

# Fuel Safety Bulletin

## 2000-04

**Issued:** November 3, 2000

**Rev. 1:** Dec. 1, 2011

**Subject:** General

Welcome to our 4th publication of the Fuel Safety Bulletin for the year 2000. The next few months will present some major changes here, as the departments of Labour and Environment are amalgamated. In this process, 21 divisions will be downsized to 12 divisions. These are truly exciting times.

As many of you already know, we have a new inspector on staff. Paul Fowler has been working in the industry here in Nova Scotia for over 20 years and brings with him a wealth of knowledge in all areas of gas utilisation. Please join me in welcoming Paul as a valuable member of the Fuel Safety Division.

Natural gas has finally arrived in Nova Scotia. When you receive this Bulletin, natural gas will be in use at Nova Scotia Power's Tufts Cove Generating Station here in Halifax. The 4+ billion Btu load presents a significant start for natural gas in this province.

As always, this Bulletin will also address some concerns and problems which we have encountered in our daily work. The following are a few items for your attention;

**1. Permit submission forms** - While these are arriving and being processed as quickly as possible, we are encountering some problems which tend to slow the process. We have slightly modified our submission form (see attached) in order to remedy some of these points.

Please ensure that the following are clear;

- (a) Complete civic address
- (b) Licensee information - If your company has 2 licenses (Ie; Class 1 & Class 2) Be sure to use the right number.
- (c) Indication of a change in load - only fill this in on an existing installation.
- (d) Comments - use this for any particulars (Piping only, tanks only, etc.)

In the past, we have issued permits for tanks or underground lines, before issuing a permit for the building. Due to continuing problems with mechanical contractors doing work for which they are neither licensed nor certified, this practice will cease immediately. A supplier submitting for a tank or underground line permit must also submit the building permit number.

**2. Permits** - While on the topic of permits, I must remind you of one more issue. We are still finding large numbers of technicians starting piping and other installation work before the permit has been issued. Please see Section 17. It clearly states that *"A person must not order or permit another person to begin a gas installation or alteration referred to in Section 18 or 24 unless a gas permit or gas registration as required by those Sections has been granted for the gas installation or alteration."* If you have started a job, you must have a valid permit/registration number with you.

**3. Type "K" copper tubing underground** - For some reason, new Gas Fitters seem to feel that this tubing can be direct buried with no protection. This has never been an accepted practice in this province. K copper shall be enclosed in plastic piping, or other suitable protection, when buried.

**4. Type "GP" copper tubing** - We are still finding this tubing in the field. Under Clause 6.2.4, this tubing is no longer approved for gas usage.

**5. Approved certification marks** - Attached is Bulletin 2000-04A . This bulletin shows all marks which are presently approved for gas equipment. Please note that all marks which show a small “c” at 7 o’clock on the mark , must have it there. A mark without the required “c” is an American certification only.

**6. Green Tags** - We are continuing to find some strange signatures on these tags. We have even had one signed by an Alberta certificate holder.

*Please NOTE:* Green tags must be signed **and** countersigned by valid Nova Scotia Fuel Safety License  
\_\_\_\_\_ Holders **only**.

**7. Yellow and Red tags** - To date, we have received 16 yellow tags and 9 red tags. We have, however, never received any confirmations that these tags were removed (as required by Section 38(2) of the Fuel Safety Regulation).

In addition to this, the yellow tag has a 30 day “life”. It is either removed, or changed to a red tag in 30 days [Sections 33(4) and 34].

*Please NOTE:* If you install a tag, you are responsible to either remove it (after a repair), or change the Yellow tag to a Red tag in 30 days. You are also responsible to notify us of any changes.

**Do NOT** put these tags on and forget them.

Should there be any questions regarding these issues, or any items that you would like addressed in a future Bulletin, please contact me at our Halifax office. Our phone number here is 424-5721 or 1-800-559-3473. Our Fax number is 902-424-3239.

Sincerely

Dale C. Stewart  
Chief Inspector - Fuel Safety