

PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL  
INTERPRETATION MANUAL



CITY OF DALLAS

CODE: 2006 IRC & IPC

DATE:

CODE REF: IRC-P2503.5.1 IPC-312.1

4/26/2007

SUBJECT: Air Testing of Piping other than Plastic

**Question:** Is an "Air Test" permissible for piping other than plastic?

**Answer:** Yes, an "Air Test" is permitted in both the IRC and the IPC. However, The IPC contains a provision that prohibits "Air Test" for plastic piping.

Most of the manufactures installation instruction either prohibit or contains a recommendation not to air test for plastic piping. In an effort to be consistent with both codes we will not allow "air test" for any plastic piping as outlined in the IPC. The IRC P2503.5.1 (2) will not be a permissible for the testing of plastic piping. When we adopt the 2006 IRC it will be amended to read "...for piping systems other than plastic:

IRC P2503.5.1 (2) Exception: (1) Not permitted for plastic piping.

**IPC 312.1 Required tests.**

The permit holder shall make the applicable tests prescribed in Sections 312.2 through 312.9 to determine compliance with the provisions of this code. The permit holder shall give reasonable advance notice to the code official when the plumbing work is ready for tests. The equipment, material, power and labor necessary for the inspection and test shall be furnished by the permit holder and the permit holder shall be responsible for determining that the work will withstand the test pressure prescribed in the following tests. All plumbing system piping shall be tested with either water or, **for piping systems other than plastic**, by air. After the plumbing fixtures have been set and their traps filled with water, the entire drainage system shall be submitted to final tests. The code official shall require the removal of any cleanouts if necessary to ascertain whether the pressure has reached all parts of the system.

**IRC P2503.5.1 Rough plumbing.**

DWV systems shall be tested on completion of the rough piping installation by water or air **for piping other than plastic** with no evidence of leakage. Either test shall be applied to the drainage system in its entirety or in sections after rough piping has been installed, as follows:

1. **Water test.** Each section shall be filled with water to a point not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) above the highest fitting connection in that section, or to the highest point in the completed system. Water shall be held in the section under test for a period of 15 minutes. The system shall prove leak free by visual inspection.
2. **Air test.** The portion under test shall be maintained at a gauge pressure of 5 pounds per square inch (psi) (34 kPa) or 10 inches of mercury column (2488 Pa). This pressure shall be held without introduction of additional air for a period of 15 minutes.

**Exception:**

1. Not permitted for plastic piping.

**Wet Weather Method of Testing:** Fill plastic pipe with water and cap all opening except one (1). Place and cap with a air test gauge on the pipe and pressurize with no more than 5 psi. There should be no more than twelve (12) inches of the upper portion of plastic pipe under air test.

This is a change from what has previously been approved this will be come effective June 1, 2007. During the interim period when performing inspections under the IRC issue a "yellow tag" stating "Starting June 1, 2007 Air Test may not be used for plastic pipe."

SIGNATURE: *Lonnie Erwin,*

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