

# Fuel Safety Bulletin

## 2008-09

### Acceptable existing chimneys for Natural Gas conversion projects

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Recently, we have been asked what is an acceptable means of evaluating an existing non-standard chimney or stack for a natural gas conversion project. We have also been asked if any of these existing chimneys will be “grandfathered in”.

**Clause 8.12.2 of the *CSA B149.1 Natural Gas and Propane Installation Code* states;**

**8.12.2 A masonry, concrete, or metal chimney shall be built and installed in accordance with the local building code or, in the absence of such, in accordance with the *National Building Code of Canada*.**

**Section 6.3 of the *National Building Code of Canada* states the following;**

#### **6.3.1.2 Masonry or Concrete Chimneys**

- 1) Rectangular masonry or concrete chimneys not more than 12 m in height shall conform to Part 9 if they serve
  - a) Appliances with a combined total rated heat output of 120kw (409,457 btu/h) or less, or
  - b) fireplaces
- 2) Masonry or concrete chimneys other than those described in Sentence (1) shall be designed and installed in conformance with the appropriate requirements in NFPA 211, *Chimneys, Fireplaces, Vents and Solid Fuel-Burning Appliances*

#### **6.3.1.3 Metal Smoke Stacks**

- 1) Single wall metal smoke stacks shall be designed and installed in conformance with NFPA 211, *Chimneys, Fireplaces, Vents and Solid Fuel-Burning Appliances*

**POLICY:** In future, if you have a non-standard chimney or stack, and desire to use an existing non-standard masonry or concrete chimney, to which you do not want to add a certified stainless liner, or if you desire to use an existing metal smoke stack, your application must be accompanied by a stamped engineer’s letter stating that the specific existing chimney has been inspected and meets the full requirements of the *National Building Code of Canada* as stated above.

Standard chimneys (code compliant) will be deemed acceptable if they are properly lined (Continuous, undamaged clay-tile or certified stainless liner) and are properly sized for the load. The installer must do a thorough inspection of the chimney.

**NOTE:** This procedure does not apply to an existing Certified Factory-built Chimney. This chimney must bear recognized certification labels stating that it certified for it’s intended purpose.

**Type “B” Gas Vent is not acceptable for venting converted appliances**