal (33-percent slope). ... *{bulk of section to read the same}*.

****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 roofs having slopes greater than 4 units vertical in 12 units horizontal 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. The level platform shall be provided on each side of the appliance to which access is required for service, repair or maintenance. The platform shall be not less than 30 inches (762 mm) in any dimension and shall be provided with guards. The guards shall extend not less than 42 inches (1067 mm) above the platform, shall be constructed so as to prevent the passage of a 21-inch-diameter (533 mm) sphere and shall comply with the loading requirements for guards specified in the *International Building Code*.

****Section 306; add Section 306.7with exception and subsection 306.7.1 to read as follows:**

306.7 Water heaters above ground or floor. When the attic, roof, mezzanine or platform in which a water heater is installed is more than eight (8) feet (2438 mm) above the ground or floor level, it shall be made accessible by a stairway or permanent ladder fastened to the building.

Exception: A max 10 gallon water heater (or larger when approved by the *code official*) is capable of being accessed through a lay-in ceiling and a water heater is installed is not more than ten (10) feet (3048 mm) above the ground or floor level and may be reached with a portable ladder.

306.7.1. Illumination and convenience outlet. Whenever the mezzanine or platform is not adequately lighted or access to a receptacle outlet is not obtainable from the main level, lighting and a receptacle outlet shall be provided in accordance with Section 306.3.1.

**** Section 310.2; add a second paragraph to read as follows:**

When a gas distribution system of corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) is installed that does not have enhanced lightning protection properties or an outer conductive jacket and/or a wire mesh layer that is electrically continuous designed to provide lightening resistance, a notarized affidavit shall be filed with Tarrant County Records indicating that non-lightning resistant CSST has been installed in the home. A copy of the filed affidavit shall be provided to the City of North Richland Hills at the time of permit application.

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

Both ends of each section of medium pressure corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) 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"

****Section 402.3; add an exception to read as follows:**

Exception: Corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) shall be a minimum of 1/2" (18 EHD).

****Section 404.11.4; change to read as follows:**

Steel risers connected to plastic piping shall be connected with approved anodeless risers.

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

404.12 Minimum burial depth. Underground piping systems shall be installed a minimum depth of 18 inches (458 mm) top of pipe below grade.

*****Section 404.12.1; delete in its entirety:***

*****Section 406.1; change to read as follows:***

406.1 General. Prior to acceptance and initial operation, all piping installations shall be inspected and pressure tested to determine that the materials, design, fabrication, and installation practices comply with the requirements of this code. The permit holder shall make the applicable tests prescribed in Sections 406.1.1 through 406.1.6 to determine compliance with the provisions of this code. The permit holder shall give reasonable advance notice to the code official when the piping system is ready for testing. The equipment, material, power and labor necessary for the inspections and test shall be furnished by the permit holder and the permit holder shall be responsible for determining that the work will withstand the test pressure prescribed in the following tests.

*****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.

*****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 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.

*****Section 406.4.2; replace section 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.

****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.

****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.

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

621.2 Prohibited use. 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.

****Section 624.1.1; change to read as follows:**

624.1.1 Installation requirements. The requirements for water heaters relative to access, sizing, relief valves, drain pans and scald protection shall be in accordance with the *International Plumbing Code*."

SECTION 4: Any person intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be

deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined an amount not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000). Each day any such violation shall be allowed to continue shall constitute a separate violation and be punishable hereunder.

SECTION 5: This Ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of the Code of Ordinances of the City of North Richland Hills, except where the provisions of this Ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such ordinances and such Code, in which event conflicting provisions of such ordinances and such Code are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6: All rights and remedies of the City of North Richland Hills are expressly saved as to any and all violations of the provisions of any ordinances in the Code of Ordinances of the City of North Richland Hills that have accrued at the time of the effective date of this Ordinance; and, as to such accrued violations and all pending litigation, both civil and criminal, whether pending in court or not, under such ordinances, same shall not be affected by this Ordinance but may be prosecuted until final disposition by the courts.

SECTION 7: It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation in this ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

SECTION 8: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

AND IT IS SO ORDAINED.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 14th day of October, 2019.

CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS

By: _____
Oscar Trevino, Mayor

ATTEST:

Alicia Richardson, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Maleshia B. McGinnis, City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Clayton Comstock, Director of Planning