

# PROPOSED SAN FRANCISCO MECHANICAL CODE AMENDMENTS 2013 Edition

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## CHAPTER 1 ADMINISTRATION

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### DIVISION I CALIFORNIA ADMINISTRATION

*See Division II Administration for San Francisco Mechanical Code administrative provisions.  
No San Francisco Mechanical Code Amendments*

### DIVISION II ADMINISTRATION

#### PART I – GENERAL

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#### SECTION 101.0 – TITLE

*101.1 Revise this section as follows:*

**101.1 Title** These regulations shall be known as the ~~Uniform~~ **2013 San Francisco** Mechanical Code, may be cited as such, and will be referred to herein as “this code.”

*101.3 Add the following paragraph:*

**Wherever in this code reference is made to the appendix, the provisions of the appendix shall not apply unless specifically adopted.**

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#### SECTION 103.0 – ALTERNATE MATERIALS AND METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIVALENCY

*103.2 Add the following section:*

**103.2 Fees. See Building Code Section 110A, Table 1A-J - Miscellaneous Fees - for applicable fees.**

#### PART II – ORGANIZATION AND ENFORCEMENT

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## **SECTION 106.0 – POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION**

*106.1 Revise this section as follows:*

**106.1 General.** The Authority Having Jurisdiction is hereby authorized and directed to enforce all the provisions of this code. For such purposes, the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have the powers of a law enforcement officer. The Authority Having Jurisdiction, when necessary, may call upon the Police Department and other city agencies for aid or assistance in carrying out or enforcing any of the provisions of this code.

*106.3 Revise this section as follows:*

**106.3 Right of Entry.** When ~~Where~~ it is necessary to make an inspection to enforce the provisions of this code or other codes or ordinances, or when ~~where~~ the Authority Having Jurisdiction has a reasonable cause to believe that there exists in a building or upon a premises a condition which ~~that~~ is contrary to or in violation of this code or other codes or ordinances that makes the building or premises unsafe, dangerous or hazardous, the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall be permitted to enter the building or premises at reasonable times to inspect or to perform the duties imposed by this code or other codes or ordinances, provided that where such building or premises be occupied that credentials be presented to the occupant and entry requested. Where such building or premises be unoccupied, the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall first make a reasonable effort to locate the owner or other person having charge or control of the building or premises and request entry. Where entry is refused, the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have recourse to the remedies provided by law to secure entry.

*106.10 Add the following section:*

**106.10 Authority Having Jurisdiction May Adopt Rules and Regulations.** The Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have the power to render interpretations of this code and to adopt and enforce rules and supplemental regulations to clarify the application of its provisions. Such interpretations, rules and regulations shall be in conformance with the intent and purpose of this code. Such rules and regulations, commonly referred to as “Code Rulings” and “Administrative Bulletins,” supplemental to this code, shall not take effect until approved by the Building Inspection Commission and signed by the Authority Having Jurisdiction except in unusual circumstances where the Authority Having Jurisdiction has determined there is an immediate need to protect the public health and safety. When the Director finds that such circumstances exist, the Authority Having Jurisdiction may order immediate enforcement of a particular rule or regulation. The Authority Having Jurisdiction shall arrange for a subscription service to such rules and regulations, the entire cost of which is to be borne by the subscribers.

*106.11 Add the following section:*

**106.11 Code Revisions.** The Authority Having Jurisdiction shall transmit to the Building Inspection Commission, at intervals not exceeding three years, recommendations for changes to this code, based on studies of the following:

1. Requests of the Board of Examiners for variances from this code, and for approvals of alternate materials, alternate designs and methods of construction.
2. Code changes recommended by the Board of Examiners.

3. Code changes recommended by the Code Advisory Committee or other bodies subordinate to the Building Inspection Commission.
4. Results obtained and problems encountered from legal actions taken to correct code violations.
5. Changes or improvements in materials, methods of construction or design and changes proposed by interested persons.
6. Investigations of fire and structural damage to buildings, and of complaints of unsatisfactory mechanical system performance.
7. Periodic changes to the California Mechanical Code and other State regulations which may affect this code.
8. Administrative Bulletins and Code Rulings currently in effect.
9. Violations of this code found on inspections or investigations.

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## **SECTION 108.0 – BOARD OF APPEALS**

*108.0 Replace this title and entire section as follows:*

### **108.0 Board of Examiners.**

Applicants may appeal decisions made by the Department of Building Inspection to the Board of Examiners regarding approval of alternate materials, methods and types of construction and for variances from the provisions of this code. See Building Code Section 105A.1.

