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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

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ISSUANCE #439

TECHNICAL
POLICY AND PROCEDURE NOTICE #4/94

TO: Distribution

FROM: Richard C. Visconti, R.A. *Richard Visconti*
First Deputy Commissioner

DATE: April 26, 1994

SUBJECT: Inspections of Plumbing, Gas Piping, Sprinkler and Standpipe Systems

EFFECTIVE: May 2, 1994 in Manhattan; May 16, 1994 in Brooklyn; June 30, 1994 in Queens; June 13, 1994 in Bronx; June 27, 1994 in Staten Island.

CROSS-REFERENCE: Operations Policy and Procedure Notice #3/94 dated April 26, 1994.

PURPOSE: Given the tremendous backlog in Plumbing Division inspections, owners of real property are advised that they can elect to have plumbing, gas piping, sprinkler and standpipe systems inspected by either a Department of Buildings employee or by a private authorized representative of the Department.

SPECIFICS: Inspections of gas piping systems may be performed by a registered architect or professional engineer licensed under the Education Law of the State of New York, a master plumber licensed by the New York City Department of Buildings or a representative of a utility company, all of whom shall have at least five (5) years experience in the inspection and testing of gas piping.

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A licensed master plumber is not authorized to witness tests of gas piping systems installed by himself or an associate unless an integrity test is performed by a utility company prior to turn-on or restoration of gas service. However, a licensed master plumber is authorized to inspect and test minor modifications of gas piping systems installed by himself or an associate when located in an existing building containing gas service. Minor modifications include the installation or replacement of gas fired hot water heaters, up to a maximum 100,000 B.T.U.'s, the replacement or addition of two individual gas appliances, and the replacement of gas fired furnaces.

New York State licensed architects and professional engineers are authorized to conduct inspections of plumbing, as well as standpipe and sprinkler fire suppression systems. Licensed master plumbers and master fire suppression piping contractors are authorized to conduct inspections of those systems permitted by their licenses, with the exception of fire extinguishing systems in range hoods and other inspections now performed by the Fire Department.

The testing of altered, extended or repaired plumbing, sprinkler and standpipe systems may be limited to the modified portion alone, with the exception of those instances where testing is waived by the Building Code.

Compliance with the approved plans and permit for the installation including all applicable laws and regulations shall be certified upon inspection and reflected in a report to be filed with the Department. Said compliance report shall include the seal and signature of the individual performing the inspection. Reports filed by utility companies shall reflect the signature and title of the person witnessing the test.

Lists of persons and participating utility companies acceptable to the Department are available for inspection at the Department.

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