



## **Policies / Interpretations / Procedures**

### **BD-PP-0006**

#### **PRE-INSPECTIONS OF EXISTING CHIMNEYS AND VENTS**

##### **Policy Summary:**

Requires that any existing chimney or vent previously utilized to burn solid or liquid fuel be cleaned and inspected by a chimney sweep or masonry contractor prior to the issuance of a permit for reuse with a new fuel-burning appliance.

##### **Background:**

The Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code (OMSC) and the Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC) require appliances which are installed utilizing an existing chimney or vent to comply with the following:

*The flue gas passageway shall be free of obstruction and combustible deposits and shall be cleaned if previously used for venting a solid or liquid fuel-burning appliance or fireplace. The flue liner, chimney inner wall or vent inner wall shall be continuous and shall be free of cracks, gaps, perforations or other damage or deterioration which would allow the escape of combustion products, including gases, moisture and creosote.*

This requirement applies to all appliances installed into an existing chimney or vent which previously vented appliances using solid or liquid fuel. The requirement does not apply to new gas appliances which are proposed to vent into an existing (type B) gas vent.

##### **Discussion:**

The inspection of an existing chimney or vent requires equipment that is not readily available to staff. A professional chimney sweep or masonry contractor who is licensed by the State Construction Contractors Board (CCB) has the equipment and expertise to confirm the safety of an existing chimney or vent.

**Policy:**

1. Existing chimneys or vents previously utilized to burn solid or liquid fuel must be cleaned and inspected by a chimney sweep or masonry contractor prior to the issuance of a permit for reuse with a new fuel-burning appliance. The chimney sweep or masonry contractor must be registered with the CCB.
2. Prior to requesting the inspection of the new appliance, the chimney sweep or masonry contractor must submit written verification to this Division that the chimney or vent has been cleaned and is safe for reuse with the proposed appliance.

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