



UPDATE

Fuels Safety Edition

Message from the Director

By John Marshall, BA, CIGC, Director of Fuels Safety Program

As many industry members know, the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) reviews its regulatory framework on an ongoing basis, in concert with advisory councils and risk reduction groups, and makes recommendations for improvement to the Ministry of Small Business and Consumer Services (MSBCS). In this collaborative manner, TSSA is able to make appropriate recommendations to MSBCS based on critical analysis, seeking greater ways to serve public safety and continually pursue positive safety outcomes – the mandate of our organization. For a review of recent regulatory changes, please refer to the summary on page 8.

TSSA also regularly reviews variance applications and, on some occasions under careful consideration, TSSA issues industry-wide variances that continue to meet safety requirements and offer practical solutions to the benefit of consumers. Examples mentioned on page 10 include variances related to unlined chimneys and plastic vents. Code amendments and industry-wide test programs can operate in this capacity as well as noted for oil burning equipment and water heaters on page 11.

That being said, I would be truly remiss if I did not briefly address the Sunrise incident in Toronto. On August 10, 2008, a propane blast in Toronto's north-west

end prompted the evacuation of local residents, an investigation of incident cause under jurisdiction of the Office of the Fire Marshal Ontario (OFM), and resulted in the tragic loss of two lives. I along with TSSA staff extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Sunrise employee Parminder Singh Saini and District Chief Firefighter Bob Leek who passed away on duty at the site.

Firefighters and emergency response teams worked tirelessly to bring the propane plant explosion under control, and we are sincerely grateful for their dedication and effort in safely managing this incident.

While incidents of this nature are rare, when they do occur TSSA takes them very seriously. While assisting the OFM, Toronto Police Services, the City of Toronto and the province of Ontario on site, TSSA Fuels Safety inspectors gathered enough evidence during the initial stages of the investigation to allow me to make an appropriate risk-informed decision. On August 21, 2008, TSSA immediately suspended the license of Sunrise Propane and served them with a Notice of Proposal to revoke its licence.

While not diminishing the seriousness of the incident, it is important to view it in context. With more than 3,200 propane filling facilities throughout the province, TSSA investigated 11 incidents over the past five years, prior to the Sunrise



TSSA will continue to do everything it can to ensure Ontario is the safest jurisdiction possible in the sectors it regulates. This is the bottom line against which we measure our performance as a safety management organization.

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Mobile Food Service Equipment

By Paddy O'Connor, Inspector, Fuels Safety Program

Mobile Food Service Equipment (MFSE) has compliance requirements in the appropriate sections of the B149.1 Natural Gas and Propane Installation Code, B149.2 Propane Storage and Handling Code and Director's Order FS-056-06. The contractor and certificate holder must be familiar with these requirements to ensure compliance. What happens if a certificate holder is not knowledgeable in each of these codes?

Let's look at the 'chip wagon' pictured as an example. To reduce the number of trips for cylinder fills, some MFSE, in this case a 'chip wagon', have increased the propane capacity. In the picture there are three 200lb cylinders for a total capacity of 600lbs.

Question: Is the chip wagon's fuel supply compliant with code?

Answer: No. The maximum quantity allowed is 300lbs.

According to CAN/CSA-B149.2-00 Propane Storage and Handling Code Section 10.2.5 and CAN/CSA-B149.2-05 Propane Storage and Handling Code Section 11.2.5: The maximum number of propane cylinders installed on a food service unit or wash-mobile shall be three, and the total quantity of propane shall not exceed 300lb (135kg).

When a certificate holder installs, services or inspects a MFSE, the requirements must be met. A certificate holder completing the annual inspection, required in Director's Order FS-056-06, must ensure the unit is compliant with both B149.1-05 and B149.2-05 codes. Section 11 of the B149.2-05 propane code lists requirements for MFSE. Sections 7.31 and 8.30 of the B149.1-05 installation code provide information regarding



commercial cooking equipment installation and venting into canopies.

