



Labour and Advanced Education  
Technical Safety Division

## *Fuel Safety Regulations*

# Fuel Safety Bulletin

(Issued pursuant to s.30 of the *Technical Safety Act*)

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**ISSUED BY:** Paul Fowler, Chief Fuel Safety Inspector

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**SUBJECT: Termination of appliance and regulator vents**

Although not explicitly noted in the B149 code, it has long been the position of this office that all appliance side wall vents and all regulator vents be located at least 36 inches above grade. This minimum termination height has been selected in order to meet the requirement of most appliance manufacturers to provide a minimum clearance to grade of 12 inches *plus anticipated snow level*. Historical snow level information recently obtained shows that the additional 24 inches of clearance for anticipated snow level is reasonable and required in order to keep appliance and regulator vents above the snow level. Appliance vents that become covered or plugged with snow and ice can contribute to appliance performance issues and even in some cases the increased risk of carbon monoxide infiltration into the building space. Regulator vent openings that become blocked can lead to incorrect gas pressures (high or low), appliance performance issues, and increased risk of gas leakage leading to fire or explosion.

For clarity, this office requires that all appliance sidewall vent terminations, appliance air intakes, and regulator vent openings be at least 36 inches above grade (some installations may require more). For rooftop installations, the requirement is 36 inches above the roof surface.

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

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

**Paul Fowler**  
**Chief Inspector, Fuel Safety**