

CODE GUIDE

OFFICE OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

TOPIC: Unvented Heater Installation - IMC/9/#1 & CABO/21/#1

CODE: One & Two Family Dwelling Specialty Code: 1996 Edition
Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code: 1998 Edition

APPROVED: February 1, 2000 *[Margaret M. Mahoney]*

REFERENCE: Section 2101.1 - One & Two Family Dwelling Specialty Code
Chapter 9 – Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code

SUBJECT: Installation of Unvented Heaters in Buildings

QUESTION: There are several unvented room heaters available on the market for installation in residential occupancies. Are these vent free appliances allowed for installation in the City of Portland?

RESPONSE: Unvented room heaters are allowed for installation in any occupancy classification with the exception of Groups A, E, and I. In addition, the following conditions must be met:

1. An additional source of heating shall be supplied in dwelling units. An unvented heater cannot be the sole source of heat in any dwelling unit.
2. The input rating on an unvented heater shall be less than 40,000 Btu/h (11.7 kW)
3. Unvented heaters shall not be installed in sleeping rooms, bathrooms and toilet rooms, storage closets and surgical rooms.
4. The aggregate input rating of all unvented appliances installed in a room or space shall not exceed 20 Btu/h per cubic foot (0.21 kW/m³) of volume of the room or space in which the unvented heater is located.
5. The unvented heating equipment shall be equipped with an oxygen-depletion-sensitive safety shut off system. The system shall be capable of shutting off

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the gas supply to the main and pilot burners when the oxygen in the surrounding atmosphere is depleted to a percent concentration not lower than 18 percent or in accordance with the manufactures requirements whichever is higher. The shut-off system shall not be allowed to be adjusted.

6. The equipment to be installed shall be listed for the intended use.

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