Informal Interpretation Report
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Section 2804.1

Question:

Is it the intent of R2804.1 to require tankless water heaters to have relief valves ?
P2804.1Relief valves required.
Appliances and equipment used for heating water or storing hot water shall be protected by one of the following:

1.A separate pressure-relief valve and a separate temperature-relief valve.

2.A combination pressure-and-temperature relief valve.

Answer

The relief valve requirements of R2804.1 and its corresponding plumbing code section 504.4 are intended to pertain to storage-type water heaters operating above atmospheric pressure. According to the IPC Commentary, this section does not address relief valve requirements for instantaneous (tankless) water heaters. Those requirements can be found in the applicable standards for instantaneous water heaters. Gas-fired instantaneous water heaters are covered by ANSI Z21.10.3, which requires overtemperature protection as part of the burner control system, and overpressure protection by installation of a pressure relief valve (normally provided by the manufacturer). Electric instantaneous water heaters are covered by UL 499, which requires overprotection to be built into the temperature control system, but does not require overpressure protection. Always refer to the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Commentary:

None.

Notice:
The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.