

Compliance Document for New Zealand Building Code Clause G11 Gas as an Energy Source

Prepared by the Department of Building and Housing

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ISBN 0-477-01606-5

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Users should make themselves familiar with the preface to the New Zealand Building Code Handbook, which describes the status of Compliance Documents and explains alternative methods of achieving compliance.

Defined words (italicised in the text) and classified uses are explained in Clauses A1 of the Building Code and in the Definitions at the start of this Compliance Document.

G11: Document History			
	Date	Alterations	
First published	July 1992		
Amendment 1	September 1993	p. vi, References	
Reprinted incorporating Amendment 1	October 1994		
Amendment 2	28 February 1998	pp. i and ii, Document History p. vi, References p. 3, 1.2.2	p. 4, 5.0.1 p. 5, 9.0.1
Note: Page numbers relate to the document at the time of Amendment and may not match page numbers in current document.			

Document Status

The most recent version of this document, as detailed in the Document History, is approved by the Chief Executive of the Department of Building and Housing. It is effective from 28 February 1998 and supersedes all previous versions of this document.

People using this Compliance Document should check for amendments on a regular basis. The Department of Building and Housing may amend any part of any Compliance Document at any time. Up-to-date versions of Compliance Documents are available from www.dbh.govt.nz

New Zealand Building Code

Clause G11 Gas as an Energy Source

This Clause is extracted from the New Zealand Building Code contained in the First Schedule of the Building Regulations 1992.

70	<i>Building Regulations 1992</i>	1992/150
FIRST SCHEDULE—continued		
Clause G11—GAS AS AN ENERGY SOURCE		
Provisions	Limits on application	
OBJECTIVE		
G11.1 The objective of this provision is to:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Safeguard people from injury arising from the use of gas as an energy source, (b) Safeguard people and <i>other property</i> from the risk of <i>fire</i> or explosion, and (c) Safeguard people from loss of <i>amenity</i> due to the gas supply being inadequate for the <i>intended use</i>. 		
FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENT		
G11.2 <i>In buildings</i> where gas is used as an energy source, the supply system shall be safe and <i>adequate</i> for its <i>intended use</i> .		
PERFORMANCE		
G11.3.1 Supply systems shall be constructed to maintain a safe pressure range appropriate to the appliances and the type of gas used.		
G11.3.2 The gas supply to all appliances in a single ventilated space, shall be fitted with an automatic cut-off activated by failure of any continuous forced ventilation system used for combustion, ventilation or safe operation of a fixed gas appliance.		
G11.3.3 A flued fixed gas appliance shall have no adverse interaction with any other flued appliance.		
G11.3.4 Supply systems shall have isolation devices which permit the whole installation, or individual items of apparatus, to be isolated from the supply for maintenance, testing, fault detection or repair.		

1992/150

Building Regulations 1992

71

FIRST SCHEDULE—*continued*

Provisions	Limits on application
<p>G11.3.5 Where gas is supplied from an external source, the supply system within <i>buildings</i> shall be constructed to avoid the likelihood of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Contamination of the external supply from other gas sources within the <i>building</i>, (b) Adverse effects on the pressure of the external supply, and (c) The external supply pipe acting as an earthing conductor. <p>G11.3.6 The location and installation of meters and service risers shall meet the requirements of the <i>network utility operator</i>.</p>	

Contents

	Page
References	7
Definitions	9
Verification Method G11/VM1	11
Acceptable Solution G11/AS1	13
1.0 Pipe Sizing	13
1.1 Pressure ranges	13
1.2 Pressures less than 1.5 kPa	13
1.3 Pressures above 1.5 kPa	13
1.4 Flow velocities	13
2.0 Pressure Regulation	13
2.1 Regulators	13
3.0 Over-pressure Protection	13
3.1 Safety devices	13
4.0 Pipework Installation	14
5.0 Flues	14
5.1 Flue materials	14
5.2 Safety devices	14
5.3 Fire dampers	14
6.0 Automatic Extinguishers	14
7.0 Protection of Supply	14
7.1 Gas contamination	14
7.2 Low pressure	14
8.0 Gas Meter Location	15
9.0 Alternative Solution	15
Index	17

References

Amend 1
Sep 1993

For the purposes of New Zealand Building Code compliance, acceptable reference documents include only the quoted edition and specific amendments as listed below.

