

Policy/ Procedure Memo

March 29, 2018 (revised)

TO: Affected Parties

FROM: Jay Salazar, Building Official, Community Development Department

RE: Clarification of 2016 California Mechanical Code Section 1311.8, 2016 California Plumbing Code Section 1210.2 and 1212.8, Drips and Sediment Traps

Clarification:

The 2016 Mechanical Code Section 1311.8 requires Drip and Sediment Traps. Drip Traps are required for other than Dry Gas conditions. P G and E has not provided notice to the City that Vacaville is in a wet gas delivery service area and the P G and E website does not provide explicit information as to wet or dry gas delivery conditions. And finally, over the past 25 years the City has not received any reports of gas line dilapidation or inadequate performance related to wet gas conditions. Consequently, gas product delivery in Vacaville is considered to be dry gas. This means that Drip Traps are not required in Vacaville in single family dwelling unit with natural gas service provided by P G and E.

In Vacaville, Sediment Traps, not Drip Traps, are required for all gas line alterations associated with new equipment as specified in section 1313.7 of the 2016 Mechanical Code and Section 1212.8 of the 2016 California Plumbing Code. Sediment Traps have three State regulatory installation requirements.

The 2015 UPC Illustrated Training Manual Section 1212.8 commentary refers the reader to Section 1210.8.2. The 1212.8 commentary states that the design of a sediment trap was discussed in Section 1210.8.2. Section 1210.8.2 commentary states that sediment traps are identical to drip traps and are to be installed according to UPC Section 1212.8.

Section 1212.8, Sediment Trap, states:
Shall be installed

- Downstream of the appliance shutoff valve.
- As close to the inlet of the appliance as practical.
- Before the flex connector.

The three requirements stated above are the only "State Code" installation requirements of sediment traps. The reference to Figure 1212.8, in Section 1212.8, specifically illustrates the requirement for a capped nipple in the bottom outlet and nothing more. Figure 1212.8 or the specific wording in section 1212.8 is not creating a CCR 24 part 5 requirement that gas flow be from the top down. The only wording regarding the direction of gas flow is found in the commentary of Section 1210.8 for Drip Traps. Drip Traps, not Sediment Traps have a top down gas flow requirement.

Section 1210.8 commentary states specifically that Drip Traps, no mention of sediment traps, are to be installed at the bottom of a down-ward flowing line. But that commentary or section is not referenced by section 1210.8.2, Sediment Traps, or by the commentary of either section 1210.8.2 or 1212.8.

Authority Cited: VMC 14.20.250.030.