

THE PROPANE UPDATE

PLUMBING

HVAC

NEWS

Welcome to *The Propane Update*, a newsletter from the Propane Council of Texas, a non-profit 501 c 3 education & marketing foundation.

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Rule, Standards & Code Updates

Texas Propane Rules, Standards, & Codes: What You Need to Know

Did you know the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) is the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) for the propane industry in Texas? The RRC regulates any and all aspects or phases of the LPG industry that will protect or tend to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the general public.

The rules and standards promulgated and adopted by the commission under Texas law preempt and supersede any ordinance, order, or rule adopted by a political subdivision of this state relating to any aspect or phase of the liquefied petroleum gas industry.

The Railroad Commission of Texas has adopted the following codes, standards, and rules:

Texas LP Gas Safety Rules (rev. July 2022) include rules and procedures for handling and odorizing liquefied petroleum gas in Texas, including specifications for the design, construction, and installation of equipment used in transportation, storage, and distribution.

2017 NFPA 58 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code applies outside a home (or before the final pressure regulator).

2018 NFPA 54 National Fuel Gas Code Handbook provides minimum safety requirements for the design and installation of fuel gas piping systems in homes and other buildings.

These rules, standards, and codes dictate everything from propane pipe sizing to minimum safe performance, general requirements, and specifications for venting.

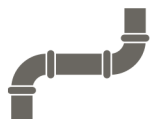
Inside Look at the 2018 NFPA 54

NFPA 54, National Fuel Gas Code, is the American National Standard (ANSI Z223.1) applies to the installation of fuel gas piping systems, equipment, and appliances supplied by propane.

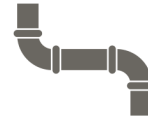
NFPA 54 addresses the following:

- Piping system design, materials, and components, including valves, expansion, and flexibility (Chapter 5)
- Piping sizing for applications via tables and equations (Chapter 6)
- Installing pipes, outlets, and inside concealed spaces (Chapter 7)
- Requirements for process air, installation of appliances, and safety shutoffs (Chapter 9)
- Minimum safe performance, general requirements, and specifications for venting (Chapter 12)

The 2018 NFPA 54, 2017 NFPA 58, and the most current edition of the Texas LP Gas Safety Rules can be purchased at www.propaneservicecorp.com.



Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners Adopts New Final Rules This Fall



The Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 1301 (Plumbing License Law or PLL), was amended by House Bill 636 during the 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, in 2021. As a result, this fall, the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners adopted rules to help implement statutory changes made by HB 636. These new final rules became effective on November 23, 2022.

Below is a summary of the new rule changes:

The amendment to 22 Texas Administrative Code Part 17 Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners §361.1(16) amends the definition of Continuing Professional Education by removing a reference to "Board" approval and eliminating unnecessary language. HB 636 transferred the responsibility of continuing education approval from the Board to the Executive Director.

The amendment to §361.1(21)(E)(iv) amends the definition of Field Representative by eliminating the responsibility of a Field Representative to issue citations.

The amendment to §361.1(47)(E) amends the definition of a Responsible Master Plumber (RMP) by eliminating the requirement for an RMP to complete and submit a certificate of training as mandated by HB 636.

The amendment to §361.1(52) amends the definition of the Tradesman Plumber-Limited Licensee to include the successful completion of a career and technology program as a qualifying component for licensure as implemented by HB 636.

The amendment to §361.13 eliminates reference to the Enforcement Committee and the requirement that committee members be a member of the Board. HB 636 eliminated the Enforcement Committee and the requirement that committee members be board members.

You can view the new rules at <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/tac/index.shtml> under the Texas Administrative Code.

Propane Appliance Rebates For Your Customers

Up to

\$600

in rebates per
household



Through the Texas Saves with Propane Appliance Rebate Program administered by the Propane Council of Texas, in 2022, Texas end-users that purchase and have installed qualifying new propane appliances can earn rebates of \$300 on a new propane furnace or boiler and \$300 on a new propane water heater.

There is a \$600 cap per Texas household or commercial business end-user location.

A qualifying proof of purchase dated January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022, and a propane safety inspection by a licensed propane provider are required. Certain restrictions apply.

To receive a rebate, Texas end-users just need to contact their local propane provider to start the rebate application process. The propane appliance rebate application package must be submitted by a propane provider licensed in Texas.

Your customers can learn more about the program and check the status of the 2022 propane appliance rebate funds with the live rebate calculator at <https://txsaveswithpropane.com>.

Questions? Please call 512-883-9925 or email rebates@propanecounciloftexas.org.

All applications must be received no later than 01/15/2023.

Heat Off Cool
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FALL/WINTER 2022

The Propane Update: *Plumbing & HVAC News*

The Propane Council of Texas has released its second edition of the plumbing HVAC newsletter, *The Propane Update*. The newsletter comes out twice a year sharing the latest on incentives, rebates, new propane applications, rules, code & standards, resources, training, and other information that would be useful for plumbers and HVAC techs.

Check out our second edition now. ►

