CHAPTER 13
GENERAL MECHANICAL SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

SECTION M1301
GENERAL

M1301.1 Scope. The provisions of this chapter shall govern the installation of mechanical systems not specifically covered in other chapters applicable to mechanical systems. Installations of mechanical appliances, equipment and systems not addressed by this code shall comply with the applicable provisions of the International Mechanical Code and the International Fuel Gas Code.

M1301.1.1 Flood-resistant installation. In flood hazard areas as established by Table R301.2(1), mechanical appliances, equipment and systems shall be located or installed in accordance with Section R322.1.6.

M1301.2 Identification. Each length of pipe and tubing and each pipe fitting utilized in a mechanical system shall bear the identification of the manufacturer.

M1301.3 Installation of materials. Materials shall be installed in strict accordance with the standards under which the materials are accepted and approved. In the absence of such installation procedures, the manufacturer’s instructions shall be followed. Where the requirements of referenced standards or manufacturer’s instructions do not conform to minimum provisions of this code, the provisions of this code shall apply.

M1301.4 Plastic pipe, fittings and components. Plastic pipe, fittings and components shall be third-party certified as conforming to NSF 14.

M1301.5 Third-party testing and certification. Piping, tubing and fittings shall comply with the applicable referenced standards, specifications and performance criteria of this code and shall be identified in accordance with Section M1301.2. Piping, tubing and fittings shall either be tested by an approved third-party testing agency or certified by an approved third-party certification agency.

SECTION M1302
APPROVAL

M1302.1 Listed and labeled. Appliances regulated by this code shall be listed and labeled for the application in which they are installed and used, unless otherwise approved in accordance with Section R104.11.

SECTION M1303
LABELING OF APPLIANCES

M1303.1 Label information. A permanent factory-applied nameplate(s) shall be affixed to appliances on which shall appear, in legible lettering, the manufacturer’s name or trademark, the model number, a serial number and the seal or mark of the testing agency. A label also shall include the following:

1. Electrical appliances. Electrical rating in volts, amperes and motor phase; identification of individual electrical components in volts, amperes or watts and motor phase; and in Btu/h (W) output and required clearances.

2. Absorption units. Hourly rating in Btu/h (W), minimum hourly rating for units having step or automatic modulating controls, type of fuel, type of refrigerant, cooling capacity in Btu/h (W) and required clearances.

3. Fuel-burning units. Hourly rating in Btu/h (W), type of fuel approved for use with the appliance and required clearances.

4. Electric comfort-heating appliances. The electric rating in volts, amperes and phase; Btu/h (W) output rating; individual marking for each electrical component in amperes or watts, volts and phase; and required clearances from combustibles.

5. Maintenance instructions. Required regular maintenance actions and title or publication number for the operation and maintenance manual for that particular model and type of product.

SECTION M1304
TYPE OF FUEL

M1304.1 Fuel types. Fuel-fired appliances shall be designed for use with the type of fuel to which they will be connected and the altitude at which they are installed. Appliances that comprise parts of the building mechanical system shall not be converted for the use of a different fuel, except where approved and converted in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. The fuel input rate shall not be increased or decreased beyond the limit rating for the altitude at which the appliance is installed.

SECTION M1305
APPLIANCE ACCESS

M1305.1 Appliance access for inspection service, repair and replacement. Appliances shall be accessible for inspection, service, repair and replacement without removing permanent construction, other appliances, or any other piping or ducts not connected to the appliance being inspected, serviced, repaired or replaced. A level working space not less than 30 inches deep and 30 inches wide (762 mm by 762 mm) shall be provided in front of the control side to service an appliance.

M1305.1.1 Furnaces and air handlers. Furnaces and air handlers within compartments or alcoves shall have a minimum working space clearance of 3 inches (76 mm) along the sides, back and top with a total width of the enclosing space being not less than 12 inches (305 mm) wider than the space being not less than 12 inches (305 mm) wider than the
furnace or air handler. Furnaces having a firebox open to
the atmosphere shall have not less than a 6-inch (152 mm)
working space along the front combustion chamber side.
Combustion air openings at the rear or side of the compart-
ment shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 17.

Exception: This section shall not apply to replacement
appliances installed in existing compartments and
alcoves where the working space clearances are in
accordance with the equipment or appliance manufac-
turer’s installation instructions.

M1305.1.2 Appliances in rooms. Appliances installed in
a compartment, alcove, basement or similar space shall be
accessed by an opening or door and an unobstructed pas-
sageway measuring not less than 24 inches (610 mm) wide
and large enough to allow removal of the largest appliance
in the space, provided there is a level service space of not
less than 30 inches (762 mm) deep and the height of the
appliance, but not less than 30 inches (762 mm), at the
front or service side of the appliance with the door open.

