

ABILENE FUEL GAS CODE PAMPHLET



**TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 2012
INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE**

This booklet is to be used in conjunction with the *2012 International Fuel Gas Code*, published by the International Code Council, Inc. This pamphlet and the *2012 International Fuel Gas Code* comprise the Fuel Gas Code for the City of Abilene, Texas.

This code was adopted by the City Council on **July 24, 2014** Ordinance No. **42-2014** of the Municipal Code, with an effective date of **August 26, 2014**.

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BUILDING INSPECTIONS

**555 Walnut St, Room 100
Abilene, Texas 79601**

The following Chapters of the *2012 International Fuel Gas Code* are adopted in their entirety:

Chapters 2, 7 and 8

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2012 INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE

Adopt the *2012 International Fuel Gas Code* in its entirety, with the following amendments:

CHAPTER 1 SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION

Section 101 General

{Amend this to read as follows.}

101.1 Title. These regulations shall be known as the International Fuel Gas Code of the City of Abilene, Texas, hereinafter referred to as “this code”.

Section 102 Applicability

102.8 Referenced codes and standards. *{Add the following subsection.}*

102.8.3 Electrical. The provisions of the Electrical Code, as adopted by the City of Abilene, shall apply to the installation of electrical systems, including alterations, repairs, replacement, equipment, appliances, fixtures, fittings and appurtenances thereto. **ADDITIONAL REFERENCES TO AN ELECTRICAL CODE SHALL REFER BACK TO THE CODE REFERENCED IN THIS SECTION.**

Section 103 Department of Inspection

103.3 Deputies. *{Add the following subsection .}*

103.3.1 Fuel gas inspector requirements. The plumbing and/or plumbing/mechanical inspectors are hereby made a part of the Building Inspection Department of the City of Abilene. They shall have had at least 5 years of satisfactory experience as a journeyman and/or master plumber and shall hold a plumbing inspector’s license issued by the State Board of Plumbing Examiners.

Section 106 Permits

106.1 Where required. *{Add the following subsection.}*

106.1.1 Plumbing license required. All persons who engage in or work at the actual installation, alteration, repair and/or renovation of all piping, fixtures, appurtenances, and appliances that supply gas, water, liquids, or any combination of these, or dispose of waste water or sewage, shall possess a master or journeyman plumber’s license, in accordance with the State of Texas Plumbing License Law, Title 8, Chapter 1301. Any business engaging in the work of a plumbing contractor shall employ a person holding a current master plumber’s license.

{Add the following subsection.}

106.1.1.1 Exemptions. *(Reference Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners Board Rules, Sec. 365.2 Exemptions.)*

The following plumbing work shall be permitted without a license but shall be subject to inspection and approval in accordance with local, city or municipal ordinances:

- (1) Plumbing work done by a property owner in the property owner's homestead;
- (2) Plumbing work that is not performed in conjunction with new construction and done on a property that is:
 - (A) located in a subdivision or on a tract of land that is not required to be platted under Section 232.0015, Local Government Code; or
 - (B) not connected to a public water system and is located outside a municipality, or
 - (C) located outside a municipality and connected to a public water system that does not require a license to perform plumbing; or
 - (D) inside a municipality with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants, unless an ordinance of the municipality requires the person to be licensed;
- (3) Verification of medical gas and vacuum piping integrity and content;
- (4) Work done on existing plumbing by a maintenance man or maintenance engineer, as defined in Board Rule Section 361.1, that is incidental or connected to other maintenance duties, provided that such an individual does not engage in cutting into fuel gas plumbing systems, the installation of gas fueled water heaters or plumbing work for the general public;
- (5) Plumbing work done by a railroad employee on the premises or equipment of a railroad, provided such an individual does not engage in plumbing work for the general public;
- (6) Plumbing work done by a person engaged by a public utility company to:
 - (A) lay, maintain, or operate its service mains or lines to the point of measurement; and
 - (B) install, change, adjust, repair, remove or renovate appurtenances, equipment, or appliances;
- (7) Appliance installation or appliance service work done by bona fide appliance dealers and their employees that do not offer to perform plumbing work to the general public, in connecting appliances to existing openings with a code approved appliance connector without cutting into or altering the existing plumbing system.;
- (8) Irrigation work done by an individual working and licensed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality under Chapter 1903, Occupations Code, as an irrigator or installer;
- (9) LP Gas service and installation work done by an individual working and licensed by the Texas Railroad Commission under Chapter 113 of the Natural Resources Code as a LP Gas Installer; and
- (10) Water Treatment Specialists licensed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality under Section 341.034 of the Health and Safety Code may engage in residential, commercial or industrial water treatment activities including making connections necessary to complete the installation of a water treatment system.
- (11) Water well pump installation and service work performed by an individual licensed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality under Chapter 1902 of the Occupations Code. 25.

