



DATE: June 13, 2016

TO: Homeowners, Building Owners, Realtors, Plumbers & Plumbing Industry Personnel,  
Atmos Energy

FROM: Steve O'Neal, Chief Building Official  
Garrett Nelson, Fire Marshal

**SUBJECT: Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) in Gas Distribution Systems (Legacy Installations)**

By way of emergency moratoriums issued on September 17, 2012 and December 11, 2013, the use of CSST products for gas distribution piping had been prohibited within the City of Lubbock pending study of the relationship between lightning-induced arcing and damage to the product by a specially-appointed subcommittee of the Model Codes and Construction Ordinance Advisory Board.

With the recent passage of Ordinance Nos. 2012-O0075 and 201-O0076 adopting the 2012 International Fuel Gas and Residential Codes with local amendments, the moratoriums will be extinguished upon the effective date of the ordinances, which is **June 13, 2016**.

*For new installations*, the code amendments will require that one of the new black-colored conductive (arc-resistant) jacketed CSST products be used, however, it must be listed to a standard known as ICC LC-1027, or be shown to be equivalent to that standard, and meet a higher lightning testing threshold. At this writing, City staff is reviewing manufacturer data to determine what products may be approved. Of course, ASTM A 53 rigid steel pipe ("black iron pipe") may still be used. Other requirements for clearances and electrical bonding also apply to any CSST installation.

*Existing installations* of the old yellow CSST may remain in place and may have leaks repaired in accordance with original manufacturer's instructions. Please note that major CSST manufacturers have stopped distributing products for their yellow piping, however, so repair parts may or may not be available. Other manufacturers may still have parts available, but it is illegal to "mix and match" parts among manufacturers. Yellow CSST systems may not be replaced, in whole or in part, or extended except with new materials meeting code requirements.

Any alteration of yellow CSST systems that would require a plumbing permit and inspection will also require that the system be electrically bonded to the electrical service grounding electrode system ("direct bonded") if it hasn't been already. "Alterations" in this context would include any work done on the fuel gas system requiring disconnection of the gas service by the supplier. Direct bonding must be done by a *licensed electrician* before gas service is restored to the home if disconnected for any reason other than non-payment.

It is important to know that direct bonding of the CSST system provides only a minimal level of protection of the CSST from the arcing effects of lightning. The code requires only this minimal level of protection, and damage can still occur. Other, more robust products and methods are available. Please see the Department's website at <http://www.mylubbock.us/departmental-websites/departments/building-inspection>. The new code amendments may be viewed on line at <http://codes.franklinlegal.net/lubbock-flp>. Navigate to Title II, Chapter 28, Articles 28.14 and 28.15 (International Residential and Fuel Gas Codes).

Please contact the Building Inspection Department at (806) 775-2080 with any questions.

