

## STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-64-00

October 16, 2000

The following is offered in response to your letter in which you request a formal interpretation of the provisions of Section 2608.2.3 of the 1995 CABO One and Two Family Dwelling Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code as it pertains to the running of propane piping in the ash clean-out of a masonry fireplace.

**Question:** Is it permissible to utilize an ash clean-out as a vertical shaft for the purpose of running propane gas lines into the firebox to supply gas logs? The piping material used is protected against corrosion and the ash clean-out is abandoned and sealed shut at the firebox floor with approved materials.

**Answer:** Yes, under the conditions you outline in your question. The intent of the prohibition against running fuel-gas piping within certain locations such as those listed in Section 2608.2.3 of the 1995 CABO One and Two Family Dwelling Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code is twofold. First, the code intends that gas piping shall not be located in an area, such as an open chase, that will accelerate the spread of gas leakage throughout the building. The sealing of the ash clean-out at the firebox floor effectively closes the top of the chase, preventing the escape of any leaked gas into the building. Secondly, the code intends to prevent the location of gas piping in an atmosphere that would be corrosive to the pipe. You state that the material employed is suitable for contact with masonry and the sealant used at the firebox floor, so that corrosion is not an issue. Keep in mind that the code governs other issues regarding piping in concealed locations that must be addressed in the installation you propose to ensure a code-compliant installation.