

CHAPTER 68

CHIMNEYS AND VENTS

SECTION 6801 GENERAL

6801.1 Venting required. Fuel-burning appliances shall be vented to the outside in accordance with their listing and label and manufacturer's installation instructions except appliances listed and labeled for unvented use. Venting systems shall consist of approved chimneys or vents, or venting assemblies that are integral parts of labeled appliances. *Gas-fired appliances shall be vented per the requirements of 248 CMR and the manufacturer's requirements. Oil-fired appliances shall be vented per the requirements of 527 CMR and the manufacturer's requirements. Solid fuel-burning appliances shall be vented per the requirements of this code and the manufacturer's requirements.*

6801.2 Draft requirements. A venting system shall satisfy the draft requirements of the appliance in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions, and shall be constructed and installed to develop a positive flow to convey combustion products to the outside atmosphere.

6801.3 Existing chimneys and vents. Where 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 or vent shall comply with Sections 6801.3.1 through 6801.3.4.

6801.3.1 Size. 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 appliance, or appliances served, with the required draft. *For the venting of gas and oil-fired appliances to masonry chimneys, the resizing shall be done in accordance with 248 CMR or 527 CMR, as applicable; for solid fuel-fired appliances, chimney resizing shall be in accordance with this code and the manufacturer's requirements.*

6801.3.2 Flue passageways. The flue gas passageway shall be free of obstructions and combustible deposits and shall be cleaned if previously used for venting a solid or liquid fuel-burning appliance or fireplace. The flue liner, chimney inner wall or vent inner wall shall be continuous and free of cracks, gaps, perforations, or other damage or deterioration that would allow the escape of combustion products, including gases, moisture and creosote.

6801.3.3 Cleanout. Masonry chimneys shall be provided with a cleanout opening complying with Section 6001.14.

6801.3.4 Clearances. Chimneys and vents shall have air-space clearance to combustibles in accordance with this code and the chimney or vent manufacturer's installation instructions.

Exception: Masonry chimneys equipped with a chimney lining system tested and listed for installation in chimneys in contact with combustibles in accordance with UL 1777, and installed in accordance with the man-

ufacturer's instruction, shall not be required to have a clearance between combustible materials and exterior surfaces of the masonry chimney. Noncombustible firestopping shall be provided in accordance with this code.

6801.4 Space around lining. The space surrounding a flue lining system or other vent installed within a masonry chimney shall not be used to vent any other appliance. This shall not prevent the installation of a separate flue lining in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions and this code.

6801.5 Mechanical draft systems. A mechanical draft system shall be used only with appliances listed and labeled for such use. Provisions shall be made to prevent the flow of fuel to the equipment when the draft system is not operating. Forced draft systems and all portions of induced draft systems under positive pressure during operation shall be designed and installed so as to prevent leakage of flue gases into a building.

6801.6 Direct-vent appliances. Direct-vent appliances shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

6801.7 Support. Venting systems shall be adequately supported for the weight of the material used.

6801.8 Duct penetrations. Chimneys, vents and vent connectors shall not extend into or through supply and return air ducts or plenums.

6801.9 Fireblocking. Vent and chimney installations shall be fireblocked in accordance with Section 5602.8.

6801.10 Unused openings. Unused openings in any venting system shall be closed or capped (*also see 248 CMR or 527 CMR when applicable*).

6801.11 Multiple-appliance venting systems. *Two or more listed and labeled fossil fuel-fired appliances shall not be connected to a common natural draft venting system unless permitted per applicable requirements of 248 CMR or 527 CMR. For solid fuel-burning appliances, see Section 6801.12 of this code.*

6801.12 Multiple solid fuel prohibited. A solid fuel-burning appliance or fireplace shall not connect to a chimney passageway venting another appliance.

SECTION 6802 VENT COMPONENTS

6802.1 Draft hoods. *See 248 CMR or 527 CMR, as applicable.*

6802.2 Vent dampers. *See 248 CMR or 527 CMR, as applicable, except that solid fuel-burning appliances shall conform with Section 6802.2.1.*

6802.2.1 Manually operated. Manually operated dampers shall not be installed except in connectors or chimneys serving solid-fuel-burning appliances.

6802.3 Draft regulators. *For fossil fuel-fired appliances, see 248 CMR or 527 CMR, as applicable.* Draft regulators provided for solid-fuel-burning appliances to reduce draft intensity shall be installed and set in accordance with the manufacturer’s installation instructions.

