

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Local Law 152 of 2016: Inspections of Exposed Gas Piping

VISUAL INSPECTIONS

Q1. What does exposed gas piping consist of?

A1. Exposed gas piping includes gas piping that is open to view. It does not include gas piping above a drop ceiling or behind an access door.

Q2. Is the visual inspection limited to interior gas meters and gas piping only or is exposed gas piping, such as on a roof, also be required to be inspected?

A2. Local Law 152 requires all exposed gas piping from point of entry of gas piping into the building, including building services meters, and all gas piping in public spaces, hallways, corridors and mechanical and boiler rooms inside and outside a building, including rooftops. This does not include gas piping within tenant spaces.

Q3. Should the inspection include all rooms (up to a tenant space) containing a gas appliance?

A3. Yes, the inspection should include all rooms (up to a tenant space) containing a gas appliance.

Q4. Should sections of buried piping be inspected? (Verification of proper sleeves, vents etc.)

A4. Local Law 152 requires that all exposed gas lines from point of entry of gas piping into a building, including building service meters, up to the individual tenant spaces are to be inspected. Buried piping does not require inspection.

Q5. Should equipment such as regulator vents be inspected? (Sleeves, termination points etc.)

A5. Yes, equipment such as pressure regulator, regulator vents, valves, sleeves, POE seals, etc., should be inspected.

Q6. There are four levels of corrosion. Which levels must be reported to the Department?

A6. Based on the Interior Gas and Safety Inspection Training, corrosion Levels 3 and 4 are required to be reported to the Department.

Q7. Illegal connections can be theft, diversion of service, cross connections or connections made with substandard parts or materials. Which version of the Code should be referenced to identify an illegal or non-Code compliant installation?

A7. Theft, diversion of service, cross connections or connections made with substandard parts or materials are illegal connections and non-Code compliant installations. They create a safety hazard and do not meet 2014 Code requirements. As a baseline, the 2014 Code should be referred to.

Q8. Are buildings used exclusively for metering and regulating gas not considered the customer's building for purposes of compliance?

A8. Buildings used exclusively for metering and regulating gas must be inspected.

LEAK SURVEYS (TESTS)

Q1. Must the plumber also conduct a leak survey in all the areas where the visual inspection of exposed gas piping is required?

A1. Yes, the plumber must conduct a leak survey in all the areas where the visual inspection of exposed gas piping is required.

Q2. Will the areas surveyed only use a combustible gas detector to assess the general atmosphere along the path of the piping and in public spaces, hallways and corridors on floors that contain gas piping or gas utilization equipment?

A2. Yes, as indicated in the Interior Gas and Safety Inspection Training, the areas surveyed will utilize a combustible gas detector to assess the general atmosphere along the path of the piping and in public spaces, hallways and corridors on floors that contain gas piping or gas utilization equipment.

Q3. If the piping is not exposed, how will the plumber determine what areas of a building may contain piping in order to conduct a leak survey?

A3. If the piping is not exposed, the plumber will operate the combustible gas detector in accordance with the Interior Gas Piping and Safety Inspection Training requirements, assessing the open atmosphere in the presumed path of the piping (in public spaces, hallways and corridors on floors that contain gas piping or gas utilization equipment) up to the tenant space.

Q4. Will the gas leak survey also terminate at the tenant spaces?

A4. Yes, the gas leak survey will terminate at the tenant spaces.

Q5. Is the plumber required to take readings at the entry to the tenant spaces (around doors) or just in the public spaces?

A5. The inspector is required to take readings at the entry to the tenants' spaces, this does not include gas piping within the tenant spaces.

Q6. How will inaccessible crawl spaces be leak surveyed?

A6. Combustible gas detectors shall be used to probe a crawl space to conduct the leak survey.