Listed below are some examples of code non-compliance found during TSSA inspections of MFSE:

- B149.1-05 s8.9.1 – commercial cooking equipment without an exhaust canopy;
- B149.1-05 s8.30.1 – exhaust canopy venting not interlocked to the fuel supply;
- B149.2-05 s11.2.5 – total propane capacity over 300lbs;
- B149.2-05 s11.6.7 – manifold containing threaded fitting found inside a MFSE vehicle;
- B149.2-05 s11.7.6 – combustion air supply from open door not interlocked with fuel supply; and
- Director's Order FS-056-06 – MFSE vehicle built or modified after February 13, 2006 but not approved.

In each of the above examples, the

owner of the MFSE vehicle produced an inspection document from a TSSA registered contractor, signed off by a certificate holder, stating the installation was compliant with code.

Up-to-date knowledge of the codes and director's orders, as they pertain to MFSE, is part of the due diligence each contractor and certificate holder must demonstrate before installing, servicing or inspecting equipment in this segment of the fuels industry.

Come this winter and the following spring, MFSE owners will request an annual inspection for the 2009 season. Be ready. Review the appropriate sections of the B149.1 Natural Gas and Propane Installation Code and the B149.2 Propane Storage and Handling Code. Read Director's Order FS-056-06 (available on TSSA's website) and know its requirements. Ensure the vehicle is compliant before signing off the inspection document.

RE-ISSUE of Boiler Safety Check

In order to address carbon monoxide (CO) safety hazards, TSSA is re-issuing Director's Order FS-072-06 to perform a CO check on existing natural gas and propane fired natural draft boilers (with an input less than 300,000 BTUH) for the upcoming heating season.

The Director's Order requires G1, G2, and G3 gas technicians performing service, maintenance or emergency response work entering a home, where a boiler is installed, to inspect the boiler installation and measure the CO being produced by the boiler. Where high levels of CO or flue gas spillage is discovered, immediate corrective action shall be taken or the boiler must be shut down until it is repaired.

This is the fourth year that TSSA has re-issued the order to ensure these appliances continue to operate safely.

For more information, please visit TSSA's website at www.tssa.org within the Fuels Safety Program under 'Latest News' or within the Safety Legislation and Regulatory Information page for Gaseous Fuels Regulation [O.Reg. 212/01].

PROPANE-FIRED DIRECT VENTED FIREPLACE INSERT: Wolf Steel Ltd. (Napoleon Fireplace) Models GDI-44 and CDI-44 Series

On August 16, 2008, TSSA investigated an incident for a propane-fired direct vent fireplace insert. The incident was the result of a delayed ignition, which expelled shattered glass into the living space. Incident cause was a leak through the pilot assembly of a Robertshaw Gas Valve, model 7000 Series.

Upon further investigation, it was determined that under certain circumstances the fireplace in question may not be able to contain the force created when a delayed ignition occurs. This may result in burns, cuts from broken glass, or distortion of the top frame of the fireplace (in contact with the glass door assembly) causing products of combustion including carbon monoxide to enter the home.

This fireplace bears a certification mark of Intertek Testing Services (Warnock Hersey). On September 11, 2008, certification for these models was withdrawn. This notice does not include fireplaces operating with natural gas.

Director's Safety Order FS-139-08 was recently issued prohibiting the sale, leasing, renting, installation or use of

Propane Fired Models: GDI-44 and CDI-44 Series. Upon discovering a fireplace of this type in use, the fuel supply shall be terminated.