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## **SECTION 109.0 – VIOLATIONS**

*109.0 Add the following three sections:*

**109.2 Violations. Any person, the owner or the owner’s authorized agent, who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with, or resists or opposes the execution of any of the provisions of this code, shall be liable for a civil penalty, not to exceed \$500 for each day such violation is committed or permitted to continue, which penalty shall be assessed and recovered in a civil action brought in the name of the people of the City and County of San Francisco by the City Attorney in any court of competent jurisdiction. Any penalty assessed and recovered in an action brought pursuant to this paragraph shall be paid to the City Treasurer and credited to the Department of Building Inspection’s Special Fund.**

**109.3 Any person, the owner or the owner’s authorized agent, who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with, or who resists or opposes the execution of any of the provisions of this code, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$500 or by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment, unless otherwise provided in this code, and shall be deemed guilty of a separate offense for every day such violation, disobedience, omission, neglect or refusal shall continue. Any person who shall do any work in violation of any of the provisions of this code, and any person having charge of such work who shall permit it to be done, shall be liable for the penalty provided.**

**109.4 It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere with the posting of any notice provided for in this code, or to tear down or mutilate any such notice so posted by the Department of Building Inspection.**

## **PART III – PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS**

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### **SECTION 111.0 – PERMITS**

*111.2 Add the following item:*

**111.2(6) Replacement water heaters of not more than 100 gallons (378.54 liters) capacity are exempt from building permits when a new flue is not installed, but shall require plumbing permits.**

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### **SECTION 112.0 – APPLICATION FOR PERMIT**

*112.1 Replace this section as follows:*

**112.1 Application. Applications for permits to perform regulated mechanical work shall conform to the applicable requirements as set forth in Chapter 1A of the Building Code and Chapter 1, Division II of the Plumbing Code.**

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### **SECTION 113.0 – PERMIT ISSUANCE**

*113.1 Replace this section as follows:*

**113.1 General. Permit processing and issuance for regulated mechanical work shall conform to the applicable requirements as set forth in Chapter 1A of the Building Code and Chapter 1, Division II of the Plumbing Code.**

*113.4 Replace this section as follows:*

**113.4 Permit Expiration. Mechanical permits expire per Section 106A.4.4 of the San Francisco Building Code. Permit fees may be partially refunded if a written cancellation request is made to the Building Official prior to commencement of the permitted work and within 90 days of the date of permit issuance. See Section 110A, Table 1A-R - Refunds - of the Building Code for refunds.**

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### **SECTION 114.0 – FEES**

*114.0.6 Replace this entire section with the following section:*

**114.1 General. Fees for regulated mechanical work shall be as set forth in Chapter 1A of the Building Code and in Chapter 1, Division II of the Plumbing Code.**

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## **CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS**

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*No San Francisco Mechanical Code Amendments*

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## CHAPTER 3 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

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*No San Francisco Mechanical Code Amendments.*

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## CHAPTER 4 VENTILATION AIR SUPPLY

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*No San Francisco Mechanical Code Amendments.*

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## CHAPTER 5 EXHAUST SYSTEMS

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### SECTION 510.0 — EXHAUST DUCT SYSTEMS

510.8 *modify title of this section as follows:*

510.8 Termination of **Type I** Exhaust System

510.9 *add a new section as follows:*

**510.9 Termination of Type II Exhaust System. Exhaust outlets for ducts serving Type II hoods over heat-processing equipment shall terminate at least 10 feet (3048 mm) from adjacent property lines or air intake openings into any building, and shall be located at least 10 feet (3048) above adjoining grade level.**

510.9 *renumber section as follows:*

~~510.9~~ **510.10 Solid-Fuel Duct Systems.**

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## CHAPTER 6 DUCT SYSTEMS

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*No San Francisco Mechanical Code Amendments.*

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## CHAPTER 7 COMBUSTION AIR

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## CHAPTER 8 CHIMNEYS AND VENTS

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### SECTION 802.6 — GAS VENTS

802.6.2 modify the first sentence of this section as follows:

802.6.2 Additional Termination Requirements. As gas vent shall terminate **at least four (4) feet (1219 mm) from a property line, except a public way and** in accordance with one of the following:

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### SECTION 802.8 — THROUGH-THE-WALL VENT TERMINATIONS

802.8.1 modify the first sentence of this section as follows:

802.8.1 Termination. A mechanical draft venting system shall terminate **at least four (4) feet (1219 mm) from a property line, except a public way and** not less than 3 feet (914 mm) above a forced air inlet located within 10 feet (3048 mm).

