

BONDING OF THE GAS SUPPLY SYSTEM - WHAT IS THE INSPECTOR'S DUTY UNDER THE STANDARDS OF PRACTICE?

Q: Do the Standards of Practice (SOPs) require an inspector to check the bonding of a gas supply system?

A: YES. Section 535.229 of the SOPs (22 TAC 535.227-535.332) requires an inspector to report as deficient any "deficiencies in bonding and grounding." Before the most recent revision of the SOPs adopted by the Commission in May of 2013, Section 535.229 specified that an inspector was required to report as deficient "appliances and metal pipes that are not bonded or grounded." The change in language was not intended as a substantive change regarding what is required of the inspector. Rather, the change was made to eliminate redundancies in the language concerning bonding and grounding throughout the SOPs.

Q: Does this requirement include Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST)?

A: YES. This requirement applies to *ALL* metal pipes, including CSST, which is just one of the materials that may be used in a gas supply or distribution system.

Q: Do the SOPs require an inspector to determine if CSST is present?

A: NO. The SOPs don't require an inspector to determine if CSST is present in a home. However, if CSST is noted during an inspection, the inspector is required to determine if CSST is bonded, subject to any limitations in the SOPs. This determination does not prevent an inspector from specifically reporting the presence of CSST or referring a client to additional information regarding the product.

Q: Do the SOPs require an inspector to determine if CSST is properly bonded?

A: NO. The inspector is only required to determine if the gas supply system is bonded and not whether it's "properly" bonded. The determination as to whether a gas supply system is properly bonded should be left to a person with the required expertise to do so, such as a licensed master electrician.

Q: Does the recent addition to the preamble of the Inspection Report Form, which lists the lack of bonding of the gas supply system as a hazard, place any additional burdens on the inspector?

A: NO. An inspector is required by the SOPs to report the lack of bonding of the gas supply system, regardless of any language in the preamble of the inspection report form. The

added language in the preamble of the report enhances consumer protection by providing the consumer with notice regarding the potential hazard caused by lack of bonding.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

TREIC SOP Committee Meeting— via teleconference—
June 8 at 8:30am

TREIC Committee Meeting—June 22 at 11am

Check the [TREIC website](#) regularly for postings of all of our upcoming meetings.

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