2019 California Mechanical Code, Section 105.0 - Permits

104.1: Permits Required. It shall be unlawful for a person, firm, or corporation to make an installation, alteration, repair, replacement, or remodel a mechanical system regulated by this code except as permitted in Section 104.2, or to cause the same to be done without first obtaining a separate mechanical permit for each separate building or structure.

104.2: Exempt Work. A mechanical permit shall not be required for the following:
1. A portable heating appliance, portable ventilating equipment, a portable cooling unit, or a portable evaporative cooler.
2. A closed system of steam, hot, or chilled water piping within heating or cooling equipment regulated by this code.
3. Replacement of a component part that does not alter its original approval and is in accordance with other applicable requirements of this code.
4. Refrigerating equipment that is part of the equipment for which a permit has been issued pursuant to the requirements of this code.
5. A unit refrigeration system.

Exemption from the permit requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any work to be done in violation of the provisions of the code or any other laws or ordinances of this jurisdiction.

COMMON MECHANICAL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Permits Required – Permits are required for:
- New or replacement heating units (forced air, floor furnace, wall furnace, etc.), and air conditioning units including compressors, and new bath or kitchen ventilation fans.
- Commercial kitchen appliances and Type I and II commercial hoods.
- New, replacement, or alteration of a factory built Chimney or fireplace.

Exempt From Permit – Permits are not required for:
- Plug-in, portable heating, cooling or ventilation units.
- Replacement of plug-in, portable domestic ranges, stoves, refrigerators and humidifiers.
- Service, including replacement of parts and assemblies on an existing unit or appliance that complies with the original approval such as replacement of a manifold, a control unit or a motor.