M1305.1.3 Appliances in attics. Attics containing appli-
cances shall be provided with an opening and a clear and
unobstructed passageway large enough to allow removal
of the largest appliance, but not less than 30 inches (762
mm) high and 22 inches (559 mm) wide and not more than
20 feet (6096 mm) long measured along the centerline of
the passageway from the opening to the appliance. The
passageway shall have continuous solid flooring in accor-
dance with Chapter 5 not less than 24 inches (610 mm)
wide. A level service space not less than 30 inches (762
mm) deep and 30 inches (762 mm) wide shall be present
along all sides of the appliance where access is required.
The clear access opening dimensions shall be not less than
of 20 inches by 30 inches (508 mm by 762 mm), and large
enough to allow removal of the largest appliance.

Exceptions:
1. The passageway and level service space are not
required where the appliance can be serviced and
removed through the required opening.
2. Where the passageway is unobstructed and not
less than 6 feet (1829 mm) high and 22 inches (559
mm) wide for its entire length, the passageway
shall be not more than 50 feet (15 250 mm) long.

M1305.1.4 Electrical requirements. A luminaire
controlled by a switch located at the required passage-
way opening and a receptacle outlet shall be installed at
or near the appliance location in accordance with
Chapter 39. Exposed lamps shall be protected from
damage by location or lamp guards.

M1306 CLEARANCES FROM
COMBUSTIBLE CONSTRUCTION

M1306.1 Appliance clearance. Appliances shall be installed
with the clearances from unprotected combustible materials
as indicated on the appliance label and in the manufacturer’s
installation instructions.

M1306.2 Clearance reduction. The reduction of required
clearances to combustible assemblies or combustible materi-
als shall be based on Section M1306.2.1 or Section
M1306.2.2.

M1306.2.1 Labeled assemblies. The allowable clearance
shall be based on an approved reduced clearance protec-
tive assembly that is listed and labeled in accordance with
UL 1618.

M1306.2.2 Reduction table. Reduction of clearances shall be
in accordance with the appliance manufacturer’s instruc-
tions and Table M1306.2. Forms of protection with venti-
lated air space shall conform to the following requiremen:
1. Not less than 1-inch (25 mm) air space shall be provided between the protection and combustible wall surface.

2. Air circulation shall be provided by having edges of the wall protection open not less than 1 inch (25 mm).

3. If the wall protection is mounted on a single flat wall away from corners, air circulation shall be provided by having the bottom and top edges, or the side and top edges not less than 1 inch (25 mm).

4. Wall protection covering two walls in a corner shall be open at the bottom and top edges not less than 1 inch (25 mm).

M1306.2.3 Solid-fuel appliances. Table M1306.2 shall not be used to reduce the clearance required for solid-fuel appliances listed for installation with minimum clearances of 12 inches (305 mm) or less. For appliances listed for installation with minimum clearances greater than 12 inches (305 mm), Table M1306.2 shall not be used to reduce the clearance to less than 12 inches (305 mm).

SECTION M1307
APPLIANCE INSTALLATION

M1307.1 General. Installation of appliances shall conform to the conditions of their listing and label and the manufacturer’s instructions. The manufacturer’s operating and installation instructions shall remain attached to the appliance.

W] M1307.2 Anchorage of appliances. Appliances designed to be fixed in position shall be fastened or anchored in an approved manner. ([In Seismic Design Categories D0, D1 and D2, and in townhouses in Seismic Design Category C, water heaters and 4) Thermal storage units shall be anchored or strapped to resist horizontal displacement caused by earthquake motion in accordance with one of the following:

1. Anchorage and strapping shall be designed to resist a horizontal force equal to one-third of the operating weight of the water (heater) storage tank, acting in any horizontal direction. ([Strapping shall be at points within the upper one-third and lower one-third of the appliance’s vertical dimensions. At the lower point, the strapping shall maintain a minimum distance of 4 inches (102 mm) above the controls.)]

2. The anchorage strapping shall be in accordance with the appliance manufacturer’s recommendations.

Seismic anchorage and strapping of water heaters shall be in accordance with Section 507.2 of the Uniform Plumbing Code.

M1307.3 Elevation of ignition source. Appliances having an ignition source shall be elevated such that the source of ignition is not less than 18 inches (457 mm) above the floor in garages. For the purpose of this section, rooms or spaces that are not part of the living space of a dwelling unit and that communicate with a private garage through openings shall be considered to be part of the garage.

Exception: Elevation of the ignition source is not required for appliances that are listed as flammable-vapor-ignition resistant.

M1307.3.1 Protection from impact. Appliances shall not be installed in a location subject to vehicle damage except where protected by approved barriers.