Standards New Zealand

NZS 5261: 1996 The installation of gas burning appliances and equipment

Miscellaneous Publication

Gas Service Technology Volume 1 –
Benn Technical Books

Where quoted

AS1 1.2.2, 5.0.1, 9.0.1

AS1 1.3.1

Amend 2
Feb 1998

Definitions

This is an abbreviated list of definitions for words or terms particularly relevant to this Approved Document. The definitions for any other italicised words may be found in the New Zealand Building Code Handbook.

Adequate *Adequate* to achieve the objectives of the *building code*.

Building has the meaning ascribed to it by the Building Act 1991.

Contaminant has the meaning ascribed to it by the Resource Management Act 1991.

Flame safeguard system A system consisting of a flame detector(s) plus associated circuitry, integral components, valves and interlocks the function of which is to shut off the fuel supply to the burner(s) in the event of ignition failure or flame failure.

Flue The passage through which the products of combustion are conveyed to the outside air.

Intended use of a *building* includes:

- a) Any reasonably foreseeable occasional other use that is not incompatible with the *intended use*; and
- b) Normal maintenance; and
- c) Activities taken in response to *fire* or any other reasonably foreseeable emergency – but does not include any other maintenance and repairs or rebuilding.

Lock-out The safety shut down condition of the control system such that re-start cannot be accomplished without manual resetting.

Over-pressure protection Devices preventing the pressure in piping or appliances from exceeding a predetermined value.

Regulator A device which automatically regulates the pressure or volume of the gas passing through it to a predetermined level.

Town gas A manufactured gas.

Verification Method G11/VM1

No specific test methods have been adopted for verifying compliance with the Performance of NZBC G11.

Acceptable Solution G11/AS1

This Approved Document relates essentially to gas appliances. It should be read in conjunction with G10/AS1, which deals with piping reticulation.

1.0 Pipe Sizing

1.1 Pressure ranges

1.1.1 Pipes shall be sized to maintain the pressure at any appliance inlet, when all appliances are in use, at no less than:

- 0.75 kPa for *town gas*,
- 1.13 kPa for natural gas, or
- 2.75 kPa for LPG.

1.2 Pressures less than 1.5 kPa

1.2.1 Where the meter outlet pressure does not exceed 1.5 kPa, and when all appliances on the supply are operating, the pressure drop between the meter outlet (or *regulator* outlet if no meter is installed), and any appliance, shall be no more than 0.075 kPa for either *town gas* or natural gas.

1.2.2 Acceptable methods for sizing pipes are given in NZS 5261, section 206 and Appendix C.

Amend 2
Feb 1998

1.3 Pressures above 1.5 kPa

1.3.1 Acceptable methods for sizing pipes required to operate at pressures above 1.5 kPa are given in the formulae and tables of Gas Service Technology Volume 1.

1.4 Flow velocities

1.4.1 Flow velocities shall be no more than:

- a) 45 metres per second for supplies filtered to give a 5 micron maximum particle size.
- b) 20 metres per second for unfiltered supplies.

COMMENT:

The lower flow velocity for unfiltered supplies is necessary to protect the *regulator* from abrasive wear by any impurities.

2.0 Pressure Regulation

2.1 Regulators

2.1.1 *Regulators* shall be fitted to the supply pipe when:

- a) Any appliance in the *building* is not fitted with its own *regulator*, and the supply pressure can exceed:
 - 1.5 kPa for *town gas* and natural gas, or
 - 3.5 kPa for LPG.
- b) Appliance *regulators* are fitted to all appliances but the supply pressure may exceed the maximum rated inlet pressure of any appliance *regulator*.