6802.3.1 Location. Where required, draft regulators shall be installed in the same room or enclosure as the appliance so that no difference in pressure will exist between the air at the regulator and the combustion air supply.

**SECTION 6803
CHIMNEY AND VENT CONNECTORS**

6803.1 General. Connectors shall be used to connect fuel-burning appliances to a vertical chimney or vent except where the chimney or vent is attached directly to the appliance.

6803.2 Connectors for oil and solid fuel appliances. *Connectors for gas and oil-fired appliances shall conform to the requirements of 248 CMR or 527 CMR, as applicable. Connectors for solid-fuel-burning appliances shall be constructed of factory-built chimney material, Type L vent material or single-wall metal pipe having resistance to corrosion and heat and thickness not less than that of galvanized steel as specified in Table 6803.2.*

**TABLE 6803.2
THICKNESS FOR SINGLE-WALL METAL PIPE
CONNECTORS FOR SOLID FUEL-BURNING APPLIANCES**

DIAMETER OF CONNECTOR (inches)	GALVANIZED SHEET METAL GAGE NUMBER	MINIMUM THICKNESS (inch)
Less than 6	26	0.019
6 to 10	24	0.024
Over 10 through 16	22	0.029

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

6803.3 Installation. Vent and chimney connectors shall be installed in accordance with *requirements of 248 CMR or 527 CMR or this code, as applicable,* and the manufacturer’s installation instructions and within the space that the appliance is located. Appliances shall be located as close as practical to the vent or chimney. Connectors shall be as short and straight as possible and installed with a slope of not less than 1/4 inch (6.4 mm) rise per foot of run. Connectors shall be securely supported and joints shall be fastened with sheet metal screws or rivets. Devices that obstruct the flow of flue gases shall not be installed in a connector unless listed and labeled or approved for such installations.

6803.3.1 Floor, ceiling and wall penetrations. A chimney connector or vent connector shall not pass through any floor or ceiling. A chimney connector or vent connector shall not pass through a wall or partition unless the connector is listed and labeled for wall pass-through, or is routed through a device listed and labeled for wall pass-through and is installed in accordance with the conditions of its listing and label. Connectors for oil-fired appliances listed and labeled

for Type L vents, passing through walls or partitions shall be in accordance with the following:

1. Type L vent material for oil appliances shall be installed with not less than listed and labeled clearances to combustible material.
2. Single-wall metal pipe shall be guarded by a ventilated metal thimble not less than 4 inches (102 mm) larger in diameter than the vent connector. A minimum 6 inches (152 mm) of clearance shall be maintained between the thimble and combustibles.

6803.3.2 Length. The horizontal run of an uninsulated connector to a natural draft chimney shall not exceed 75 percent of the height of the vertical portion of the chimney above the connector. The horizontal run of a listed connector to a natural draft chimney shall not exceed 100 percent of the height of the vertical portion of the chimney above the connector.

6803.3.3 Size. A connector shall not be smaller than the flue collar of the appliance.

Exception: Where installed in accordance with the appliance manufacturer’s installation instructions.

6803.3.4 Clearance. Connectors shall be installed with clearance to combustibles as set forth in Table 6803.3.4. Reduced clearances to combustible materials shall be in accordance with Table 6306.2 and Figure 6306.1.

**TABLE 6803.3.4
CHIMNEY AND VENT CONNECTOR (SOLID FUEL-BURNING APPLIANCES) CLEARANCES TO COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS^a**

TYPE OF CONNECTOR	MINIMUM CLEARANCE (inches)
Single-wall metal pipe connectors: Solid-fuel appliances	18
Type L vent piping connectors: Solid-fuel appliances	9

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

a. These minimum clearances apply to unlisted single-wall chimney and vent connectors. Reduction of required clearances is permitted as in Table 6306.2.

6803.3.5 Access. The entire length of a connector shall be accessible for inspection, cleaning and replacement.

6803.4 Connection to fireplace flue. Connection of appliances to chimney flues serving fireplaces shall comply with Sections 6803.4.1 through 6803.4.4.

6803.4.1 Closure and accessibility. A noncombustible seal shall be provided below the point of connection to prevent entry of room air into the flue. Means shall be provided for access to the flue for inspection and cleaning.

6803.4.2 Connection to factory-built fireplace flue. A different appliance shall not be connected to a flue serving a factory-built fireplace unless the appliance is specifically listed for such an installation. The connection shall be made in conformance with the appliance manufacturer’s instructions.

