



CITY OF HOUSTON
Fire Department

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Subject: Space Heater Appliance Use

Use of space heater appliances within a building or structure shall be in accordance with the City of Houston *Fire Code*, and International Fire Code 2006 edition, as amended.

I. Clearance from ignition sources. Clearance between ignition sources, such as luminaires, heaters, flame-producing devices, and combustible materials shall be maintained in an approved manner. The clearance between combustible materials and unit heaters, radiant heaters, duct furnaces, flues and other heat producing devices shall be in accordance with the clearances shown on the product listing, but in no case shall be less than 3 feet (914.4 mm) in all directions, except as provided for in the Building Code. (*Fire Code*, Section 305.1)

II. Heating appliances. Heating appliances shall be listed and shall comply with this section.

a) **Guard against contact.** The heating element or combustion chamber shall be permanently guarded so as to prevent accidental contact by persons or material.

b) **Heating appliance installation and maintenance.** Heating appliances shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the International Building Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Fuel Gas Code and the ICC Electrical Code.

(Fire Code, Section 603.5)

III. Discontinuing operation of unsafe heating appliances. The fire code official is authorized to order that measures be taken to prevent the operation of any existing stove, oven, furnace, incinerator, boiler or any other heat-producing device or appliance found to be defective or in violation of code requirements for existing appliances after giving notice to this effect to any person, owner, firm or agent or operator in charge of the same. The fire code official is authorized to take measures to prevent the operation of any device or appliance without notice when inspection shows the existence of an immediate fire hazard or when imperiling human life. The defective device shall remain withdrawn from service until all necessary repairs or alterations have been made. (*Fire Code*, Section 603.7)

IV. Unauthorized operation. It shall be a violation of this code for any person, user, firm or agent to continue the utilization of any device or appliance (the operation of which has been discontinued or ordered discontinued in accordance with Section 603.7), unless written authority to resume operation is given by the fire code official. Removing or breaking the means by which operation of the device is prevented shall be a violation of this code. (*Fire Code*, Section 603.7.1)