(12) Residential potable water supply or residential sanitary sewer connections performed by an organization certified by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to perform self-help project assistance on a Self-Help Project which complies with Section 1301.057 of the Occupations Code (Plumbing License Law).

Source: The provisions of § 365.2 adopted to be effective February 12, 2004, 29 TexReg 1200.

{Add the following subsection.}

106.1.2 Bond Required. All plumbing contractors desiring to engage in the business of a plumbing contractor shall first file with the building official of the City of Abilene, a surety bond in the amount of \$5,000, or proof of \$300,000 general liability insurance, to insure that the person engaged in the plumbing business will faithfully observe all the laws pertaining to plumbing; further, that the City shall be indemnified and saved harmless from all claims arising from accidents and damage of any character whatsoever caused by negligence of such person engaged in the plumbing business, or by any other unfaithful, inadequate work done either by themselves, their agent, or their employees. A \$5,000 surety bond, or proof of \$300,000 general liability insurance, is also required for irrigation contractors.

{Add the following subsection.}

106.1.3 Contractor's registration required. All plumbing contractors shall first file with the code official of the City of Abilene, as a registered contractor, as per Section 8-161 of the Municipal Code, Article IV, Licenses and Registration.

106.3 Application for permit. *{Delete in its entirety and insert the following.}*

Each application for a permit, with the required fee, shall be filed with the code official on a form furnished for that purpose and describe the nature of the work to be performed prior to commencing any work.

106.6 Fees. *{Add the following at the end of the paragraph.}*

Permits may be obtained by charge account with the following restrictions:

- (a) The applicant shall make a deposit of \$150.00 with the City of Abilene.
- (b) The deposit is security for the account and shall not be applied to the account of the applicant.
- (c) Every applicant shall be billed each month for the total balance of his/her account and a written list of permits shall be identified on the invoice.
- (d) All accounts shall be payable within 10 days after the billing date; any account not paid within 10 days, and upon notice from the Accounting Department to the Building Inspection Department, shall not be eligible for further issuance of permits. Failure to pay said account shall result in the applicant's deposit being forfeited to the City of Abilene. Charging privileges are therefore revoked, and a new deposit along with payment of all bills due to the City of Abilene, must be paid before any additional charges are permitted.

106.6.1 Work commencing before permit issuance. *{Add the following.}*

Further work performed by the same contractor without permits will result in a penalty and investigation fee of 10 times the amount of the permit fee required by this code if a permit had been issued. At the end of 12 months from the issuance of the 10 times fee, a contractor with no further violations shall be determined to start without previous penalties.

106.6.2 Fee schedule. {Add the following.}

Fees shall be set by Abilene City Council resolution. Appendix E references approved fees at the time of adoption of this code. Fees published in this document are subject to change by Council action.

106.6.3 Fee refunds. {Amend as follows.}

2. Insert 80 %.
3. *{Delete in its entirety.}*

**Section 107
Inspections and Testing**

107.5 Temporary connection. {Add the following paragraph.}

Permits for temporary gas shall be issued in the plumbing contractor's name and utilities released in either the plumbing contractor's name or the general contractors name, and shall be limited to 90 days. The owner, or legal representative of the owner, must first file an affidavit for temporary service utility release with the office of the code official, prior to the temporary service inspection and release of utilities.

