

# Fuel Safety Bulletin

## 2002-02

**Issued:** December 11, 2002

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**Subject:** General

Welcome to our second publication of the Fuel Safety Bulletin for the year 2002. These are truly exciting times as we look toward having natural gas in use here in our province early next year. In preparation for this, many of you have done extensive upgrade training and now hold the Gas Fitter trade certificates. This presents us with a skilled and competent workforce ready to take on any challenges that the future may hold.

As many of you already know, we have two new inspectors on staff. Paul Fowler has returned to this office after a year's absence. He 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. Rob Redmond is a familiar name to many of you as he was the instructor in the Gas Fitter trade with the Community College system and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience. Please join me in welcoming both Paul and Rob as valuable members of the Fuel Safety team.

For your reference;

(A) Paul will be the field inspector for everything east of the Halifax International Airport. His number is 424-8027.

(B) Rob will be responsible for everything west of the Airport. His phone number is 424-5008.

(C) Requests for Regulation or Code interpretations should still be routed through me. We are doing this in an effort to standardise inspection services throughout the province.

As always, this Bulletin will address some concerns and problems which we have encountered in our daily work. We have included some CSA recall bulletins for your information and a previous bulletin (2002-01) that was issued only in the Halifax area. You will also find three supplements which address problems specific to hydronic heating systems.

The following are a few items for your attention;

- 1. G-7 Gas Pipefitter** - Please note that this certificate class allows the certificate holder to install new piping (not tubing) systems only. It does not allow the holder to work on or add to a system which is already in service nor to make repairs to such a system. This certificate class does not allow the holder to do final connections to appliances, meters or regulators.
- 2. Permit, Certificate and License applications and renewals** - We will soon be switching over to a new system for handling permits, certificates and licenses in this province. This enhanced service will be available through Access Nova Scotia offices in your areas and over the Internet. Watch your mail in the near future for an announcement and instructions on how to access this enhanced service.
- 3. Permits** - We have recently encountered a number of problems revolving around permits. Please note the following;
  - a.** A permit is not transferrable. The company/contractor actually doing the work must hold a permit in it's own name. The permit holder is responsible and accountable for the scope of work defined on the permit application.
  - b.** Never start a job without the permit. If an inspector asks you for the permit for the work you are doing, you must provide it to him. Failure to provide the permit to an inspector will result in the job being stopped immediately, and may result in further action as set out in the Fuel Safety Regulations.
- 4. Green Tags** - We are finding many improperly completed Green Tags on installations in the field. Please read Section 31 of the Fuel Safety Regulations for a guide to what must be on these tags.
  - (a) Note that tags must be used whenever any new system is installed or any system is changed in any way
  - (b) Tags must be completed for all domestic or commercial installations
  - (c) Copies of Tags must be sent to the gas supplier for his files

(d) Tags must be kept on file and be accessible to an Inspector at all times.

(e) Tags must be fully completed (including 2 signatures) before gas is supplied to the system.

**5. Red/Yellow tags** - Sections 33(1) and 35(2) of the Fuel Safety Regulations state that one must immediately advise this office by phone fax or e-mail when one of these tags is installed.. These Sections also state that a copy of the tag be sent to this office.

Section 38 of the Regulations states that when one of these tags is removed, a copy of the signed-off tags must also be sent to this office.

For this system to work properly, this must be done, yet we are seeing very little correspondence of this type. Please review these Sections of the Regulations and put these procedures into place.

**6. Incidents involving the fire service** - If any of you are called to a scene where the fire service is present and in command, please do not enter the area without first reporting to the fire department Incident Commander. Remember, he is in charge, and you should do nothing without first clearing it with him.

**7. Incident reporting** - Section 11 of the Fuel Safety Regulations states;

The notice of an incident required under Section 13 of the Act involving a regulated product, including any of the following types of incidents, must be given by telephone, fax or e-mail no later than 24 hours after the incident occurred and must be followed by a written report if required by the Administrator or the Administrator's designate:

(a) a gas explosion;

(b) a leak;

(c) a fire;

(d) an accident;

(e) equipment failure on a propane-transporting vehicle;

(f) oil equipment failure

In the past, we have received very few of these reports and also few equipment failure reports, even though we have had reports of incidents from other sources. We must have these reports, both for statistical reasons and to ensure that recurring safety issues are properly addressed.

