

NFPA®

31

Standard for the
Installation of
Oil-Burning Equipment

2020



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NFPA® 31

Standard for the

Installation of Oil-Burning Equipment

2020 Edition

This edition of NFPA 31, *Standard for the Installation of Oil-Burning Equipment*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Liquid Fuel Burning Equipment. It was issued by the Standards Council on November 4, 2019, with an effective date of November 24, 2019, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 31 was approved as an American National Standard on November 24, 2019.

Origin and Development of NFPA 31

Oil-burning equipment standards date from 1902, when they were issued by the National Board of Fire Underwriters under the title *Rules and Requirements of the National Board of Fire Underwriters for the Storage and Use of Fuel Oil and for the Construction and Installation of Oil Burning Equipment*. Subsequently, the project was turned over to the NFPA, and a completely revised standard was first presented to the Association in 1913. Since then, the responsibility for NFPA 31 has been that of the Technical Committee on Liquid Fuel Burning Equipment. Revised editions of NFPA 31 were issued in 1948, 1951, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1968, 1972, 1974, 1978, 1983, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2001, 2006, 2010, and 2016.

The 1997 edition of NFPA 31 incorporated complete revisions to Chapter 2 and Chapter 5 with the addition of new Appendixes D and E.

The 2001 edition included a major editorial reorganization to comply with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*, the addition of new Chapters 12 and 13, and a major revision to Appendix E.

The 2006 edition incorporated several amendments all coupled to the revision to Section 7.5 on installation of fuel oil storage tanks in buildings.

The 2011 edition incorporated amendments permitting the use of any liquid fuel deemed appropriate for use for stationary liquid fuel burning appliances, including fuels derived from biodiesel sources. The 2011 edition also included revisions to Chapters 2 and 8.

The 2016 edition incorporated a series of amendments to require oil-burning appliances to be listed or approved for use, to require installers to ensure the appliance functions in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and to ensure adequate separation between stored materials and oil-burning appliances, chimneys, chimney connectors, and flues.

In the 2020 edition, Chapter 3 definitions for heating fuel and used oil have been revised, and the list of acceptable fuels in Chapter 4 has been modified based on updated ASTM reference standards. Annex material also has been included to explain the changes regarding acceptable fuels. The specifications for acceptable piping and fitting materials in Section 8.2 also have been revised based on updates to the reference test standards. In addition to these technical requirement changes, references based on extracted text also have been updated.

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NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the safeguarding against the fire, explosion, and life safety hazards associated with the installation and use of stationary and portable liquid fuel-burning equipment, including: (1) related fuel storage tanks and associated piping, venting systems, pumps, and controls; (2) the combustion air supply and flue gas venting systems for the liquid fuel burning equipment; and (3) combustion and safety controls.

This Committee does not have responsibility for: (1) boiler-furnaces with fuel input ratings of 3660 kW (12,500,000 BTU per hr. or 10,000 lbs. steam per hr.) or more; (2) process ovens; (3) process furnaces; or (4) internal combustion engines.

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