INSPECTIONS GENERALLY

- Q1. This inspection is a point in time inspection of a gas system. Assuming the inspection was conducted properly, at what point does the inspector's liability end?**
- A1. The licensee is responsible for the work performed and the accuracy of any forms completed and submitted to the owner and the Department.
- Q2. Is it required to prove the legality of an existing gas installation?**
- A2. While the licensee is not required to prove legality of an existing gas installation, the licensee is responsible for identifying illegal connections or any non-Code compliant conditions.
- Q3. Is the inspection requirement include commercial spaces?**
- A3. The inspection requirement applies to all buildings other than R-3 (1 & 2 family), including commercial spaces.
- Q4. If there is a boiler room or mechanical room in a tenant space, is it exempt from the inspection and leak survey?**
- A4. Yes, if there is a boiler room or mechanical room in a tenant space, it is exempt from the inspection and leak survey.
- Q5. Are there any circumstances under which an appliance within any tenant space will be subject to an inspection or survey?**
- A5. No. Appliances within tenant spaces are not subject to an inspection or survey.
- Q6. What actions must the plumber take if access is not available to all required areas containing the exposed gas piping for the visual inspection or if access is not provided to public spaces, hallways, corridors, and mechanical and boiler rooms for the leak survey?**
- A6. Local Law 152 requires periodic inspections of gas piping systems. It is a building owner's responsibility to have that inspection conducted. If the owner fails to provide access to the areas subject to inspection requirements, the plumber should not certify the inspection as complete.
- Q7. Are there any special actions to be taken if the plumber is refused access to an area that requires and inspection or survey?**
- A7. If full access is not provided the inspector should not certify the inspection as complete.
- Q8. If an inspection is not completed, must the entire inspection be repeated?**
- A8. Yes, if an inspection is not completed, it must be repeated. In order to certify an inspection, the plumber must inspect all areas subject to the requirements of the law.

Q9. Who should I contact to report a condition that requires immediate notification?

A9. Report conditions that require immediate notification to the owner, the appropriate utility (National Grid at (718) 643-4050 or Con Edison at (800) 752-6633) and the Department's Plumbing Enforcement Inspections Unit at (212) 393-2557 or PlumbingEnfIR@buildings.nyc.gov.

Q10. The web form asks for the "Date of Initial Inspection". If repairs were made on a different date from the initial inspection, which date should be included on the web form?

A10. The web form should include the date of the Initial (first) inspection.

Q11. How is DOB going to verify the 5 years' experience requirement in addition to the 7 hour training for LL152 gas inspectors

A11. Local Law 152 and 1 RCNY §103-10 allow an individual to perform Local Law 152 inspections so long as such individual holds the appropriate experience and training qualifications established by the Department. It is the responsibility of the employing inspection entity and Licensed Master Plumber to ensure that persons performing Local Law 152 inspections in their employ and under their supervision possess the appropriate qualifications per Local Law 152 and 1 RCNY §103-10. As such, the employing inspection entity may require whatever documentation necessary to verify the requisite experience of its staff.

REPORTING

Q1. What conditions require immediate reporting?

A1. Unsafe and hazardous conditions such as a gas leak, illegal connection or non-code compliant installation require immediate notification shall be made to the Utility, the Department and the owner. In addition, any condition that if verified by the Utility would constitute a class A condition, as defined in part 251 of Title 16 of NYCRR must be reported immediately.

Q2. What is the penalty for not immediately reporting a condition listed above?

A2. The plumber will be subject to DOB violation(s) for not following inspection rules and requirements. (In addition, anyone who holds a LMP DOT Operator Qualification Status will be SUSPENDED pending a complete investigation and subject to revocation.)

Q3. Carbon Monoxide is defined as a Class A condition. Will the plumber also be required to check for carbon monoxide or is this exempt due to other existing regulatory requirements?

A3. Carbon Monoxide falls outside of the scope of Local Law 152 requirements. If an inspector detects a Carbon Monoxide leak, he must immediately report it to FDNY. The FDNY will reach out to the Utility to investigate.

