

August 22, 2008

ANSI Approves the 2009 National Fuel Gas Code

Cutting Edge Solutions LLC (Framingham, MA) is reporting that ANSI has approved the 2009 edition of the National Fuel Gas Code (ANSI Z223/NFPA 54) effective on September 5, 2008. The next edition of the code will include an update to Section 7.13 (Bonding and Grounding) as shown below. The 2009 edition will require the bonding of CSST systems directly to the grounding electrode system in addition to the use of the equipment grounding conductor (if provided). This requirement will apply to all CSST products without exception, and for all connected equipment including those not electrically powered.

7.13.1 Pipe and Tubing Other Than CSST. Each aboveground portion of a gas piping system other than CSST that is likely to become energized shall be electrically continuous and bonded to an effective ground-fault current path. Gas piping other than CSST shall be considered to be bonded when it is connected to appliances that are connected to the appliance grounding conductor of the circuit supplying that appliance.

7.13.2 CSST. CSST gas piping systems shall be bonded to the electrical service grounding electrode system at the point where the gas service enters the building. The bonding jumper shall not be smaller than 6 AWG copper wire or equivalent.

7.13.3 Prohibited Use. Gas piping shall not be used as a grounding conductor or electrode. This does not preclude the bonding of metallic piping to the grounding electrode system.

The new bonding method will become a mandatory practice for all CSST systems based on the requirement within the ANSI LC-1 Standard that all CSST manufacturers comply with the National Fuel Gas Code. A proposal for inclusion of the CSST bonding requirement in Section 250 of the National Electrical Code will also be submitted by CES before the November deadline.

For additional information on the bonding of CSST systems, please call Bob Torbin of Cutting Edge Solutions at (508) 877-9239 or inquire at its web site: <http://www.thecuttingedgellc.com>