



Significant Changes In 2013 California Codes Mechanical Code

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The 2013 California Building Standards went into effect on January 1, 2014.

303.8.1- LPG appliances shall not be installed in a pit or basement [HCD]

304.2.1.2- Access to Equipment - Permanent Ladders, side railings 30" above roof, max 18' landings, width min 14", rungs max 14", toe space min 6". Note: requirements may differ from OSHA and building code.

308.1- Protection Against Damage - reintroduced protection requirements for gas appliances in garage, warehouse, etc., 18" above floor unless flammable vapor ignition resistant, install equipment behind barriers, elevated, or located out of the normal path of vehicles.

312.5- Point of Discharge Condensation Waste (new section) - air conditioning condensation waste pipes shall connect indirectly to the drainage system through an airgap or air break to properly trapped and vented receptors, dry well, leach pit, or the tailpiece of plumbing fixtures.

317.1- Balancing - HVAC systems shall be balanced per AABC National Standard for Total System Balance, ACCA Manual B, ASHRAE 111, NEBB Procedural Standards for Testing, Adjusting, Balancing of Environmental Systems, or SMACNA HVAC Systems Testing, Adjusting, and Balancing.

511.1.3- Exhaust Fans for commercial kitchen - exhaust systems, clarify that flexible duct connectors are permitted only outside the building.

CA 601.2 ex 1- Duct sizing calculations are not required for existing duct systems [HCD]

CA 605.8- Smoke Dampers - the HVAC system shall shut down upon activation of the smoke dampers 802.6.2, 802.16, 803.1.19, 803.2.19, 902.5.1, 902.6, 903.5, and all Chapter 13 changes are to correlate with NFPA 54 and the UPC, no new requirements.

CA 924.1- Unvented Room Heaters - unvented room heaters shall not be installed in bathrooms or bedrooms, applies to Group S & Group U and regulated by the Fire code. [HCD]

1106.14- Refrigerant Port Protection – air conditioning refrigerant circuits access ports located outdoors require locking-type tamper-resistant caps.

1107.4- Refrigerant Vapor Alarms - visual and audible alarms required at each refrigeration machinery room exit.

1109.4- Refrigeration Machinery Rooms - break glass emergency switch required outside refrigeration machinery room principal exit.

1316.9- Gas Pressure Testing – The inspection shall include an air, CO₂, or nitrogen pressure test, at which time the gas piping shall stand a pressure of not less than 10 psi gauge pressure. Test pressure shall be held for a length of time satisfactory to the Authority having jurisdiction but in no case less than 15 minutes with no perceptible drop in pressure.