



**ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BUILDING CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICE
CODE INTERPRETATION**

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Subject Title: Location of main gas shutoff valve in school laboratories
Applicable Code: FBC Section 453.14.1, Fuel Gas Code Section 409.6
Date: July 15, 2020
Revised:

Question: In a school laboratory space, are required gas main shutoff valves required to be located within 15' of the instructor's station or adjacent to the primary egress door?

Answer: In school laboratories, gas main shutoff valves should be located within 15' of the instructor's work station.

Comment: While section 409.6 of the Florida Fuel Gas Code stipulates that laboratory gas shutoff valves be located adjacent to the egress door from the lab, it does not allow for the option to locate it adjacent to the instructor's work station location as described in FBC Section 453.14.1. It is important to note that the FGC provisions apply to many different use groups, but 453.14.1 specifically applies to educational uses. Additionally, section 453.17.4 requires that electrical main shutoff switches in labs be located adjacent to the instructor's work station and does not allow for the alternative location adjacent to the egress door.

In conclusion, it appears that the intent of section 453 to locate "shut offs" adjacent to instructor's work stations in school labs is the preferred location for ease of immediate access to turn off all services to the lab student work stations and that even though the FGC does not offer that as an alternative location, the specific educational use provisions prevail.