



# INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

Bulletin No.: 312

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Effective: 08/02/2007

Chief Building Official

## PLAN REVIEW AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR CLEARANCE TO COMBUSTIBLES FOR SOLID FUEL BURNING EQUIPMENT

The 2001 California Mechanical Code, Table 8-4, provides clearance to combustible construction for unlisted single-wall metal chimneys that can be used with solid fuel burning equipment. These clearance requirements are substantial, generally 18 inches, and most mechanical designers and contractors, due to limited space through combustible construction, will specify a listed manufactured type of metal chimney product that provides a much reduced clearance based on double or triple layers of steel with some degree of heat insulation.

The listings for these metal chimneys vary and are specific for the type of use. Examples of some uses are:

**Residential type chimneys (UL category DDXU – based on UL 103, “Factory-Built Chimneys for Residential Type and Building Heating Appliances.”)** This category is for residential type and building heating appliance chimneys intended for venting flue gases at a temperature not exceeding 1000 deg F under continuous operating conditions, from gas, liquid and solid fuel fired residential type appliances and building heating appliances as specified in the Chimney Selection Chart of NFPA 211.

**Grease ducts for restaurant cooking appliances (wood burning pizza ovens, etc.) (UL category YYGQ – based on UL 1978, “Grease Ducts”)** This category is for grease ducts and grease duct systems intended to be installed at the minimum clearances specified in the individual listings, where 18 inch clearances are specified in the CMC. Grease ducts in this category are not intended to be wrapped with listed or classified enclosure systems unless specified in the individual listings and enclosure system certification.

**1400 degree chimneys (UL category DDTZ – based on UL 103, “Chimneys, Factory-Built, Chimneys for Residential Type and Building Heating Appliances.”, and UL 959, “Medium Heat Appliances Factory-Built Chimneys”)** This category is for factory built 1400 deg F chimneys intended for venting flue gases at a temperature not exceeding 1400 deg F under continuous operating conditions, from building heating appliances and other low heat appliances as specified in the Chimney Selection Chart of NFPA 211.

**Medium heat appliance chimneys (UL category DDQV – based on UL 959, “Medium Heat Appliances Factory-Built Chimneys”)** This category is intended for venting flue gases at a temperature not exceeding 1800 deg F under continuous operating conditions , from appliances specified in the Chimney Selection Chart of NFPA 211.

The listing information for these different uses provides specific clearances to combustible materials based on the manufacturer and their heat resistant design and testing to national standards. The clearance information is available in the listing guide (i.e., U.L.’s listing guide). It can also be found in the manufacturer’s product literature as well as on the product itself (note: different clearances are shown on the same product for different uses). In many cases, the designer will specify a complying chimney product and refer to the listing requirements on the plans, but not include the specific minimum clearance to combustible construction dimension on the plans where section drawings show details of the installation.

#### **Plan Review Requirements:**

In order to insure that the minimum clearances to combustibles are provided on the plans, the category of use shall be determined, and the minimum dimension (based on use) shall be shown on the plans. In addition, the manufacturer’s literature as well as the listing guide information from the listing catalog, shall be submitted with the plans to support the plan dimensions.

As an example, Selkirk manufactures a chimney model IPS-C1 that is listed for several uses. For the same product in 8 inch size, it can serve the following uses with the indicated clearances:

|                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1000 deg F Chimney      | 1 inch clearance to combustibles |
| 1400 deg F Chimney      | 2 inch clearance to combustibles |
| Restaurant Grease ducts | 3 inch clearance to combustibles |

#### **Inspection Requirements:**

Approved plans containing the above information shall be available at the jobsite. Inspection approval of the metal chimney and clearances installed in conformance with the approved plans, listing manufacturer’s requirements is required prior to covering access to chimney installation.