305.6

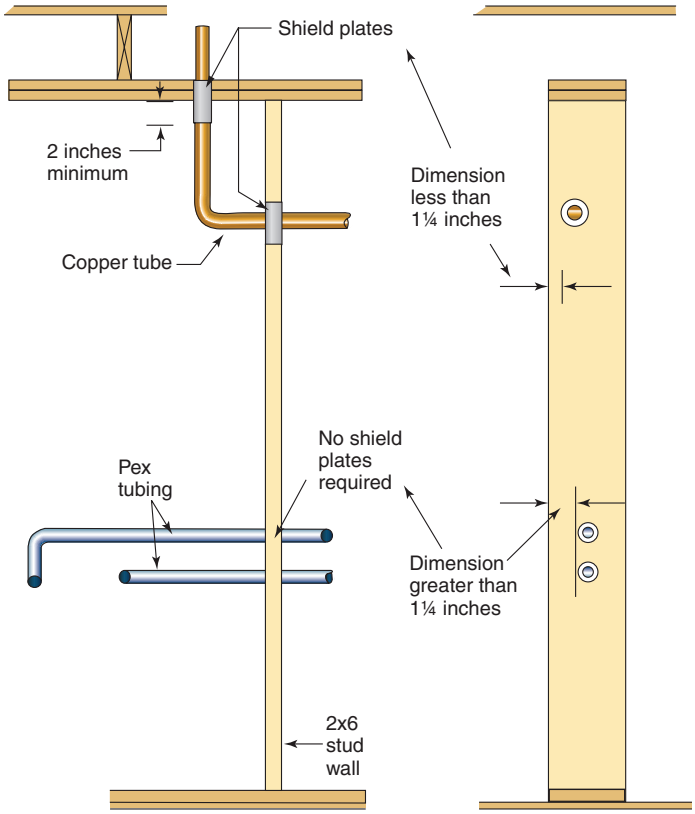
Protection against Physical Damage

CHANGE TYPE: Modification

CHANGE SUMMARY: For concealed piping installed through holes or notches, the minimum distance to the face of the framing member without protection has been reduced.

2018 CODE: **305.6 Protection against physical damage.** In concealed locations where piping, other than cast-iron or galvanized steel, is installed through holes or notches in studs, joists, rafters or similar members less than ~~1 1/2~~ 1 1/4 inches (~~38~~ 32 mm) from the nearest edge of the member, the pipe shall be protected by steel shield plates. Such shield plates shall have a thickness of not less than 0.0575 inch (1.463 mm) (No. 16 gage). Such plates shall cover the area of the pipe where the member is notched or bored, and shall extend not less than 2 inches (51 mm) above sole plates and below top plates.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: The minimum dimension from the face of a framing member has been reduced slightly to match the minimum distance permitted by the *National Electrical Code*® for this same situation where wiring penetrates framing members in concealed locations. This will make it easier for inspectors to remember the minimum distance. Note that the *International Mechanical Code*® (IMC®) and *International Fuel Gas Code*® (IFGC®) still require a minimum of 1 1/2 inches between the edge of the hole and the nearest edge of the framing member. The reduced dimension will make is easier to place piping in walls. For the common application of 1/2-inch gypsum board on framing members, the use of 1 1/2-inch long screws still offers sufficient leeway for a screw that might be slightly overdriven without causing damage to the piping.



Minimum allowable distance from face of member to pipe

This excerpt is taken from ***Significant Changes to the International Plumbing Code®, International Mechanical Code®, International Fuel Gas Code®, 2018 Edition.*** Significant Changes publications take you directly to the most important changes that impact projects. Key changes are identified then followed by in-depth discussion of how the change affects real-world application. Photos, tables and illustrations are included to further clarify application. Available for the IBC, IRC, IFC and IPC/IMC/IFGC, the Significant Changes publications are very useful training and review tools for transitioning to a new code edition.