



STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

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STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 98-06

CODE: 1997 Washington State Uniform Mechanical Code

SECTION: Section 1002.2

QUESTION:

1. Does WAC 51-42-1002 mean all portions of the space heating piping and heat distribution units (radiant coils, hot water coils, baseboard radiant systems, and fan coil units) shall be made of materials required for potable water systems?
2. Would all water heaters being used only for space heating in a residential or small commercial installation be prohibited even if the water heater manufacturer had the unit design certified by a testing/labeling organization such as ISA (labels appliances for AGA & CGA)?
3. If the water heater is used for space heating only, there is the possibility that chemicals or leak stop materials may be added. Should the water heater be permanently marked "NOT FOR USE WITH DOMESTIC (POTABLE) HOT WATER"?

ANSWER:

1. Yes. All portions of the space heating piping and heat distribution units shall be made of materials required for potable water systems. Requirements for materials can be found in UPC Section 604.1.
2. No. A water heater is an appliance designed primarily to provide domestic hot water. "Water heaters" that are used for space heating only are considered boilers and must meet the requirements of the State Boiler Code (RCW 70.79 and WAC 296-104). However, water heaters that have a dual certification, acceptable by the State Boiler Code, may be considered boilers and can be used in a space heating only function.
3. No, not by WAC 51-42 (Uniform Mechanical Code).

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: City of Spokane

May 1998