



Existing Chimney and Vents

Minneapolis Department of Inspections

June 3, 2011

Code Citation

Minnesota Mechanical Code

Section 801.18 Existing Chimney and Vents

When an appliance is permanently disconnected from an existing chimney or vent, or where an appliance is connected to an existing chimney or vent during the process of a new installation, the chimney shall comply with section 801.18.1 through 801.19

Section 801.18.1 Sized

The chimney or vent shall be resized as necessary to control flue gas condensation in the interior of the chimney or vent and to provide the appliances served with the required draft.

Department Policy

1. When existing masonry chimneys are partially removed from the roof down through the attic and capped above the ceiling that have an existing single wall metallic liner serving appliances located below, the single wall liner must be replaced with a B-vent. The B-vent must be a complete system installed in accordance with the manufactures listing. *(All the way down to where it leaves the masonry chimney complete with an approved chimney cap on top of the B-vent.)*

If the B-vent serves more than a water heater it must be installed by a Minneapolis licensed gas installer under a heating permit. If the B-vent serves only the water heater it can be installed by a Minneapolis licensed plumber, a Minneapolis licensed gas installer or a home owner that currently occupies the home under a plumbing permit.

2. When gas furnaces and boilers are removed from existing chimneys and vents it is the responsibility of the gas installer to verify that any category I appliance connected to the remaining chimney is sized to control flue gas condensation in the interior of the chimney or vent and to provide the appliances served with the required draft as stated in the Minnesota Fuel Gas Code. This is considered part of the new installation process.

Process Guidelines

1. Verify Size

The effective area of the chimney venting systems serving listed gas appliances with draft hoods, category I appliances and other appliances listed for use with type B shall be in accordance with the IFGC section 504 or other approved engineered methods. *(See tables under 504 that apply)* As another method of sizing, a single appliance with a draft hood of 3"rd. cannot be connected to a chimney venting system greater than 6" round or an area greater than 28.3 sq. inches, a draft hood 4" rd. cannot be connected to a chimney venting system greater than 8" round or 50.3 sq inches provided the venting connected to the draft hood outlet has not been reduced in size.

2. Verify chimney and vent liner materials.

An approved metallic liner shall be installed in masonry chimney used to vent gas appliances. *(aluminum, stainless steel or listed vent system)*

Exceptions: Approved alternate methods. See pre-installation inspection requirements for approval.

3. Pre-installation inspection requirements

Existing non-metallic and masonry chimneys without metallic liners will require a pre-inspection to verify the ability to resist corrosion, erosion, softening from vent gases for approval of continued use. A separate permit is required for this inspection and arrangements must be made by the permit applicant to include a ladder, mirror, trouble light and equipment necessary to make a completely safe evaluation. *This evaluation is not intended to approve a system that does not control flue gas condensation in the interior of the chimney or vent and to provide the appliances served with the required draft. Once the alteration of the venting system is completed, additional corrections may be necessary,*

4. Chimney alternations

If the chimney is connected to a furnace or boiler, alterations must be done by a Minneapolis licensed gas installer under a mechanical permit. If alterations are done to the chimney connecting only a water heater, work can be done by a Minneapolis licensed plumber or a home-owner under a plumbing permit.