

Fuel Safety Bulletin

2005-02

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Subject: Propane-engine emergency generators

Particularly severe winters and recent power outages have resulted in an influx of companies offering propane-fuelled emergency generators to homeowners. These companies range from small independents to large hardware chains and none appear to understand code requirements for these units. The following are some general guidelines for the installation of these generators;

1. While these gensets bear a recognised certification label, the label only applies to the electrical generator and associated wiring. The fuel system is not certified. As a result, Section 7.2 of the *CAN/CSA B149.1-10 Propane and Natural Gas Installation Code* applies fully.
2. Many of these units are supplied with a flexible connector. Since most come from the USA, the connector does not meet the Canadian code requirements and must be replaced by the required Type 2 or Type 3 certified hose assembly.
3. All fuel system components must bear a Canadian certification mark.
4. Most units do not have a requirement for clearances to combustible materials. Check the instructions first. If the instructions have no requirements, then the required minimum clearance to combustible materials is three (3) feet (1m). Clearance requirements to an opening window or door are three (3) feet (1m).
5. Most units do not have a gas rating plate. The plate noted in Clause 7.2.4.10 of the CSA B149.1 code must be affixed before connection.
6. These units are normally shipped fitted for service with natural gas. The initial conversion of the unit may only be completed by the holder of a Nova Scotia Gas Fitter or G-5 Restricted certificate. Any subsequent servicing of the engine's fuel system may only be carried out by the holder of a Nova Scotia G-5 Restricted certificate
7. For tank sizing requirements, use the installation instructions or a figure of 10,000 btu/h per horsepower. These units are considered to be a heating load, as the load is continuous.

Sincerely,

Dale C. Stewart
Chief Inspector, Fuel Safety