

Fuel Safety Bulletin

2008-08

Plastic venting systems

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Revised: December 1, 2011

Nova Scotia Gas Technicians shall only utilize plastic piping materials that have been certified to the ULC S636 Standard for special venting systems.

EFFECTIVE: April 1, 2007

Clause 8.9.5. – Venting systems, or total vent run if less than 3ft (900 mm), that employ plastic vents shall be installed such that the first 3ft (900 mm) from the appliance flue outlet is readily accessible for visual inspection.

Clause 8.9.6. – Vents constructed using plastic piping shall be certified to ULC S636.

The Fuel Safety Section has been aware of many problems associated with thermoplastic pipe that is used to vent natural gas and propane appliances. Failure of the venting system may allow the escape of carbon monoxide and other products of combustion into occupied areas.

Installers are reminded that Clause 4.1.4. indicates that, where a conflict exists between the manufacturer's certified installation instructions and the Code, **the requirements of the Code shall prevail unless otherwise approved.**

The use of thermoplastic piping materials (unapproved), including ABS, Schedule 40 Cellular Core ABS (ASTM F628), or Cellular PVC (ASTM F891) piping could lead to leakage and/or breakage in the venting systems. Unless labeled as certified to ULC Standard #S636 it is not an acceptable material for venting any gas appliances in Nova Scotia.

When utilizing thermoplastic piping system, to vent a gas-fired appliance, particular care must be taken to ensure that all piping materials, fittings, and solvent cements are compatible. Do not mix and match the various piping materials, fittings and solvent cements. It must also be noted that most solvent cements also require a primer to be used before the cement is applied. Please do not skip this important step as piping integrity may be seriously compromised.

Combustion Air Intake Plastic Piping Material

The combustion air intake piping material shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's certified installation instructions. When utilizing plastic piping systems for combustion air intakes, all piping materials, fittings, and solvent cements shall be compatible.

Dale C. Stewart
Chief Inspector, Fuel Safety