



Safety Bulletin Number: **0000033**

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Boiler and Fuel Safety

Summary

Hot water and steam boilers are regulated in Nova Scotia by the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration's Technical Safety Division and require periodic inspection and an operating license. This notice is intended to provide important information on the safe operation and maintenance of boilers in schools.

Boilers are fired pressure vessels and can pose risks such as fuel explosion, fire, pressure rupture, and carbon monoxide release into public spaces and classrooms. To mitigate these risks, boilers are equipped with safety and operating devices that will shut the boiler down if normal operating conditions are impeded. These devices are required to meet the appropriate codes and standards and must be approved by a certification body such as CSA or ULC. It is important to ensure your boilers are operating in a safe manner and this can be achieved by ensuring that:

- Regular maintenance and inspections are performed by qualified and licensed individuals, such as technicians, mechanics, welders, pipefitters, electricians, etc.
- Your service provider (subcontractor/employer who does not own the equipment) has the appropriate qualifications or licenses to perform any required maintenance.
- The service provider performs regular testing of the safety and operational devices to verify they are working correctly.
- Access to boiler and electrical rooms is restricted to qualified individuals.

- Boiler and electrical rooms are not used for other purposes. (i.e. storage of desks, textbooks, paper, etc.).
- If a boiler shuts down and goes into an alarm situation, no one should attempt to reset the boiler unless the cause of the alarm is investigated and rectified by a qualified, licensed individual. If the controls are connected to an audible alarm system, the alarm may be silenced, however, no attempt to restart the boiler should be made without determining the cause.
- Your operating license is current and posted near the regulated equipment.

Section 28 of the Nova Scotia Boiler and Pressure Equipment regulations states that the owner of regulated equipment is responsible to ensure their boilers are properly maintained and inspected, using qualified and licensed personnel.

Your service providers will contact the provincial inspectors when installing new equipment, repairing or altering existing equipment, or to conduct the required periodic inspection at the end of the term for your operating license(s).

If you have any questions about boiler and fuel safety or to find out if a particular piece of equipment is regulated, please contact the Chief Boiler Inspector, or Chief Fuel Safety Inspector, at the contact information below.

Contact Us

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