

Fuel Safety Bulletin

98-02

Issued: September 10 , 1998

Rev: February 9, 2009

As you may know, we have been very busy over the past few months with the process of rewriting the present LP Gas Installation and Equipment Regulations. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you who participated in the review group and those of you who took the time to respond to the group's final report. Without the work of the review group, and your responses, the task of a regulation rewrite would have been much more difficult. As it was, the process went very smoothly and it looks like our new regulations will be presented to the fall sitting of Legislature.

1/ Unlicensed companies : There are still a number of contractors and companies being discovered which are working in our industry without proper licensing or even certified personnel. Some of the areas where this is happening are;

- (a) rental dealers servicing construction heaters and other gas fired equipment
- (b) travel trailer / RV service depots
- (c) mechanical contractors installing gas piping systems in buildings
- (d) contractors doing installations and repairs for propane companies
- (e) laundry equipment dealers
- (f) restaurant equipment suppliers and dealers
- (g) dispenser operators

Please help us in eliminating this problem.

2/ Tank / vaporizer installations : We have recently been encountering a number of installations where a 1000 uswg tank is being used with a small vaporizer. Please note that, even though this is a 1000 gallon tank, the installation requires a concrete pad when a vaporizer is used with it.

3/ Heavy-end traps : When they were first introduced, we were told that electric vaporizers did not need heavy-end traps. Experience has shown that this is definitely not the case. All electric vaporizers presently not using a trap shall have one installed immediately. All new installations must show the trap in the permit submission.

4/ Fire system valves : Clause 4.19.2 of the CSA B149.1-05 Code clearly states that this valve must be located outside the protected area, be identified as to its function and have permanent legible lighting instructions posted adjacent to the valve. In the future, we will allow older valves to remain where they are presently, but a maintenance and testing program must be instituted for these valves as it has been shown that exposure to heat and grease will cause these valves to stick in the open position. New valves or replacement valves must be installed in compliance with Clause 4.19.2.

5/ Permit plan submissions : This area continues to be a headache for those here. We continue to receive faxed plans, incomplete plans and plans submitted after the work has been completed. Sections 31 Thru 36 of the Fuel Safety Regulations clearly state when a permit submission is needed. Please read

these sections.

In the future, faxed submissions will be ignored unless prior approval to fax has been given.

Incomplete plans will simply be returned to the submitter.

If a technician starts a job without the required permit, his name will be submitted to the Board of Examiners for disciplinary action.

6/ Rooftop installations : We continue to find rooftop installations which have been installed without roof access ladders, service walkways and service platforms. We are also finding rooftop furnaces which are installed too close to the edge of the roof and too close to other appliances.

Please review sections 4.14 and 6.26 of the CSA B149.1-05 Code. Please note that any sloped roof, or roof where water may puddle, requires walkways to, and service platforms at, each appliance.

These features must be in place before the system is charged with gas.

It should also be noted that some of the new membrane-type flat roof systems are not solid, but can flap in the wind. This produces severe strain in the piping system and, in one case, severed a 3/4 inch steel gas line. Wooden sleeper rooftop piping supports are not advisable on such roofs.

7/ Master propane shut-off valves : In commercial kitchens, these valves must be visible and readily accessible at all times. This means that one must not have to reach over or around a piece of equipment to access the valve.

In school labs or areas in commercial/industrial buildings with more than one appliance, these valves must be placed adjacent to room exit doors.

These valves must be clearly identified as to their function.

8/ Construction heat : Once again, the construction heating season is just around the corner. We would again remind you that cylinder delivery drivers may only deliver cylinders to locations as noted in Section 6.5.3 of the CSA B149.2-05 Code. Drivers are asked to please reacquaint themselves with this Section as they will be held responsible for adherence to it.

9/ RV / travel trailer winter parking : Section 11.9 of the CSA B149.2-05 Code states;

Vehicles equipped with propane appliances shall not be parked or stored indoors except when

(a) propane storage cylinders have been removed

(b) propane storage tanks have

(i) the propane contents reduced to not more than 50% of their maximum permitted filling density, and

(ii) all shut off valves are in the closed position ; or

(c) the parking facility is approved for this use.

As many of these vehicles are parked in unused exhibition buildings and barns for the winter, we ask that you inform any applicable parties of these requirements

10/ Propane Bulk delivery drivers : We would again remind bulk truck drivers that Section 42 of the Fuel Safety Regulations prohibits the delivery of propane to an installation that does not meet Code requirements. We do not expect drivers to inspect every installation, however, we also do not expect a driver to continue to ignore such items as outdated cylinders, lack of vehicle impact protection barriers, underground propane lines with no protective covering and other very visible Code infractions.

We hope that the items in this Bulletin are clear. If they are not, please contact the undersigned at our Halifax offices.

If you have any items which you would like addressed in future Bulletins, we always welcome your input.

Sincerely

Dale C. Stewart
Chief Gas Inspector