6803.4.3 Connection to masonry fireplace flue. A connector shall extend from the appliance to the flue serving a masonry fireplace such that the flue gases are conveyed

directly into the flue. The connector shall be accessible or removable for inspection and cleaning of both the connector and the flue. Listed direct connection devices shall be installed in accordance with their listing.

6803.4.4 Size of flue. The size of the fireplace flue shall be in accordance with Section 6805.3.1.

**SECTION 6804
VENTS**

6804.1 Type of vent required. Appliances shall be provided with a listed and labeled venting system as set forth in Table 6804.1.

**TABLE 6804.1
VENT SELECTION CHART – PELLET VENTS**

PELLET VENTS
Pellet fuel burning
Pellet fuel-burning appliances listed and labeled for use with pellet vents

6804.2 Termination. Vent termination shall comply with Sections 6804.2.1 through 6804.2.6.

6804.2.1 Through the roof. Vents passing through a roof shall extend through flashing and terminate in accordance with the manufacturer’s installation requirements.

6804.2.2 Decorative shrouds. Decorative shrouds shall not be installed at the termination of vents except where such shrouds are listed and labeled for use with the specific venting system and are installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s installation instructions.

6804.2.3 Natural draft appliances. Vents for natural draft appliances shall terminate at least 5 feet (1524 mm) above the highest connected appliance outlet, and natural draft gas vents serving wall furnaces shall terminate at an elevation at least 12 feet (3658 mm) above the bottom of the furnace.

6804.2.4 Type L vent. Type L venting systems shall conform to UL 641. Such vents shall terminate with a listed and labeled cap in accordance with the vent manufacturer’s installation instructions not less than 2 feet (610 mm) above the roof and not less than 2 feet (610 mm) above any portion of the building within 10 feet (3048 mm).

6804.2.5 Direct vent terminations. Vent terminals for direct-vent appliances shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s installation instructions.

6804.2.6 Mechanical draft systems. Mechanical draft systems shall be installed in accordance with their listing, the manufacturer’s installation instructions and, except for direct vent appliances, the following requirements:

1. The vent terminal shall be located not less than 3 feet (914 mm) above a forced air inlet located within 10 feet (3048 mm).
2. The vent terminal shall be located not less than 4 feet (1219 mm) below, 4 feet (1219 mm) horizontally from, or 1 foot (305 mm) above any door, window or gravity air inlet into a dwelling.

3. The vent termination point shall not be located closer than 3 feet (914 mm) to an interior corner formed by two walls perpendicular to each other.
4. The bottom of the vent terminal shall be located at least 12 inches (305 mm) above finished ground level.
5. The vent termination shall not be mounted directly above or within 3 feet (914 mm) horizontally from an oil tank vent or gas meter.
6. Power exhauster terminations shall be located not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) from lot lines and adjacent buildings.
7. The discharge shall be directed away from the building.

6804.3 Installation. Type L and pellet vents shall be installed in accordance with the terms of their listing and label and the manufacturer’s installation instructions.

6804.3.1 Size of single appliance venting systems. An individual vent for a single appliance shall have a cross-sectional area equal to or greater than the area of the connector to the appliance, but not less than 7 square inches (4515 mm²) except where the vent is an integral part of a listed and labeled appliance.

**SECTION 6805
MASONRY AND FACTORY-BUILT CHIMNEYS**

6805.1 General. Masonry and factory-built chimneys shall be built and installed in accordance with Sections 6001 and 6002, respectively. Flue lining for masonry chimneys shall comply with Section 6001.8.

6805.2 Masonry chimney connection. A chimney connector shall enter a masonry chimney not less than 6 inches (152 mm) above the bottom of the chimney. Where it is not possible to locate the connector entry at least 6 inches (152 mm) above the bottom of the chimney flue, a cleanout shall be provided by installing a capped tee in the connector next to the chimney. A connector entering a masonry chimney shall extend through, but not beyond the wall and shall be flush with the inner face of the liner. Connectors, or thimbles where used, shall be firmly cemented into the masonry.

6805.3 Size of chimney flues. *For fossil fuel-fired appliances, see 248 CMR or 527 CMR, as applicable.*

6805.3.1 Size of chimney flue for solid fuel appliance. Except where otherwise specified in the manufacturer’s installation instructions, the cross-sectional area of a flue connected to a solid-fuel-burning appliance shall be not less than the area of the flue collar or connector, and not larger than three times the area of the flue collar.

