



SUBJECT

Overhead Piping
(Formerly CAN 5-311.9)

CAN: 5-310.9
Effective: 6/19/2008
Revised: 11/6/2014



CODE SECTION

Section 310.9
2013 California Plumbing Code (CPC)

2013 California Plumbing Code CHAPTER 3

310.9 [OSHPD 1, 2, 3 & 4] Drainage piping over operating and delivery rooms, nurseries, food preparation centers, food-serving facilities, food storage areas, and other sensitive areas shall be kept to a minimum and shall not be exposed. Special precautions shall be taken to protect these areas from possible leakage from necessary overhead drainage piping systems. Piping over switchboards, panel boards, and motor control centers are subject to restrictions of the California Electrical Code where applicable.

PURPOSE

The code does not define what constitutes a "special precaution." FM Global is a nationally recognized testing laboratory. FM Approval Standard-Class Number 1680 is used to evaluate couplings used in drain, waste, vent, storm, and sanitary systems for "their intended application of long term connection to hubless cast iron soil pipe both above and below ground." The types of tests performed are: hydrostatic strength, blockage, bending moment, deflection angle, sealing sleeve, clamp strength, thrust test, and salt spray.

Clamps with tie rods are a means of preventing movement in the longitudinal direction. Preventing longitudinal separation of the joint maintains maximum surface contact of the sealing sleeve which affords a factor of safety deemed an acceptable "special precaution."

For copper tubing, brazed joints provide greater strength than soldered (sweated) joints due to better bonding with the base metal and due to strength of the filler material. The greater joint strength provided by brazing is an acceptable special precaution.

The use of drain troughs under overhead piping in critical areas has been used as a "special precaution" on a case-by-case basis for many years with satisfactory results.

The interpretation provides staff and industry with "special precautions" that meet the intent of the code.

