

Fuel Safety Bulletin

97-04

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Rev: February 9, 2009

The Office of the Fire Marshal staff and, in particular, the members of the gas inspection section, would like to wish you and yours a safe and happy, holiday season.

This has been a very busy year for this Office. We have seen the implementation of Gas Licensing, the hiring of a second inspector, the announcement of natural gas pipeline routes and the start of a long overdue regulatory review. With the ball started in the right direction, we look forward to a new year full of fresh challenges and progress.

It seems that each Propane Bulletin issued results in a number of calls asking why this or that item was not addressed. We thank you for your responses and look forward to your continuing participation in providing articles for these bulletins. We see them as a uniting force for our industry and a way for each of you to share your experiences and problems with others. The result will definitely be a safer and more well informed workforce.

The following is a listing of items which we were asked to address in this, our last Bulletin of 1997.

1/ Jersey Turnpike Barrier : This barrier seems to be growing in popularity because of its price and ease of use. There are, however, a number of items which must be addressed regarding this barrier. The illustration of this barrier on page 83 of the CSA B149.2-05 Code, shows two holes on each face of the barrier. These holes are so that the barrier can be “spiked down” with at least two pieces of steel rod (not less than 1 metre long).

When using these barriers to protect tanks or cylinders, they will be located at least 1 metre from the container (at the base of the barrier) and will have no spacing (a wall-to-barrier, barrier-to-barrier) greater than 54 inches (1350mm).

2/ Propane Dispensers in busy parking lots: Where a dispenser may be surrounded by vehicles in a mall-type parking lot, the minimum spacing between the dispenser and any vehicle impact protection barriers will be at least fifteen (15) feet.

3/ Rooftop appliances: Once again, we would remind you that the clearance between the appliance and the edge of the roof or other hazard will be at least 6 feet (2 m).

When appliances are installed on sloped roofs or roofs where water stands on the roof, a service walkway and platform are required. The platform must encompass any side of the appliance which may require attention by a technician.

4/ Electrical power supply to appliances: Our Chief Electrical Inspector, Mr. Dale Bennicke, has informed us that cord-connected appliances may not use an extension cord to supply electrical power to the appliance.

He has also informed us that it is not legal to add a plug-in cord to an appliance which does not come with one already installed (eg; most fireplaces)

- 5/ Inspection report responses:** The inspection reports sent out from this Office end with the following statement; “this Office requires an acknowledgement of your intentions not later than 15 days after receipt of this letter, and also written notification when the above noted requirements have been fully implemented.”
Please note that the acknowledgement required must state an approximate completion date as well as any specifics as to the corrective actions being taken by you.
- 6/ Adjustable regulators:** This is just a reminder, once again, that adjustable regulators are not considered to be suitable for use as first stage regulators for permanent installations.
This does not prohibit the use of high volume regulators with adjustable components for industrial applications, however, this Office must be contacted to discuss the suitability of any such regulator before it is installed.
To prevent reliquification of the propane in underground gas lines, no propane regulator with an outlet pressure greater than 5 psi should be used in this Province.
- 7/ Flexible connectors on rooftop units:** All rooftop appliances will have a flexible connector installed in the gas piping connection to the unit. As vibration has been a problem in these areas, copper tubing is not approved for this purpose.
- 8/ Pipe strap used as pipe hangers:** In the past, the use of pipe strapping as pipe hanger material was common. Approximately 12 years ago we were lead to believe that this practice had stopped. We are, however, seeing increasing instances of its use lately.
Please note that this product is not to be used in the place of proper piping hangers.
- 9/ Regulator vents:** Just a short note to remind everyone that any “traps” in regulator vent piping(indoor or outdoor) are not acceptable. The vent piping must be sloped downward from the regulator to its termination end.
Also a reminder that the new REGO regulators, with large relief openings, have built-in vent suppressors and therefore do not need vent suppressors on piped vent lines, as others do. As in all cases, however, the vent terminations must be screened to comply with Clause 5.5.6 of the CSA B149.1-05 Code.
- 10 / Bulk truck parking:** We are noticing increased instances of bulk trucks being parked overnight in service station parking lots and other areas accessible to the public. Please read Sections 8.15 thru 8.19 of the CSA B149.2-05 Code. These clearly state the requirements for such parking.
- 11 / Product Transfers:** Please note Clause 8.13.3 of the CSA B149.2-05 Code. “The contents of a tank on a tank truck or cargo liner shall not be transferred to the cargo tank on another tank truck or cargo liner, unless the operation is carried out at a filling plant, loading or unloading facility.”
- 12 / Plastic vent material:** In spite of previous warnings and directives, we are still finding plastic vent piping (Selvent, Plexvent and Ultravent) on mid-efficiency gas furnaces.
PLEASE NOTE: This venting material MUST be replaced with the required stainless steel venting material IMMEDIATELY.
This venting material will fail and is an extreme hazard. Please see that all such vent systems in your area are replaced without delay.

Once again we would solicit your comments and suggestions on these Propane Bulletins. We see them as an information vehicle for our trade, and your participation in their content is both welcome and imperative for their success.

For those of you with staff; we would appreciate it if these Bulletins were distributed to all interested personnel.

Sincerely

Dale C. Stewart
Chief Gas Inspector

Phone: 1-800-559-3473
FAX: 1- 902- 424- 3239