

Fuel Safety Bulletin

2013-03

Dated: July 31, 2013

Subject: Domestic Heat Pumps

Recently, we have seen large numbers of small efficient heat pumps being installed at residences throughout Nova Scotia. While these units offer an alternative form of building heat/cooling, they have created a problem.

Heat pump installers have little or no knowledge of the Fuel Safety Regulation and the national codes adopted by this regulation. As a result, the installation of these units often violates CSA B149 code requirements.

A prime example of this is the clearance required between a propane container and a source of ignition. Clause 6.7.2 of the *CSA B149.2 Propane Storage and Handling Code* states as follows;

6.7.2

*Except as permitted in [Clauses 6.5, 6.7.3, 10, and 11.9\(b\)](#) of this Code and [Clause 5.2.2 of CSA B149.5](#), a **cylinder** shall be installed outside a **building**, with the discharge from the **cylinder** relief valve not less than*

- (a) 3 ft (1 m) on a horizontal plane from any **building opening** when the opening is below the level of the relief valve discharge;*
- (b) 10 ft (3 m) on a horizontal plane from the air intake of any **appliance** or air-moving **equipment**; and*
- (c) 10 ft (3 m) on a horizontal plane from any source of **ignition**.*

Though this clause requires a separation of *10 ft (3 m)* between a cylinder and a heat pump unit, the heat pump installer often installs the unit right beside the cylinders, thus creating a hazard.

Propane bulk delivery drivers must be informed that deliveries to such units are prohibited until the heat pump unit has been moved to give the required separation.

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

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Dale C. Stewart
Chief Inspector, Fuel Safety