Q4. Class B conditions are also defined as immediately hazardous. Are these required to be reported immediately?

A4. No. However, Local Law 152 requires that Class B conditions be included in the plumber's report.

Q5. Is a phone call to the Utility all that is required to report an immediately hazardous condition?

A5. To report an immediately hazardous condition, you should continue to follow the established protocols which were put in place even prior to Local Law 152.

Q6. What specific immediate notification is required to the owner?

A6. The owner can be notified by phone call or via e-mail.

Q7. Is the plumber responsible for notification of these conditions immediately from the field?

A7. Yes, the plumber is responsible for notification of these conditions immediately from the field.

Q8. Is the plumber required to remain onsite when reporting an unsafe or hazardous condition?

A8. Yes

Q9. Is the plumber required to wait for the first responders or Utility?

A9. The plumber should take the necessary steps, including notifications, as required by the Code. The plumber should rely on his/her professional judgement, based on the conditions observed, as to what further actions are warranted.

Q10. After the initial immediate notification, does the plumber have to follow-up and provide a copy of the GPS1 to the Department so that there is an official record of the inspection and the conditions found?

A10. Local Law 152 does not require that the list of conditions (GPS-1) identified be submitted to the Department. Local Law 152 only requires that the certification be submitted to the Department.

Q11. Class C conditions are not considered immediately hazardous but may be required to be reported to be non-Code compliant. Are these conditions required to be listed on the GPS1 report?

A11. Yes, Class C conditions are required to be listed on the GPS1 report.

Q12. The licensee is required to submit the GPS1 report form to the owner within 30 days following the date of the inspection. Is the licensee who conducted the inspection required to provide the owner with a GPS2 certification?

A12. Within 30 days of the inspection, the Licensed Master Plumber (LMP) must provide to the building owner a Gas System Periodic Inspection Report (GPS1). Within 60 days of the inspection, the OWNER must submit to the Department a Gas Piping System Periodic Inspection Certification (GPS2) signed and sealed by the LMP who conducted or supervised the inspection. The GPS2 submission is to be completed by the Building Owner on the Department's GPS2 submission web portal.

Q13. If the Department does not see the original GPS1 form, how would they know if the owner hires a different plumber to certify any conditions without doing any of the required work?

A13. The owner is responsible for ensuring that any conditions identified are corrected. The licensee is responsible for completing a certification to be submitted to the Department that the conditions have been corrected. The licensee is responsible for the accuracy of the information submitted to the Department.

Q14. If the owner chooses to hire a different plumber to certify any conditions noted on the GPS1 form, will that plumber have to conduct another inspection upon completion of the work?

A14. Yes.

Q14. The web form I submitted includes an error. Can I correct?

A14. The applicant must resubmit the web form. The Department will review the most recent certification submitted.

Q15. The owner is responsible for submitting the GPS2, does that mean the owner must have a login to do so or can the Licensed Master Plumber submit on behalf of the owner in the portal?

A15. No login ID will be required to access the portal and complete the GPS2 Inspection Certification submission process. Local Law 152 and 1 RCNY §103-10 state that the owner must submit the Certification of Inspection (GPS2 form) that has been completed by the inspecting Licensed Master Plumber.

Q16. Is the physical form GPS2 to be filled out and then uploaded (rather than there being an electronic format in the portal)?

A16. The GPS2 form is available for download as a PDF on the Department's website. The GPS2 form is a PDF with fillable fields. The Licensed Master Plumber can download the GPS2 form, complete the fields digitally, print, sign and seal the form, retain a copy, and then—no later than

30 days from the date of inspection—provide the building owner with the completed GPS2 form. Alternatively, the Licensed Master Plumber can print the blank GPS2 form and physically complete the fields by hand. When submitting the GPS2 form via the submission portal, the user will be prompted to complete some information fields prior to uploading and submitting a digital copy of the form.