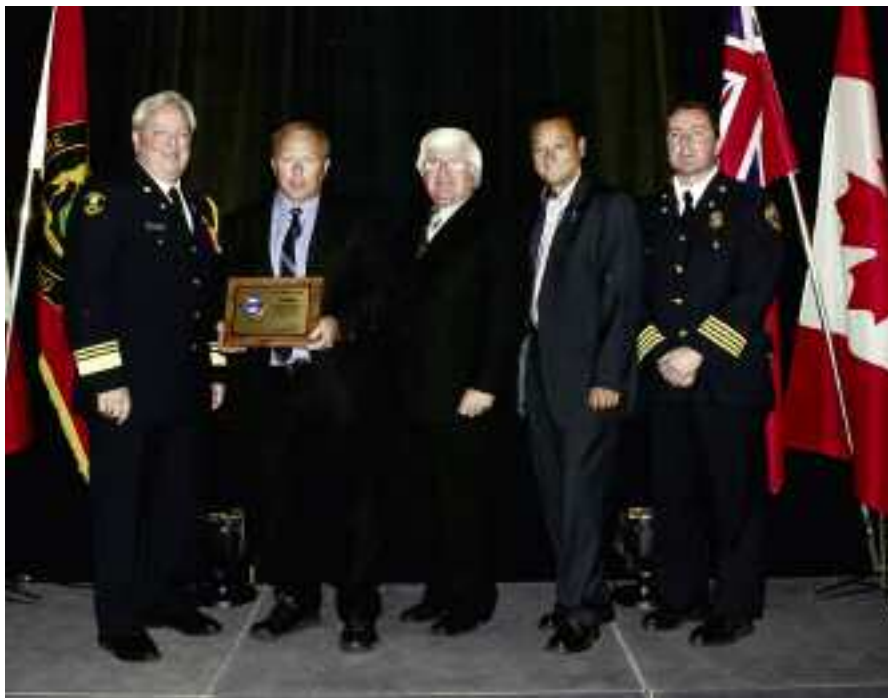
Wolf Steel Ltd. is currently working on a retro-fit kit. If the kit gains approval,

there will be an update on TSSA's website at www.tssa.org.

If you require further clarification or have questions, please contact your fuel supplier or TSSA toll-free at **1-877-682-8772**.



TSSA Inspector Joe Adams **Receives** Fire Safety Award



(L to R) Patrick Burke, Ontario Fire Marshal, Joe Adams, TSSA, Honourable Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Kim Craitor, MPP Niagara, and Jim Jessop, Assistant Fire Chief Niagara.

In addition to this award, Minister Bartolucci presented Joe Adams with a congratulatory commendation.

TSSA's Fuels Safety Inspector Joe Adams was recently honoured with the prestigious Fire Safety Advocate Award at the 20th Annual Fire Safety Awards banquet put on by the Office of the Fire Marshal Ontario. Instrumental in assisting the Niagara Falls Fire Department in the closure of unsafe marijuana grow operations, Joe was an expert witness in numerous trials that have been held in the City of Niagara Falls since 2005.

As a result of his extensive fuels safety knowledge, Joe's testimony in court, on at least a dozen occasions, had been used to support charges relating to the alteration of heating and ventilation systems in the homes and buildings where marijuana grow-ops have been discovered.

With one particular grow-op in Niagara Falls, the renters disconnected a boiler vent pipe to allow carbon dioxide and water vapour into the basement apartment – a common practice to promote plant growth. It also unfortunately leads to toxic mould and high levels of carbon monoxide, a deadly and potentially explosive gas.

"In that case, there were four- and five-year-olds living upstairs, totally innocent, totally unaware," said Joe. "That's when it gets really scary."

Joe is however quick to point out – he's just one member of a team consulted by firefighters and police. He's just glad to be a part.

Part of a joint effort between the Niagara

Falls Fire Department, the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) and TSSA, the dynamic team made a significant impact on several unsafe grow-ops that put quite a few neighbours in jeopardy.

Additionally providing time and expertise in training, Joe helped the Niagara Falls Fire Department and the Niagara Regional Police identify and mitigate the shock and fire hazards commonly found inside such grow-ops.

When asked about the recognition, Joe said the award is more about the fire-safety message than about him. "It's great as far as awareness goes," he said after receiving his award along with 16 other Ontarians in a Toronto ceremony. "Our mandate is to achieve positive safety outcomes."

