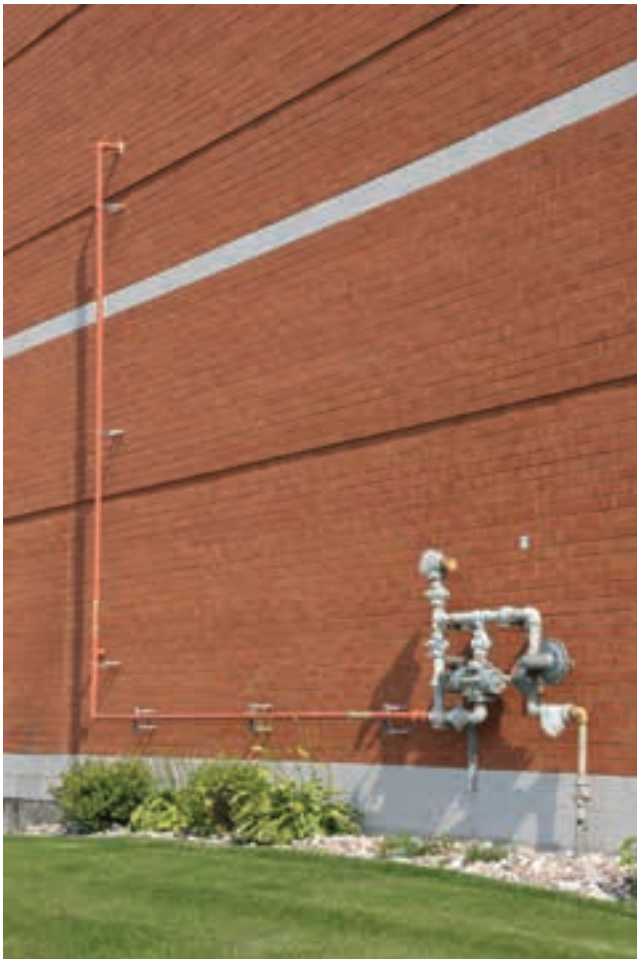


CHANGE TYPE: Addition

CHANGE SUMMARY: The code now specifically prohibits the practice of using fuel gas as a medium for flushing foreign matter and debris from fuel-supply piping.

2015 CODE: 404.18 Pipe Cleaning. The use of a flammable or combustible gas to clean or remove debris from a piping system shall be prohibited.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: Recent accidents resulting in explosions, injuries and property damage have been attributed to a procedure where new gas piping systems have been flushed with high-pressure fuel gas for the purpose of pushing contaminants, debris, welding slag and tools from the piping. Even under very well supervised conditions, this procedure has significant risks. Alternatives include using nonflammable gases and/or mechanical devices (pigs) that are pulled through the piping, creating a sweeping effect. It was determined that using flammable gases for this purpose is inherently unsafe and therefore should be prohibited. Section 406.7 has been rewritten to mitigate the related hazards associated with the purging of gases from fuel gas piping.



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The use of a flammable or combustible gas to clean or remove debris from a gas piping system is prohibited.

404.18 Pipe Cleaning

This excerpt is taken from *Significant Changes to the International Plumbing/Mechanical/Fuel Gas Codes, 2015 Edition.*



Significant Changes publications take you directly to the most important changes that impact projects. Key changes are identified then followed by in-depth discussion of how the change affects real-world application. Photos, tables and illustrations are included to further clarify application. Available for the IBC, IRC, IFC and IPC/IMC/IFGC, the Significant Changes publications are very useful training and review tools for transitioning to a new code edition.