M1307.4 Hydrogen generating and refueling operations. Ventilation shall be required in accordance with Section M1307.4.1, M1307.4.2 or M1307.4.3 in private garages that contain hydrogen-generating appliances or refueling systems. For the purpose of this section, rooms or spaces that are not part of the living space of a dwelling unit and that communicate directly with a private garage through openings shall be considered to be part of the private garage.

M1307.4.1 Natural ventilation. Indoor locations intended for hydrogen-generating or refueling operations shall be limited to a maximum floor area of 850 square feet (79 m²) and shall communicate with the outdoors in accordance with Sections M1307.4.1.1 and M1307.4.1.2. The maximum rated output capacity of hydrogen-generating or refueling appliances shall not exceed 4 standard cubic feet per minute (1.9 L/s) of hydrogen for each 250 square feet (23 m²) of floor area in such spaces. The minimum cross-sectional dimension of air openings shall be 3 inches (76 mm). Where ducts are used, they shall be of the same cross-sectional area as the free area of the openings to which they connect. In those locations, equipment and appliances having an ignition source shall be located so that the source of ignition is not within 12 inches (305 mm) of the ceiling.

M1307.4.1.1 Two openings. Two permanent openings shall be constructed within the garage. The upper opening shall be located entirely within 12 inches (305 mm) of the ceiling of the garage. The lower opening shall be located entirely within 12 inches (305 mm) of the floor of the garage. Both openings shall be constructed in the same exterior wall. The openings shall communicate directly with the outdoors and shall have a minimum free area of 1/3 square foot per 1,000 cubic feet (1.7 m²/1000 m³) of garage volume.

M1307.4.1.2 Louvers and grilles. In calculating free area required by Section M1307.4.1, the required size of openings shall be based on the net free area of each opening. If the free area through a design of louver or grille is known, it shall be used in calculating the size opening required to provide the free area specified. If the design and free area are not known, it shall be assumed that wood louvers will have a 25-percent free area and metal louvers and grilles will have a 75-percent free area. Louvers and grilles shall be fixed in the open position.

M1307.4.2 Mechanical ventilation. Indoor locations intended for hydrogen-generating or refueling operations shall be ventilated in accordance with Section 502.16 of the International Mechanical Code. In these locations, equipment and appliances having an ignition source shall be located so that the source of ignition is below the mechanical ventilation outlet(s).
TABLE M1306.2
REDUCTION OF CLEARANCES WITH SPECIFIED FORMS OF PROTECTION

| TYPE OF PROTECTION APPLIED TO AND COVERING ALL SURFACES OF COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL WITHIN THE DISTANCE SPECIFIED AS THE REQUIRED CLEARANCE WITHOUT PROTECTION FROM APPLIANCE, VENT CONNECTOR, OR SINGLE WALL METAL PIPE (See Figures M1306.1 and M1306.2) | WHERE THE REQUIRED CLEARANCE WITHOUT PROTECTION FROM APPLIANCE, VENT CONNECTOR, OR SINGLE WALL METAL PIPE IS: |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | 36 inches | 18 inches | 12 inches | 9 inches | 6 inches | Allowable clearances with specified protection (Inches) |
| | Above column 1 | Sides and rear column 2 | Above column 1 | Sides and rear column 2 | Above column 1 | Sides and rear column 2 | Above column 1 | Sides and rear column 2 |
| 3 1/2-inch-thick masonry wall without ventilated air space | — | 24 | — | 12 | — | 9 | — | 6 | — | 5 |
| 1/2-inch insulation board over 1-inch glass fiber or mineral wool batts | 24 | 18 | 12 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| Galvanized sheet steel having a minimum thickness of 0.0236-inch (No. 24 gage) over 1-inch glass fiber or mineral wool batts reinforced with wire or rear face with a ventilated air space | 18 | 12 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 3 1/2-inch-thick masonry wall with ventilated air space | — | 12 | — | 6 | — | 6 | — | 6 | — | 6 |
| Galvanized sheet steel having a minimum thickness of 0.0236-inch (No. 24 gage) with a ventilated air space 1-inch off the combustible assembly | 18 | 12 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| 1/2-inch-thick insulation board with ventilated air space | 18 | 12 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Galvanized sheet steel having a minimum thickness of 0.0236-inch (No. 24 gage) with ventilated air space over 24 gage sheet steel with a ventilated space | 18 | 12 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 1-inch glass fiber or mineral wool batts sandwiched between two sheets of galvanized sheet steel having a minimum thickness of 0.0236-inch (No. 24 gage) with a ventilated air space | 18 | 12 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 pound per cubic foot = 16.019 kg/m³, °C = ([°F]-32)/1.8, 1 Btu/h × ft² × °F/in. = 0.001442299 (W/cm² × °C/cm).

