

SUBJECT: Copper gas tubing prohibited

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 25, 2010

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: ADM – 2.1209.5.3.2

SEE ALSO: 2006 UPC – Section 1209.5.3.2

INTERPRETATION SUMMARY

Many years ago, the plumbing code permitted the use of internally tinned copper pipe as an approved material for gas piping. Copper tubing has never been an approved material for gas piping. Natural gas has a corrosive effect on copper because of its sulfur content. Typically, the tubing is eaten away on the inside with no visible clues of the damage on the outside. Eventually, the tubing becomes so brittle that vibration such as might be caused by the operation of a connected appliance can cause the tube to break. Therefore, it is a long standing policy of this department and of Kansas Gas Service, when an inspector or serviceperson discovers copper tubing being used in a gas pipe system, it is a violation that must be immediately corrected. There is no grandfathering of this material due to the potential hazard involved.