

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS- Administrative Office
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May 31, 1988

INFORMATION BULLETIN MH 88-04

TO: MANUFACTURED HOME AND MOBILEHOME DEALERS
LOCAL BUILDING OFFICIALS
INDUSTRY/CONSUMER ASSOCIATIONS
DIVISION STAFF

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT FUEL GAS BURNING WATER HEATERS FOR
MANUFACTURED HOMES AND MOBILEHOMES

Last years legislation added Section 18031.7 to the California Health and Safety Code and became effective January 1, 1988. This new law permits replacement of a manufactured home's or mobilehome's fuel gas burning water heater with a water heater used in conventional homes.

Prior to this law change all fuel gas burning appliances, including water heaters installed in manufactured homes or mobilehomes were required to bear a label to indicate that the appliance had been tested and approved for installation in a manufactured home or mobilehome. No distinction was ever made between original and replacement installations.

The new California Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 18031.7 states:

"(a) Nothing in this part shall prohibit the replacement of water heaters in manufactured homes or mobilehomes with fuel gas burning water heaters not specifically listed for use in a manufactured home or mobilehome or from having hot water supplied from an approved source within the manufactured home or mobilehome, or in the garage, in accordance with this part or Part 2.1 (commencing with Section 18200).

(b) Replacement fuel gas burning water heaters shall be listed for residential use and installed within the specifications of that listing to include tiedown or bracing to prevent overturning.

(c) Replacement fuel gas burning water heaters installed in accordance with subdivision (b) shall bear a label permanently affixed in a visible location adjacent to the fuel gas inlet which reads, as applicable:

WARNING

This appliance is approved only for use with natural gas (NG).

OR

WARNING

This appliance is approved only for use with liquified petroleum gas (LPG).

Lettering on the label shall be black on a red background and not less than 1/4 inch in height except for the word "WARNING" which shall be not less than 1/2 inch in height."

The installation of a fuel gas burning water heater typically used in conventional homes, in a manufactured home or mobilehome bearing or required to bear department insignia or Federal HUD label, constitutes an alteration to the home's fuel gas system. Such installation is subject to the department's alteration and inspection requirements pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 18029 which states:

"It is unlawful for any person to alter or convert, or cause to be altered or converted, the structural, fire safety, plumbing, heat-producing, or electrical systems and installations or equipment of a manufactured home, mobilehome, recreational vehicle, special purpose commercial coach, or commercial coach which bears a department insignia of approval or federal label when the manufactured home, mobilehome, recreational vehicle, special purpose commercial coach, or commercial coach is used, occupied, sold, or offered for sale within this state, unless performance is in compliance with regulations adopted by the department. The department may adopt regulations providing requirements for alterations and conversions."

May 31, 1988

The regulations pertaining to alteration requirements are found in the California Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapter 3, Subchapter 2. Section 4040 of these regulations requires application be made to this department and approval received for the alteration before replacing the fuel gas burning water heater.

In order to comply with the aforementioned laws and regulations, application for the proposed alteration must be made on department provided forms accompanied by a \$5.00 alteration fee and \$39.00 inspection fee.

As a convenience to the public, the warning label required by HSC Section 18031.7, will be provided to the applicant for affixing to replacement water heater. Department inspection will assure that installation including proper clearances, fuel gas piping, venting of combustion products, and combustion air are provided as required.

If there are any questions regarding this issue, please contact our Manufactured Housing Program Office at (916) 445-3338, or either of our Area Offices; Santa Ana at (714) 558-4161 or Sacramento at (916) 445-0135 for further information or permit requirements.


for Robert T. Older
Chief

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