**Section 108
Violations**

108.3 Prosecution of violations. {Delete in its entirety and insert the following.}

If notice of violation is not complied with promptly, the code official or his/her deputies may issue citations regarding the offense/offenses. In addition, legal counsel of the jurisdiction may be requested to institute the appropriate proceeding at law or in equity to restrain, correct, or abate such violation.

108.4 Violation penalties. {Amend to read as follows.}

.....under the provisions of this code, shall be subject to penalties as prescribed by law. Any such violation shall be a Class C Misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine, not to exceed \$500. Each day a violation of any of the provisions of this Code is committed, or each day any such violation continues, shall constitute a separate offense and shall be subject to prosecution as stated above.

108.5 Stop Work Orders. {Amend the last sentence to read as follows.}

...Any person who shall continue any work on the system after having been served with a stop work order, except such work as that person is directed to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition, shall be subject to a citation for a Class C Misdemeanor.

{Delete Sec. 109 in its entirety and insert the following.}

**SECTION 109
BOARD OF APPEALS**

109.1 General. The Board of Appeals may hear appeals of any decision of the code official or his/her representatives regarding the electrical, mechanical, plumbing, or swimming pool ordinance. The board does not have the authority to waive code requirements, but may consider alternate materials and methods for the purpose of complying with the provisions of this code. The board shall be as is established in the Municipal Code, Article V, Division 3, Section 8-391 through Section 8-407 for the Mechanical, Plumbing, Electrical, and Swimming Pool Board of Appeals.

**CHAPTER 3
GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**Section 302
Structural Safety**

{Add the following sub-section.}

302.1.1 Structural Forces.

The addition of equipment to an existing structure shall be evaluated to determine that the structure will support the loads proposed by the weight and vibration of the equipment. The combined weight of the unit and components greater than 550 pounds shall require the roof load calculations and support members be designed by an engineer licensed by the State of Texas.

**Section 304
Combustion, Ventilation and Dilution Air**

Section 304.10 Louvers and grilles. *{amend as follows}*
Change 75-percent to 50-percent. *{No other changes}*

**Section 306
Access and Service Space**

306.3 Appliances in attics. *{Delete in its entirety and add the following.}*

Attics containing equipment requiring access shall be provided with an opening and an unobstructed passageway large enough to allow removal of the largest piece of equipment. The access opening dimensions shall be a minimum of 22 inches by 30 inches clear, provided such dimensions allow removal of the largest piece of equipment. The area from the attic way access to the furnace, coil, or air handler shall be constructed of a minimum ½" plywood/OSB board, of continuous unobstructed solid flooring not less than 24 inches wide, with a minimum head clearance of 30 inches from an entrance opening to the equipment.

A level working platform not less than 30 inches in depth shall be provided in front of the entire fire-box side of the warm-air furnace, and if the furnace temperature-limit control, air filter, fuel-control valve, or air-handling unit is not serviceable from the firebox side of the furnace, a continuous floor not less than 24 inches in width shall be provided from the platform in front of the firebox side of the furnace to and in front of this equipment.

Exception: A working platform need not be provided when the equipment can be serviced from the required access opening.

Provide one lighting fixture per 20 linear foot of passageway, in addition to a lighting fixture at or near the equipment, and a receptacle in accordance with the Electrical Code, adopted by the City of Abilene.

306.5 Equipment and appliances on roofs or elevated structures. *{Amend to read as follows.}*

Where equipment and appliances requiring access are installed on roofs or elevated structures, such access shall be provided by a permanent approved means of access. Permanent exterior ladders providing roof access need not extend closer than 16 feet (4877mm) to the finish grade or floor level below and shall extend to the equipment's level service space. An approved device is to be mounted to the structure that will assist in preventing an extension ladder from falling. Such access shall ...**{Balance of paragraph to remain the same.}**

{Add the following Exception.}

Exception:

1. Existing structures less than three (3) stories in height.

306.6 Guards. *{Add the following Exceptions.}*

Exceptions:

1. Single family residences.
2. Existing units on one-story buildings, no greater than 16' above ground level.
3. A 30" parapet may be substituted for the guard.