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## CHAPTER 9 INSTALLATION OF SPECIFIC APPLIANCES

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### SECTION 918.0 – INCINERATORS, COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL

918.1 Add the following sentence as a second paragraph:

**The operation and installation of incinerators shall also comply with the regulations of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.**

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## CHAPTER 10 STEAM AND HOT WATER BOILERS

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### SECTION 1021.0 – INSPECTIONS AND TESTS

1021.1 Revise this section as follows:

1021.1 General

An installation for which a permit is required shall not be put into service until it has been ~~inspected and approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction~~ **certified by a licensed boiler contractor or inspected by an approved insuring company inspector and an operating permit has been issued.**

It shall be the duty of the owner or his authorized representative to notify the Authority Having Jurisdiction that the installation is ~~ready for inspection and test~~ **has been certified or inspected.** It also shall be the duty of the owner or his authorized representative to post in a conspicuous position on the installation a notice in substantially the following form: "Warning! This installation has not been inspected and approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction and shall not be covered or concealed until so inspected and approved," and it shall be unlawful for anyone other than the Authority Having Jurisdiction to remove such notice. The Authority Having Jurisdiction shall require such tests as it deems necessary to determine that the installation ~~is in accordance~~ **complies** with the provision of this section. Such test shall be made by the owner or his authorized representative in the presence of the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

**Exception:** On installations designed and supervised by a registered professional engineer, the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have the authority to permit inspection and testing by such engineer.

~~Where the owner or his authorized representative requests inspection of a boiler prior to its installation, the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall make such inspection.~~

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## **SECTION 1022.0 – OPERATING PERMIT**

*1022.1 Revise this section as follows:*

### **1022.1 General**

It shall be unlawful to operate a boiler or pressure vessel without first obtaining a valid operating permit to do so from the Authority Having Jurisdiction. Such permit shall be displayed in a conspicuous place adjacent to the boiler or **pressure** vessel. The operating permit shall not be issued until the equipment has been ~~inspected and approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction~~ **certified as complying with State of California Building Safety Orders by a licensed boiler contractor, by employees of an approved insuring company holding commissions from the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors or by a registered professional engineer.**

**Exception:** The operation **only** of steam-heating boilers, low-pressure hot-water-heating boilers, hot-water supply boilers, and pressure vessels in Group R Occupancies of less than six ~~dwelling~~ units and in Group U occupancies.

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## **SECTION 1023.0 – MAINTENANCE INSPECTION**

*1023.1 Revise this section as follows:*

**1023.1 General** The Authority Having Jurisdiction shall ~~inspect~~ **require an inspection of** boilers and pressure vessels operated under permit in accordance with ASHRAE/ACCA 180 at such intervals as deemed necessary, but not less frequently than noted below.

*1023.5 Revise the second paragraph as follows:*

Inspection of boilers and pressure vessels **may be made by licensed C-4 Boiler Contractors and, when** covered by insurance shall be permitted to be made by employees of the insuring company holding commissions from the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors, subject to approval of the Authority Having Jurisdiction. Approved insuring company inspectors shall make reports on prescribed forms on inspections authorized by the Authority Having Jurisdiction. The reports shall be filed in the Authority Having Jurisdiction office. Company inspectors shall notify the Authority Having Jurisdiction of suspension of insurance because of dangerous conditions, new insurance in effect, and discontinuance of insurance coverage, **or any unsafe conditions requiring correction.**

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## **CHAPTER 11 REFRIGERATION**

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*No San Francisco Mechanical Code Amendments.*

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## **CHAPTER 12 HYDRONICS**

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*No San Francisco Mechanical Code Amendments.*

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## **CHAPTER 13 FUEL GAS PIPING**

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*No San Francisco Mechanical Code Amendments.*

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## **CHAPTER 14 PROCESS PIPING**

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*No San Francisco Mechanical Code Amendments.*

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## **CHAPTER 15 SOLAR SYSTEMS**

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*No San Francisco Mechanical Code Amendments.*

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## **CHAPTER 16 STATIONARY POWER PLANTS**

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*No San Francisco Mechanical Code Amendments.*

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## **CHAPTER 17 REFERENCED STANDARDS**

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*No San Francisco Mechanical Code Amendments.*



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**APPENDIX B**  
**PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED TO PLACE**  
**GAS EQUIPMENT IN OPERATION**

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*No San Francisco Mechanical Code Amendments.*

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**APPENDIX C**  
**INSTALLATION AND TESTING OF OIL (LIQUID)**  
**FUEL-FIRED EQUIPMENT**

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*No San Francisco Mechanical Code Amendments.*

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**APPENDIX D**  
**UNIT CONVERSION TABLES**

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*No San Francisco Mechanical Code Amendments.*