

## CODES UPDATE



Excerpted from *Significant Changes to the 2006 International Plumbing Code, 2006 International Mechanical Code and 2006 International Fuel Gas Code*. The Significant Changes series of books have been developed by the International Code Council and published by Thomson-Delmar Learning to accommodate the transition from the 2003 editions of the International Codes to the 2006 editions. To purchase books in the series, visit the Code Council website at [www.iccsafe.org/e/category.html](http://www.iccsafe.org/e/category.html).

### International Fuel Gas Code

**SUBJECT:** Venting of Regulators

**CHANGE TYPE:** Addition

**410.3 Venting of Regulators.** Pressure regulators that require a vent shall have an independent vent to the outside of the building be vented directly to the outdoors. The vent shall be designed to prevent the entry of insects, water or and foreign objects.

**Exception:** A vent to the outside of the building outdoors is not required for regulators equipped with and labeled for utilization with an approved vent-limiting devices installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

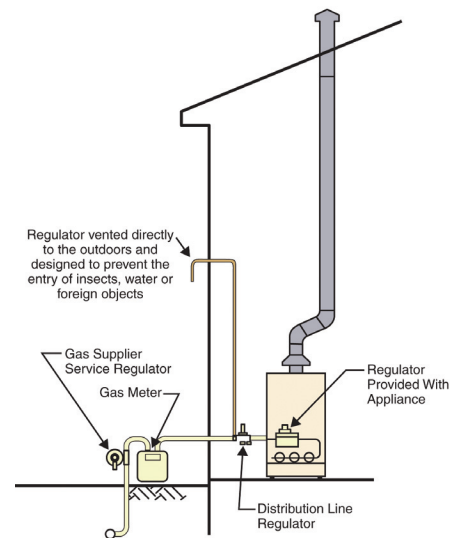
**410.3.1 Vent Piping.** Vent piping shall be not smaller than the vent connection on the pressure regulating device. Vent piping serving relief vents and combination relief and breather vents shall be run independently to the outdoors and shall serve only a single device vent. Vent piping serving only breather vents is permitted to be connected in a manifold arrangement where sized in accordance with an approved design that minimizes back pressure in the event of diaphragm rupture.

#### Section 202 General Definitions

##### VENT PIPING

**Breather.** Piping run from a pressure regulating device to the outdoors, designed to provide a reference to atmospheric pressure. If the device incorporates an integral pressure relief mechanism, a breather vent can also serve as a relief vent.

**Relief.** Piping run from a pressure-regulating or pressure-limiting device to the outdoors, designed to provide for the safe venting of gas in the event of excessive pressure in the gas piping system.



**CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE:** Venting provisions for pressure regulators have been clarified to require that the regulator be vented directly to the outdoors. A new requirement has been added to prevent the vent from being blocked by the entry of insects at the vent termination.

The new section requires that the vent not be reduced to a smaller diameter than the vent connection on the regulator. It also clarifies the circumstances allowing a manifold arrangement of vents. Relief vents, which provide for venting of gas in the event of excessive pressure, are not allowed to be grouped in a manifold. Each vent line of a relief vent must be sized individually for the full release of gas. Breather vents for pressure regulators, designed only to connect to the outside atmosphere as a reference, may be arranged in a manifold provided the vent piping is sized in accordance with engineering principles and the design is approved by the code official. The breather vent piping design must provide for the full release of gas should the diaphragm of one of the pressure regulator devices fail. The new definitions for breather and relief vent piping are important to understanding the terminology used in the new Section 410.3.1.