a. Reduction of clearances from combustible materials shall not interfere with combustion air, draft hood clearance and relief, and accessibility of servicing.
b. Clearances shall be measured from the surface of the heat producing appliance or equipment to the outer surface of the combustible material or combustible assembly.
c. Spacers and ties shall be of noncombustible material. Spacers and ties shall not be used directly opposite appliance or connector.
d. Where all clearance reduction systems use a ventilated air space, adequate provision for air circulation shall be provided as described. (See Figures M1306.1 and M1306.2.)
e. There shall be not less than 1 inch between clearance reduction systems and combustible walls and ceilings for reduction systems using ventilated air space.
f. If a wall protector is mounted on a single flat wall away from corners, adequate air circulation shall be permitted to be provided by leaving only the bottom and top edges or only the side and top edges open with not less than a 1-inch air gap.
g. Mineral wool and glass fiber batts (blanket or board) shall have a minimum density of 8 pounds per cubic foot and a minimum melting point of 1,500°F.
h. Insulation material used as part of a clearance reduction system shall have a thermal conductivity of 1.0 Btu inch per square foot per hour °F or less. Insulation board shall be formed of noncombustible material.
i. There shall be not less than 1 inch between the appliance and the protector. The clearance between the appliance and the combustible surface shall not be reduced below that allowed in this table.
j. All clearances and thicknesses are minimum; larger clearances and thicknesses are acceptable.
k. Listed single-wall connectors shall be permitted to be installed in accordance with the terms of their listing and the manufacturer’s instructions.
l. For limitations on clearance reduction for solid-fuel-burning appliances see Section M1306.2.3.
Note: “A” equals the required clearance with no protection. “B” equals the reduced clearance permitted in accordance with Table M1306.2. The protection applied to the construction using combustible material shall extend far enough in each direction to make “C” equal to “A.”

**FIGURE M1306.1**
REDUCED CLEARANCE DIAGRAM

**FIGURE M1306.2**
WALL PROTECTOR CLEARANCE REDUCTION SYSTEM

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.
M1307.4.3 Specially engineered installations. As an alternative to the provisions of Sections M1307.4.1 and M1307.4.2, the necessary supply of air for ventilation and dilution of flammable gases shall be provided by an approved engineered system.

M1307.5 Electrical appliances. Electrical appliances shall be installed in accordance with Chapters 14, 15, 19, 20 and 34 through 43 of this code.

M1307.6 Plumbing connections. Potable water and drainage system connections to equipment and appliances regulated by this code shall be in accordance with Chapters 29 and 30.

SECTION M1308
MECHANICAL SYSTEMS INSTALLATION

M1308.1 Drilling and notching. Wood-framed structural members shall be drilled, notched or altered in accordance with the provisions of Sections R502.8, R602.6, R602.6.1 and R802.7. Holes in load-bearing members of cold-formed steel light-frame construction shall be permitted only in accordance with Sections R505.2.6, R603.2.6 and R804.2.6. In accordance with the provisions of Sections R505.3.5, R603.3.4 and R804.3.3, cutting and notching of flanges and lips of load-bearing members of cold-formed steel light frame construction shall not be permitted. Structural insulated panels (SIPs) shall be drilled and notched or altered in accordance with the provisions of Section R610.7.

M1308.2 Protection against physical damage. Where piping will be concealed within light-frame construction assemblies, the piping shall be protected against penetration by fasteners in accordance with Sections M1308.2.1 through M1308.2.3.

Exception: Cast iron piping and galvanized steel piping shall not be required to be protected.

M1308.2.1 Piping through bored holes or notches. Where piping is installed through holes or notches in framing members and is located less than 1 1/2 inches (38 mm) from the framing member face to which wall, ceiling or floor membranes will be attached, the pipe shall be protected by shield plates that cover the width of the pipe and the framing member and that extend 2 inches (51 mm) to each side of the framing member. Where the framing member that the piping passes through is a bottom plate, bottom track, top plate or top track, the shield plates shall cover the framing member and extend 2 inches (51 mm) above the bottom framing member and 2 inches (51 mm) below the top framing member.

M1308.2.2 Piping in other locations. Where piping is located within a framing member and is less than 1 1/2 inches (38 mm) from the framing member face to which wall, ceiling or floor membranes will be attached, the piping shall be protected by shield plates that cover the width and length of the piping. Where piping is located outside of a framing member and is located less than 1 1/2 inches (38 mm) from the nearest edge of the face of the framing member to which the membrane will be attached, the piping shall be protected by shield plates that cover the width and length of the piping.

M1308.2.3 Shield plates. Shield plates shall be of steel material having a thickness of not less than 0.0575 inch (1.463 mm) (No. 16 gage).