

OREGON
Interpretive Ruling No. 93-6
GAS LOG LIGHTERS
(revised 7-15-99, editorial only)

Requested By: Pat Bridges
Oregon State Home Builders Association

REQUEST FOR RULING:

Can gas log lighters be installed in factory-built fireplaces in one and two family dwellings?

APPLICABLE CODE SECTIONS: One and Two Family Dwelling Specialty Code:

1004.1 Installation. Factory-built fireplaces that consist of a fire chamber assembly, one or more chimney sections, a roof assembly and other parts as tested and listed as an assembly by an approved agency may be installed when complying with all the following provisions:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5. Factory-built fireplaces shall be installed accordance with their listing and the manufacture's installation instructions.
6.

and;

1308.1 Gas appliances. Automatic gas-burning appliances shall be equipped with a listed and labeled device or devices that will shut off the fuel supply to the main burner or burners in the event of pilot or ignition failure. In addition, liquefied petroleum gas-heating appliances shall be equipped with a listed and labeled automatic device or devices that will shut off the flow of gas to the pilot in the event of ignition failure. The listed and labeled shutoff devices shall not be required on range or cooking tops, *log lighters*, lights or other open-burner manually operated appliances, or listed and labeled appliances not requiring such devices. (*emphasis added*)

and;

2606.4 Fireplace outlets. Gas outlets located in *fireplaces* shall be controlled by listed and labeled shutoff valves located in the same room and not more than 4 feet (1219 mm) from the outlets. When gas piping on the discharge side of the valve penetrates the masonry hearth or walls, it shall be embedded in or surrounded by not less than 1½ inches (38 mm) of concrete or masonry or encased in a metal sleeve. The space between the gas pipe and the sleeve shall be sealed with a high-temperature compound to prevent hot embers from endangering adjacent combustible surfaces. (*emphasis added*)

and;

2205.4 Gas logs. Listed and labeled gas logs installed in solid-fuel-burning fireplaces shall be in accordance with the provisions of this section, provided that:

1. The gas logs are installed only in accordance with their listing and label and the manufacturer's installation instructions.
2. If the fireplace is equipped with a damper, it shall be permanently blocked open to prevent spillage of combustion products into the room.
3. The minimum flue passageway shall not be less than 1 square inch per 2,000 Btu/h (4.40mm²/W) input.
4. Gas logs equipped with a pilot shall have a listed and labeled safety shut-off valve.

2205.5 Gas-fired log lighters. Unlisted gas-fired log lighters shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

- UL 127 is the standard used for factory-built fireplaces.
- ANSI Z21. 50 is the standard for gas logs/decorative gas log appliances.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon State Home Builders Association (OSHBA) has stated that many jurisdictions are disallowing the use of gas log lighters in factory built fireplaces.

FINDINGS:

The *Dwelling Code* allows the use of gas log lighters and gas logs (decorative gas appliances) in one or two family dwellings, if they are installed according to their listing and according to the *Dwelling Code* requirements. There is not a national standard for gas log lighters, but the valve used must be listed for that type of use and the *Dwelling Code* requirements must be followed. The damper, in a solid-fuel-burning fireplace, is not required to be blocked open when a gas log lighter is used.

A gas log lighter is a device used only to ignite wood in a solid-fuel-burning fireplace.

Gas logs/decorative gas log appliances may be installed in an existing solid-fuel-burning appliance for decorative purposes.

UL 127 does not test gas log lighters in factory-built fireplaces because there is no standard. Therefore, manufacturers must indicate whether or not gas piping is allowed in their products.

This interpretation is authorized by ORS 455.060, Rulings on Acceptability of Materials, Designs or Methods of Construction and Attorney General's Opinion OP-5208 issued October 1, 1981, which advised that the statute permits authoritative interpretations of existing code requirements.

CONCLUSION:

The use of log lighters in solid-fuel-burning fireplaces is allowed by the *Dwelling Code*. Not all manufacturers of factory-built fireplaces allow the installation of gas log lighters or decorative gas logs in their products. The building official must review the installation instructions, listings or reports (ICBO, etc.) for each factory-built fireplace to determine if the installation of a gas log lighter or decorative log set is allowed.

 (signed March 4, 1993)
 John Talbott, Chairman
 Structural Code Advisory Board

 Date

The recommendations and findings of the Structural Code Advisory Board are accepted and the conclusions are adopted.

 (signed March 18, 1993)
 Gary J. Wicks, Administrator
 Building Codes Agency

 Date