3.0 Over-pressure Protection

3.1 Safety devices

3.1.1 *Over-pressure protection* shall be fitted if an appliance *regulator* inlet pressure exceeds 7 kPa or where:

- a) The *regulator* inlet pressure exceeds the pressure rating of downstream equipment, or
- b) The *regulator* outlet pressure is less than 70% of the inlet pressure.

3.1.2 The *over-pressure protection* device shall limit the pressure downstream of the *regulator* to:

- a) No greater than the rated working pressure of the downstream equipment, and
- b) No greater than 35% above the normal operating pressure.

4.0 Pipework Installation

4.0.1 G10/AS1 Piped Services is an acceptable solution for the installation of pipework to supply gas as an energy source.

5.0 Flues

5.1 Flue materials

5.0.1 Materials for *flues* shall comply with NZS 5261, clause 207.3.

5.2 Safety devices

5.2.1 Where flueing is dependent on the operation of an extractor fan:

- a) A safety device shall be fitted to prevent the flow of gas to the burner if insufficient draught is provided, and
- b) Appliances connected to the *flue* shall be fitted with a safety shut-off system.

5.3 Fire dampers

5.3.1 Automatic fire dampers fitted to combustion air ducts shall be interlocked with the gas supply to the appliance, in a way that shuts off that supply when the damper is closed.

6.0 Automatic Extinguishers

6.0.1 Appliances installed beneath automatic fire extinguishers that could, when operating, extinguish the appliance flame, shall be provided with:

- a) A 100% shut-off *flame safeguard system*, or
- b) Systems which shut-off and *lock-out* the gas supply system when the automatic extinguisher operates.

7.0 Protection of Supply

7.1 Gas contamination

7.1.1 One of the following types of protective device shall be fitted to prevent air, oxygen or other gases from entering the gas supply systems:

- a) Non-return valves.
- b) Three-way valves that completely close one side before opening the other.
- c) Reverse flow detectors that control positive shut-off valves.
- d) Normally closed air-activated positive shut-off pressure *regulators* (e.g. zero *regulator*).
- e) A *flame safeguard system*.

7.1.2 Protective devices shall be installed as close as possible to the point at which *contaminants* could be introduced.

7.1.3 Gas and air combustion mixers incorporating double diaphragm zero *regulators* require no further protection against gas contamination unless directly connected to air, oxygen or other standby gases which operate at pressures above 7 kPa.

7.2 Low pressure

7.2.1 Protection against dangerously low pressures generated at the meter by the operation of equipment, such as gas compressors or gas engines shall be achieved by the installation of a suitable *lock-out* protective device between the meter and the equipment.

7.2.2 Mechanically or electrically operated diaphragm low pressure shut-off valves with a manual reset are acceptable.

Amend 2
Feb 1998

8.0 Gas Meter Location

8.0.1 Gas meters shall not be located in:

- a) A liftwell or lift machine room,
- b) A space containing electrical switch gear,
- c) Vertical *safe path* or riser ducts, or
- d) A position that obstructs *escape routes* in the event of an emergency. (See NZBC C2 for other *escape routes* requirements.)

9.0 Alternative Solution

9.0.1 NZS 5261: Part 2 is an acceptable alternative solution to Paragraphs 1.0 to 8.0, but may exceed the performance criteria of NZBC G11.

Amend 2
Feb 1998

Index G11/VM1 & AS1

All references to Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions are preceded by **VM** or **AS** respectively.

Alternative solution	AS1 9.0
Automatic extinguishers	AS1 6.0
Flues	AS1 5.0
fire dampers	AS1 5.3
materials	AS1 5.1
safety devices	AS1 8.0
Gas meter location	AS1 8.0
Over-pressure protection	AS1 3.0
Pipe sizing	AS1 1.0
pressure ranges	AS1 1.1
flow velocities	AS1 1.4
pressures above 1.5 kPa	AS1 1.3
pressures below 1.5 kPa	AS1 1.2
Pipework installation	AS1 4.0
Pressure regulators	AS1 2.0, 2.1
Protection of supply	AS1 7.1
gas contamination	AS1 7.1
low pressures	AS1 7.2