

RE107-19

IECC: R403.1.3 (N1103.1.3) (New), R403.10.1 (1103.10.1)

Proposed Change as Submitted

Proponents: Nicholas O'Neil, NW Energy Codes Group, representing NW Energy Codes Group (noneil@energy350.com)

2018 International Energy Conservation Code

Add new text as follows:

R403.1.3 (IRC N1103.1.3) 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.

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 (N1103.10.1) 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: 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.

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Public Hearing Results

Committee Action:

Disapproved

Committee Reason: Proponent asked for disapproval to provide time to work with opposition (Vote: 11-0).

Assembly Action:

None

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Individual Consideration Agenda

Public Comment 1:

IECC@: R202 (New), R403.1.3 (IRC N1103.1.3) (New), R403.10.1 (N1103.10.1)

Proponents:

Nicholas O'Neil, representing Energy 350 (noneil@energy350.com)

Modify as follows:

2018 International Energy Conservation Code

R202 Continuously Burning Pilot Light A small gas flame used to ignite gas at a larger burner. Once lit, a continuous pilot light remains in operation until manually interrupted.

R403.1.3 (IRC N1103.1.3) 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.

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.

R403.10.1 (N1103.10.1) 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.~~

Commenter's Reason: Public comment adds a definition of a continuously burning pilot light to clarify what "continuous" means based on feedback from the industry. In addition, while continuous pilot lights for pool and spa heaters are already banned by the IECC, this new section R403.1.3 will cover all cases where they are banned and therefore we have removed the additional reference to continuously burning pilot lights in section R403.10.1 to avoid duplicate information.

Original 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 restart. This proposal saves energy by eliminating the wasted energy of a pilot light during the numerous hours per year when the appliance is nonoperational.

Cost Impact: The net effect of the public comment and code change proposal will increase the cost of construction

Original cost statement: 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. Other gas-fired appliances on the prohibition list have largely moved away from continuous pilots and intermittent ignition systems do not add substantial cost to the final product.