

**Case: BC22-04**

**Clearance Requirements for Wall or Rack Mounted Tankless Water Heaters  
0800-3-3-.08(4)(a)**

*Statement of Need:* The staff of the Tennessee Boiler Unit is requesting a ruling by the Tennessee Board of Boiler Rules to allow tankless hot water supply boilers of wall mounted, stacked, and modular design to be exempt from the installation clearance requirements of Rule 0800-3-3-.08(4)(a).

*Background:* With advances in technology and design, the boiler industry has seen hot water supply boilers coming into the market that are mounted on walls or racks. These low-pressure boilers have either been labeled and/or listed by a nationally registered testing agency. In the case of those boilers 200,000 BTU/HR and greater or those boilers with combined 200,000 BTU/HR and greater, the boiler is required to be stamped ASME and registered with the National Board.

*Inquiry:* Is it required for a low-pressure potable water heater that is designed and installed as a wall or rack mounted unit to adhere to the minimum clearance of at least one and one-half feet (1½ ft) clearance requirements set forth in Rule 0800-3-3-.08(4)(a) of the Tennessee Boiler Rules and Regulations, Except for the wall mounted side set forth in Rule 0800-3-3-.08 (BC06-23)?

*Reply:* It is in the opinion of the TN Board of Boiler Rules that the tankless wall or rack mounted low pressure hot water supply boilers that are designed accordingly may be exempt from the clearance requirements of Rule 0800-3-3-.08(4)(a) as follows:

- 1) Wall and rack mounted tankless boilers. This installation will include the phrase (per Manufacture recommendations for clearance.)
- 2) The boiler nameplate, and where applicable, code stamping is in view or as stated in Rule 0800-3-3-03(23). The following shall be legible to the unaided eye: Manufacture Name or Certifying agency Input Rating BTU/HR, Maximum Allowable Working Pressure, Manufacture Serial Number or NBIC Code Number and Year of Manufacture.
- 3) The boiler's safety relief device shall be accessible by the inspector. The operation and testing lever shall not be obstructed by the installation of another unit or mounting surfaces or piping. The relief device shall be visible to the unaided eye and have the following information available: Size, Set Pressure, Manufacturer and Code Stamping and BTU/HR.
- 4) The installer should indicate if the boiler is wall mounted on the permit application submitted for permission to install to ensure Manufacture recommendations have been utilized at minimum.
- 5) Boilers with combined input exceeding 400,000 BTU/HR are required 36" clearance as per 0800-03-03-.08 (4)(a)
- 6) The Chief inspector or his designee has the discretion to require more clearance if needed for inspection purposes.