307.3 Drain pipe materials and sizes. *{Amend the first sentence as follows.}*

Delete polybutylene.

CHAPTER 4 GAS PIPING INSTALLATIONS

Section 404 Piping System Installation

404.12.1 Individual outside appliances. *{Delete in its entirety.}*

404.17.2 Connections. *{Add the following paragraph to the end of this subsection.}*

Where connecting plastic pipe to a compression-end metallic riser below ground, there shall be a minimum of 30 inches of horizontal length of metallic piping underground at the end of any plastic piping installed, and any underground gas carrying metallic piping shall be suitably protected against corrosion. The metallic piping shall be of adequate length and size so that stress or strain is not placed on the plastic piping.

Section 406 Inspection, Testing and Purging

406.1.2 Repairs and additions. *{Delete in its entirety and add the follows.}*

In the event repairs or additions are made to a new or existing system, the entire piping system shall be tested in accordance with section 406.4 through 406.6.2.

Exception: With prior approval of the Building Official, only the affected piping may be required to be tested.

406.1.3 New branches. *{Delete in its entirety.}*

406.4 Test pressure measurement. *{Delete in its entirety and insert the following.}* Test pressure shall be measured with a device complying with the following:

1. Piping carrying gas at pressures of 14 inches of water column or less shall be tested by use of a diaphragm gauge with a minimum 2½” face with a maximum 30 pound per square inch range with not more than 2/10th pound increments. Gauge shall be equipped with a set hand, or, at the discretion of the Code Official, a mercury manometer or slope gauge may be used.
2. Piping carrying gas in excess of 14” water column shall be tested by use of a Grade A gauge with a maximum 100 pounds per square inch range. Gauge shall be equipped with a set hand.

406.4.1 Test pressure. *{Amend to read as follows.}* The test pressure to be used shall be not less than 3 psig (68.9 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 welded piping, and for piping carrying gas at pressures in excess of 14 inches water column pressure (3.48 kPa), the test pressure shall not be less than 60 pounds per square inch (413.4 kPa).

406.4.2 Test duration. *{Amend to read as follows.}* Test duration shall be held for a length of time satisfactory to the Code Official, but in no case for less than 10 minutes. For welded piping, and for piping carrying gas at pressures in excess of 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 30 minutes. *{Delete the remainder of this paragraph.}*

406.6.3 Leak check. *{Delete in its entirety.}*

Section 409 Shutoff Valves

409.5.2 Vented decorative appliances and room heaters. *{Delete in its entirety.}*

409.5.3 Located at manifold. *{Delete in its entirety.}*

Section 410 Flow Controls

410.1 Pressure regulators. *{Add the following after the third sentence.}*
Access in attic shall comply with the *IPC*, Sec. 502.3.

Section 412 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Motor Vehicle Fuel-Dispensing Facilities

{Delete 412 and all subsections in their entirety.}

Section 413 Compressed Natural Gas Motor Vehicle Fuel-Dispensing Stations

{Delete 413 and all subsections in their entirety.}

CHAPTER 5 CHIMNEYS AND VENTS

Section 501 General

501.7 Connection to fireplace. *{Delete in its entirety.}*

Section 505 Direct Vent, Integral Vent Mechanical Vent and Ventilation Exhaust Hood Venting

505.1.1 Commercial cooking appliances vented by exhaust hoods. *{Delete in its entirety.}*

CHAPTER 6 SPECIFIC APPLIANCES

Section 614 Clothes Dryer Exhaust

614.6.3 Protection required. *{Amend the last sentence as follows:}*

Protective shield plates shall be constructed of steel, shall have a minimum thickness of 0.0575 inch (1.463 mm) (No. 16 gage) and shall extend a minimum of 2 inches (51 mm) above sole plates and below top plates.

Section 621 Unvented Room Heaters

621.2 Prohibited use. *{Add the following exception.}*

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.

