

Pilot Light Prohibition

IECC: R403.1.3 (New), R403.10.1

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2018 International Energy Conservation Code

Add new text as follows:

R403.1.3 Continuously Burning Pilot Lights The natural gas systems and equipment listed below are not permitted to have continuously burning pilot lights:

1. Fan-type central furnaces.
2. Household cooking appliances.
 1. EXCEPTION: Household cooking appliances without electrical supply voltage connections and in which each pilot light consumes less than 150 Btu/hr.
3. Pool heaters.
4. Spa heaters.
5. Fireplaces.

Revise as follows:

R403.10.1 Heaters. The electric power to heaters shall be controlled by a readily *accessible* on-off switch that is an integral part of the heater mounted on the exterior of the heater, or external to and within 3 feet (914 mm) of the heater. Operation of such switch shall not change the setting of the heater thermostat. Such switches shall be in addition to a circuit breaker for the power to the heater. ~~Gas-fired heaters shall not be equipped with continuously burning ignition pilots.~~

Reason Statement: Standing pilot lights are no longer necessary with many gas-fired appliances offering alternative ignition methods. Some models rely completely on intermittent ignition, while others allow standing pilots to operate for a few hours after shutdown and then use electronic ignition to re-start. This proposal saves energy by eliminating the wasted energy of a pilot light during the numerous hours per year when the appliance is non-operational.

Cost Impact: The code change proposal will increase the cost of construction. This prohibition is not expected to add significant cost to any gas-fired appliance listed in the proposal. Past efficiency studies have shown \$100 increase in price for fireplaces in particular to move from a standard continuously lit pilot light to an intermittent ignition system.