

7.2.8 CSST. CSST piping systems shall be installed in accordance with this code and the manufacturer's installation instructions.

7.3 Concealed Piping in Buildings.

7.3.1 General. Gas piping in concealed locations shall be installed in accordance with this section.

7.3.2 Connections. Where gas piping is to be concealed, unions, tubing fittings, right and left couplings, bushings, swing joints, and compression couplings made by combinations of fittings shall not be used. Connections shall be of the following type:

- (1) Pipe fittings such as elbows, tees, and couplings
- (2) Joining tubing by brazing (*see* 5.6.8.2)
- (3) Fittings listed for use in concealed spaces that have been demonstrated to sustain, without leakage, any forces due to temperature expansion or contraction, vibration, or fatigue based on their geographic location, application, or operation
- (4) Where necessary to insert fittings in gas pipe that has been installed in a concealed location, the pipe shall be reconnected by welding, flanges, or the use of a ground joint union with the nut center-punched to prevent loosening by vibration

7.3.3 Piping in Partitions. Concealed gas piping shall not be located in solid partitions.

7.3.4 Tubing in Partitions. This provision shall not apply to tubing that pierces walls, floors, or partitions. Tubing installed vertically and horizontally inside hollow walls or partitions without protection along its entire concealed length shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) A steel striker barrier not less than 0.0508 in. (1.3 mm) thick, or equivalent, is installed between the tubing and the finished wall and extends at least 4 in. (100 mm) beyond concealed penetrations of plates, firestops, wall studs, and so on.
- (2) The tubing is installed in single runs and is not rigidly secured.

7.3.5 Piping in Floors.

7.3.5.1 Industrial Occupancies. In industrial occupancies, gas piping in solid floors such as concrete shall be laid in channels in the floor and covered to permit access to the piping with a minimum of damage to the building. Where piping in floor channels could be exposed to excessive moisture or corrosive substances, the piping shall be protected in an approved manner.

7.3.5.2 Other Occupancies. In other than industrial occupancies and where approved by the authority having jurisdiction, gas piping embedded in concrete floor slabs constructed with portland cement shall be surrounded with a minimum of 1½ in. (38 mm) of concrete and shall not be in physical contact with other metallic structures such as reinforcing rods or electrically neutral conductors. All piping, fittings, and risers shall be protected against corrosion in accordance with 5.6.6. Piping shall not be embedded in concrete slabs containing quickset additives or cinder aggregate.

7.4 Piping in Vertical Chases. Where gas piping exceeding 5 psi (34 kPa) is located within vertical chases in accordance with 5.5.1(2), the requirements of 7.4.1 through 7.4.3 shall apply.

7.4.1 Pressure Reduction. Where pressure reduction is required in branch connections for compliance with 5.5.1, such

reduction shall take place either inside the chase or immediately adjacent to the outside wall of the chase. Regulator venting and downstream overpressure protection shall comply with 5.8.5 and Section 5.9. The regulator shall be accessible for service and repair and vented in accordance with one of the following:

- (1) Where the fuel gas is lighter than air, regulators equipped with a vent-limiting means shall be permitted to be vented into the chase. Regulators not equipped with a vent-limiting means shall be permitted to be vented either directly to the outdoors or to a point within the top 1 ft (0.3 m) of the chase.
- (2) Where the fuel gas is heavier than air, the regulator vent shall be vented only directly to the outdoors.

7.4.2 Chase Construction. Chase construction shall comply with local building codes with respect to fire resistance and protection of horizontal and vertical openings.

7.4.3* Ventilation. A chase shall be ventilated to the outdoors and only at the top. The opening(s) shall have a minimum free area (in square inches) equal to the product of one-half of the maximum pressure in the piping (in psi) times the largest nominal diameter of that piping (in inches), or the cross-sectional area of the chase, whichever is smaller. Where more than one fuel gas piping system is present, the free area for each system shall be calculated and the largest area used.

7.5 Gas Pipe Turns. Changes in direction of gas pipe shall be made by the use of fittings, factory bends, or field bends.

7.5.1 Metallic Pipe. Metallic pipe bends shall comply with the following:

- (1) Bends shall be made only with bending tools and procedures intended for that purpose.
- (2) All bends shall be smooth and free from buckling, cracks, or other evidence of mechanical damage.
- (3) The longitudinal weld of the pipe shall be near the neutral axis of the bend.
- (4) Pipe shall not be bent through an arc of more than 90 degrees.
- (5) The inside radius of a bend shall be not less than 6 times the outside diameter of the pipe.

7.5.2 Plastic Pipe. Plastic pipe bends shall comply with the following:

- (1) The pipe shall not be damaged, and the internal diameter of the pipe shall not be effectively reduced.
- (2) Joints shall not be located in pipe bends.
- (3) The radius of the inner curve of such bends shall not be less than 25 times the inside diameter of the pipe.
- (4) Where the piping manufacturer specifies the use of special bending tools or procedures, such tools or procedures shall be used.

7.5.3 Elbows. Factory-made welding elbows or transverse segments cut therefrom shall have an arc length measured along the crotch of at least 1 in. (25 mm) for pipe sizes 2 in. and larger.

7.6 Drips and Sediment Traps.

7.6.1 Provide Drips Where Necessary. For other than dry gas conditions, a drip shall be provided at any point in the line of pipe where condensate could collect. Where required by the authority having jurisdiction or the serving gas supplier, a drip shall also be provided at the outlet of the meter. This drip shall