

CRR POLICY 1313: USE OF PORTABLE UNVENTED FUEL-FIRED HEATING APPLIANCES



Created: March 13, 2018 Revised: n/a Effective Date: Immediate
Community Risk Reduction Division – 928-204-8926

This policy is promulgated in accordance with Section 104.1 of the 2012 International Fire Code (IFC) and is an official interpretation of Section 603.4 of the 2012 IFC.

Section 603.4 of the fire code states;

603.4.2.1.1 Prohibited locations. The storage or use of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances is prohibited in any of the following locations:

1. Inside of any occupancy when connected to the fuel gas container.
2. Inside of tents, canopies and membrane structures.
3. On exterior balconies.

603.4.2.1.2 Clearance to buildings. Portable outdoor gas fired heating appliances shall be located at least 5 feet (1524 mm) from buildings.

603.4.2.1.3 Clearance to combustibles materials. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located beneath, or closer than 5 feet (1524 mm) to combustibles decorations and combustibles overhangs, awnings, sunshades or similar combustibles attachments to buildings.

603.4.2.1.4 Proximity to exits. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located within 5 feet (1524 mm) of exits or exit discharges.

603.4.2.2.1 Listing and approval. Only listed and approved portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances utilizing a fuel gas container that is integral to the appliance shall be used.

603.4.2.2.2 Installation and maintenance. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Interpretation:

These devices are designed only for outdoor use. The indoor use of portable outdoor gas-fired heaters is prohibited. These heaters are not designed or listed for indoor use because they are unvented appliances. The potential fire and life safety hazard of LP-gas warrants their prohibition inside of occupied buildings and structures.

The use of these devices is never allowed;

- Inside of buildings, tents or enclosures of any type
- Under roofs, awnings, sunshades, patios, or canopies of any type
- Within 5 feet of buildings, structures or combustibles
- Within 5 feet of exits or exit discharges

The use of these devices often results in additional compliance issues and fire code violations pertaining to the use, storage and filling of portable propane tanks, most of which could be avoided by the installation of approved, permanently mounted heaters.

There are many models of electric and vented gas-fired radiant heaters that are intended for indoor use and designed for zero or low clearance installations. The installation of permanent appliances has many advantages over the portable devices. Permanent devices do not take up any floor space; do not require the filling, transportation & storage of propane bottles; and are safe for indoor and low clearance installations. These devices are allowed as long as they are installed in accordance with their listing and the manufacturer's instructions and all applicable codes and standards.

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Any comments or questions regarding the above information may be submitted to:
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