621.6 Oxygen-depletion safety system. *{Add the following exception.}*

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.

APPENDIX E

CITY OF ABILENE MECHANICAL PERMIT FEES

Minimum Permit Fee	\$50.00
Reinspection Fee	75.00
Forced Air or Gravity Type Furnace up to 150,000 BTU's	10.00
Forced Air or Gravity Type Furnace over 150,000 BTU's	15.00
Floor Furnaces, Including Vent	8.00
Suspended Unit Heater or Wall Heater	6.00
Boilers or Refrigeration Compressor up to 3 HP	6.00
or Refrigeration Compressor over 3 HP, to/and including 15 HP	10.00
Boilers or Refrigeration Compressor over 15 HP, to/and including 30 HP	15.00
Boilers or Refrigeration Compressor over 30 HP, to/and including 50 HP	25.00
Boilers or Refrigeration Compressor over 50 HP	50.00
Air Handler Units up to 10,000 CFM	5.00
Air Handler Units over 10,000 CFM	8.00
Dryer, Bathroom, and Kitchen Ventilation Fans, that are a portion of any Heating or Cooling System and connected to a Duct	3.00
Installation of a Refrigerant Air Conditioner System up to 7½ Tons	10.00
Installation of a Refrigerant Air Conditioner over 7½ Tons	15.00
Installation of Incinerator	4.00
Other Appliances, etc.	4.00
Type I Grease Hood	25.00
Type II Vent-A-Hood	10.00
Duct (not part of permitted equipment) per Inspection	5.00
Fireplaces (Pre-Fab)	5.00
Hydronic Piping Test	15.00
OTHER INSPECTIONS AND FEES	
Inspections outside of normal business hours (Minimum Charge-two hours)	200.00
Special Request Inspections (Minimum Charge-one hour)	100.00
Board of Building Standards and Mechanical, Plumbing, Electrical, and Swimming Pool Board of Appeals request for hearing for alternate methods and materials	100.00
Contractor's Registration (annually, due by December 31 of each year)	65.00
Contractor's Registration Initial Set-up Fee	50.00
Stop Work Order Release Fee	125.00

CITY OF ABILENE

PLUMBING PERMIT FEES

The permit and inspection fees, herein provided, shall be paid to the City before the issuance of a permit and before any work is started.

Minimum Permit Fee	\$50.00
Reinspection Fee	75.00
Water Heater	5.00
Each Plumbing Fixture	2.00
Sand Trap, Grease Trap, Interceptors	5.00
Sewer	5.00
Trenchless Sewer System	40.00
Alley Cuts, Paved	5.00
Alley Cuts, Gravel	5.00
Water Service Line	5.00
Gas Service Line	5.00
Gas Test	7.50
Each Gas Opening	1.50
Gas Dryer	3.00
Outside Appliance	3.00
Boiler to 3 HP	6.00
Boiler 3 HP, to/and including 15 HP	10.00
Boiler over 15 HP, to/and including 30 HP	15.00
Boiler over 30 HP, to/and including 50 HP	25.00
Boiler over 50 HP	50.00
Residential Irrigation System	75.00
Commercial Irrigation System \leq 20 heads or \leq 4 rotors	75.00
Commercial Irrigation System $>$ 20 heads or $>$ 4 rotors	150.00
Mobile Home Sewer P-Trap	5.00
Septic Tank	10.00
Water Softener	10.00
Rain Water Roof Drain	3.00
Infrared Radiant Heaters	5.00
Wall Heaters	5.00
Floor Furnaces	8.00
Unit Heaters	5.00
Backflow Prevention Device	15.00
Temporary Gas Service	15.00
OTHER INSPECTIONS AND FEES	
Inspections outside of normal business hours (Minimum Charge-two hours)	200.00
Special Request Inspections (Minimum Charge-one hour)	100.00
Board of Building Standards and Mechanical, Plumbing, Electrical, and Swimming Pool Board of Appeals request for hearing for alternate methods and materials	100.00
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