

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Protection of Aboveground Outdoors Fuel Gas Piping

Code: 2002 Fuel Gas Code

Date: November 23, 2004

Section: 404.7

Question:

Is aboveground gas piping outdoors required to be protected?

Answer:

Yes. Section 404.7 states "Piping installed aboveground outdoors shall be securely supported and located where it will be protected from physical damage." Copper tubing, corrugated stainless steel tubing (csst), and brass pipe shall be protected with a schedule 40 polyvinyl chloride (pvc) sleeve or equivalent from a point 3 inches below grade to a point 3 feet above grade. The protection shall be provided at the building, when the piping is not protected by the gas meter, gas appliance or other means, and also at the storage tank when L P gas is used. The protection will not be required for black steel and galvanized steel pipe. When the manufacturer's installation instructions require additional protection, the protection shall be provided.