**8. Plug-in power cords** - Many of these cords are still being fitted on appliances which are meant to be hard wired.

Remember that the Canadian Electrical Code prohibits this practice. If the appliance comes with no cord, it must be hard wired by an electrician.

**9. Type B Vent on uncertified equipment** - The CSA B149.3 Code requires a minimum of a Class A chimney for field certified equipment. Type B vent is not approved for this usage.

**10. CSST as an appliance connector** - The CSST tubing system is not certified to be used in place of a certified appliance connector. However, where the appliance is fixed, vented and has no vibration, no connector is called for and this system may replace the traditional steel pipe.

**11. Aluminum flex liners for chimneys serving only propane appliances** - If used to line an existing masonry chimney, certified aluminum flexible liners may be used if sized four(4) inches or less. All liners larger than four(4) inch liners must be certified stainless steel liners.

**12. Plastic POL plugs** - We are once again seeing these plugs used at permanent installations to plug service valves of tanks which have liquid withdrawal or vapour withdrawal from another opening. These plugs are not intended for this service. Only brass POL plugs may be used at permanent installations.

**13. Cylinder storage at construction sites** - Once again we are nearing the construction heating season. Please remember that not more than 50 cylinders may be stored at a site and they can only be stored in a proper storage area/compound.

**14. Construction heater use** - Last year we found a number of construction heaters being used in occupied buildings. Due to their high CO output, this is extremely hazardous. Please review Section 7.18 of the CSA B149.1 Code to familiarise yourself with your responsibilities regarding these heaters.

**15. Cylinders under patio decks** - Some of you have asked for clear guidelines on installing cylinders under raised patio decks. The following is a partial guide for such installations;

1. For patios with access only from the interior of the building (no exterior stairway to grade level)
  - A) The bottom of the deck supports shall be at least 24" (2 feet) above the highest point on the cylinder collar
  - B) The cylinders shall not be installed under the deck access door, and shall be as far as possible from this door
  - C) The underside of the deck shall be completely open on at least two sides
  - D) The cylinders shall be installed in accordance with all other applicable parts of the *CSA B149.2-00 Propane Storage and Handling Code*
2. For patios with exterior stairways to grade level
  - A) Cylinders shall not be installed under these patio decks.

**16. Movement of tanks with more than 5% product in them** - This office will no longer approve the movement of such tanks over public highways. It is solely within the jurisdiction of federal TDG regulations. The federal TDG (Transportation of Dangerous Goods) inspector has advised us of the following; Standard B 622-98 The Selection and Use of Highway Tanks, allows for transport of an ASME stationary tank provided that the tank only contains 5% capacity. Moving tanks that do not meet this requirement would be in violation of the legislation. If there is a necessity to transport these tanks with more product than allowed, an emergency permit must be requested of Ottawa. The requester of the permit must explain why it poses an emergency to the public and why it was not possible to meet the provisions of the standard. Keep in mind that the serviceperson must go through their own company policy by contacting their safety officers in the first place.

**17. Appliance venting practices** - There are a number of items which may be addressed under this general heading, as follows;

1. Section 8.18 of the CSA B149.1-00 Code requires vent connectors to be of specific materials and wall thicknesses. These standards are being ignored in the field. Please insure that all vent connectors meet these standards
2. Aluminum sealing tape is being used to seal joints in positive-pressure vents. Please note that this tape is not approved for these temperatures.
3. Uninsulated type "B" gas vent is still being installed on the exterior of buildings. Please note that Clause 8.17.1 of the CSA B149.1-00 Code requires that this vent be specifically certified for outdoor service.

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. My e-mail address is : [stewardc@gov.ns.ca](mailto:stewardc@gov.ns.ca)

Sincerely

Dale C. Stewart  
Chief Inspector - Fuel Safety