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## BUILDINGS BULLETIN 2013-006

### Technical

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**Supersedes:** None

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**Purpose:** This bulletin establishes procedures and requirements for work involving fuel gas distribution piping located within fire-resistance-rated construction in existing buildings undergoing alterations, replacement and repairs

<b>Related Code/Zoning Section(s):</b>	FGC 102.4	FGC 202	AC 28-101.4.3
	FGC 404.1(4)	FGC 404.3	AC 28-112.3
	FGC 404.1(5)	FGC 406	

**Subject(s):** Existing building, fire-resistance-rated walls, fuel-gas piping; Existing building, corridor, fuel-gas piping; Public corridors, fuel-gas piping; Stair enclosures, fuel-gas piping; Fuel-gas piping, alterations; Fuel-gas piping, repairs

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### I. Background

The 1968 Building Code did not explicitly prohibit the installation of fuel-gas piping within concealed spaces of fire-rated construction.

The 2008 New York City Fuel Gas Code Section (FGC) 404.1 states in part:

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4. **Fire-rated construction.** Gas piping shall not be installed within concealed spaces of fire-rated construction.

Further, Section FGC 102.4 states in part:

Additions, alterations or repairs shall not cause an existing installation to become unsafe, hazardous or overloaded. Minor additions, alterations, renovations and repairs to existing installations shall meet the provisions for new construction, unless such work is done in the same manner and arrangement as was in the existing system, is not hazardous and is approved.

### II. Alterations to existing fuel-gas piping

In existing buildings lawfully constructed in accordance with the 1968 Building Codes and prior codes, where fuel-gas piping is already located within a fire-resistance-rated wall or floor/ceiling assembly, an alteration, replacement or repair to such piping may be considered as work that is "done in the same manner and arrangement in the

existing system and is not hazardous” in accordance with Section FGC 102.4, provided that all of the following conditions are satisfied, subject to Department’s approval of an application for such work:

1. The existing fuel-gas piping installation within fire-resistance-rated construction must have been lawfully installed in accordance with previously approved work permit;
2. Minor deviations from the existing installation are permissible only to the extent of replacing existing risers and/or branch piping up to three (3) feet from the original location, and installing new branch piping not to exceed three (3) linear feet on each replaced or relocated appliance run;
3. In accordance with Section FGC 404.3, piping must not have unions or swing joints made by combinations of fittings in any “concealed location”. In addition, tubing fittings, bushings and compression couplings cannot be used under any circumstances for gas piping; and
4. All other aspects of any portions of the new fuel gas system distribution and any other building components affected by the new installation (e.g. through-penetration fire-stop systems) shall comply with the *2008 New York City Construction Codes*, as applicable.

Where gas piping cannot comply with the requirements above, such gas piping shall not be installed within the concealed spaces of fire-rated construction except where perpendicularly passing through the wall or ceiling assembly with a through-penetration fire stop system.

### **III. Fuel-gas piping in public corridors and stair enclosures.**

In accordance with Section FGC 404.1, items 1 and 5, replacement piping shall not be permitted within a public corridor or stair enclosure. However, gas piping shall not be considered within a public corridor or stair enclosure provided such piping is separated from the corridor or stair enclosure by a fire-resistance-rated assembly meeting the hour rating and, if applicable, the impact-resistance rating required for the corridor or stair enclosure; and that such assembly is rated for exposure to fire from both sides. (*In most cases, this will require a masonry enclosure*). The fire-resistance-rated assembly separating the piping from the corridor or stair enclosure shall comply with the applicable building code egress requirements, including, but not limited to, protruding objects and egress width.