



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: September 16, 2014

To: Technical Services Staff

From: Brad Claussen, Building Official

Subject: Medical Gas Piping Inspections

Medical gas piping is very generally regulated under our construction codes in section 1202 of the International Plumbing Code and section 5306 of the International Fire Code. The IPC simply requires nonflammable medical gas systems to be designed and installed per NFPA99C. The IFC also references this same NFPA standard but further sets forth requirements for storage rooms, gas cabinets and exterior supply locations among other things. Neither of these codes has any specific requirements for inspection and for many years medical gas piping systems have generally been looked at locally by the fire inspectors.

In 2010 a section was added to state statute 12-1509 (which generally deals with licensing of plumbers) that requires medical gas piping systems to be installed by plumbers licensed under KSA 12-1508 (the same plumbing test criteria we recognize) and certified by either ASSE (American Society of Sanitary Engineering) or have another approved professional qualification. It also requires inspection by a certified third party agency. In 2011 the same statute was revised again to add a sentence which allows limited maintenance on existing medical gas systems by hospital maintenance personnel.

Therefore, on any new construction involving medical gas piping systems, we will require the appropriate third party inspection. Installation may be done by plumbers licensed by the city who are ASSE certified or have other approved credentials. Limited maintenance of existing systems may be performed by hospital maintenance personnel. Limited maintenance is defined as minor repair or replacement of incidental parts. Let me know if there are any questions pertaining to this memo.