

Fuel Safety Bulletin

2011-05

Dated: Nov. 3, 2011

Subject: Building Energy Management Systems

As we have been ramping up our inspections of oil utilizing systems, Fuel Safety inspection staff, as well as Boiler Inspection staff, have been noticing an increasing number of boilers being tied into building energy management systems. These systems seem to vary widely in their design and implementation. Some of these systems are localized, but some address a number of buildings together.

These energy management systems all seem to be tied into the boiler operation at some level. These levels vary greatly and can simply mean an outside air temperature sensor or can mean a completely independent system involving many aspects of boiler system operation.

In cases where an energy management system is used in conjunction with any fuel-fired regulated boiler, the following rules apply to their utilization;

1. The burner management system of the certified boiler package, may not be interfered with, wired into, nor modified in any way.
2. Boiler safety systems (relief valves, safety limit controls, etc.) of the certified boiler package, may not be interfered with, nor modified, in any way. These primary safety controls must be set within the normal operational range as specified for the certified manufactured package.
3. Energy management systems shall not manage, impede, delay, nor set system operating parameters in any way other than to set load requirement calls or shut down main power.
4. Boiler safety systems and burner management control systems shall not be managed by, modified by, nor connected to, any external system other than for reasons of system monitoring.

For purposes of enforcement, any system found operating outside these parameters will not be licensed for continued operation and may be Red Tagged and removed from service by inspection staff.

For any questions regarding this Bulletin, please contact our Halifax offices.

All Fuel Safety Bulletins can be viewed online at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/lwd/fuelsafety/fuelbulletins.asp>

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