Ontario Fire Marshal Patrick Burke, however, aimed more direct praise. "Joe has been a driving force behind the eradication of marijuana grow operations in the Niagara region," the Fire Marshal said in a written statement. "His professional opinion and evidence offered in court has helped the Niagara Falls fire department spend less time in long and complicated trials."

Awards were additionally given to ESA and the Niagara Falls Review for their extensive coverage of the issue to enable better reporting to authorities. The Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Honourable Rick Bartolucci, and Ontario Fire Marshal, Patrick Burke presented the awards at a luncheon ceremony at the Sutton Place Hotel in Toronto on June 25, 2008.

Notice to All Registered Heating Contractors

Working with air conditioning and/or refrigeration piping systems in the off season? Did you know you must apply for a certificate if it's over 18 kW (five ton) and 11 kW (three ton) capacity, respectively? Did you know you must also implement a quality control system?

Gas fitters have been recently conducting installation, repair and alteration of air conditioning piping over 18 kW and refrigeration piping systems over 11 kW – beyond prescribed limits. In order to work with systems of such capacity, TSSA requires owners (who perform their own work) and contractors to:

- submit an application for certificate of authorization regarding refrigeration and air conditioning piping systems;
- develop a written quality control system manual in accordance with developed guidelines; and
- demonstrate implementation of such a quality control system to TSSA during a scheduled audit.

Upon receipt of the completed application,



TSSA will issue a letter of authorization – valid for six months – allowing the owner or contractor to continue to perform such work until the applicant has become fully accredited by TSSA.

TSSA will additionally:

- schedule a survey date;
- review the documented quality

control system program for compliance;

- verify the implemented policies and procedures for acceptance and certification;
- issue a certificate of authorization upon successful accreditation; and
- list the TSSA-accredited owner/contractor on its website.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, visit TSSA's website at www.tssa.org within the Fuels Safety Program under 'Latest News' or contact TSSA toll-free at **1-877-682-8772** and ask for **Eduardo Prillo, Technical Specialist** in the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Safety Program.

Getting Tough on Safety Violations

In the past six months, TSSA has prosecuted three cases of safety violation in the fuels industry: one related to pipeline damage and two with regard to a lack of valid certification.

In February of 2008, Elgin Construction, a privately owned St. Thomas-based company, pled guilty to damaging a pipeline and was subsequently fined \$20,000, plus the 25% Victim Surcharge.

Investigating damage to a natural gas pipeline in downtown Kitchener, TSSA determined that Elgin had damaged a three-quarter inch service tee on a six-inch main gas pipeline with a swing shovel, causing the release of natural gas at a rate of 40 pounds per square inch.

Although the construction company had ascertained the location of the pipeline (from Kitchener Utilities) and its location was clearly marked, Elgin did not carefully hand dig within three feet of those markings as required by law.

While pipeline hits as a whole have decreased for the fourth year in a row, TSSA continues to work with partners like the Ontario Regional Chapter of the Common Ground Alliance to implement a certificate for utility locators, support underground infrastructure information and prevent future pipeline incidents.

In July of 2008, Gordon Carl Smith, owner of Thermo-Stat Mechanical Ltd., pled guilty to knowingly providing false information during a fuel safety inspection, and was subsequently fined \$8,000, plus the 25% Victim Surcharge.

In November of 2005, Smith installed a natural gas unit heater at a residential building in Burlington and, in January of 2006, another heating contractor, discovering several deficiencies with the installation, immediately shut off the gas and contacted TSSA.

Upon investigation, the unsafe heater condition was confirmed, and TSSA arranged a meeting with Smith. During an interview shortly thereafter, Smith knowingly presented false information, purporting to possess a valid Gas Technician Certificate which, upon closer examination, belonged to the defendant's father. TSSA records determined that Gordon Carl Smith did not possess any valid certification, and he was subsequently charged.

"Knowingly obstructing, hindering or providing an inspector with false information during a fuel safety inspection is a serious offence," says John Marshall, Director of TSSA's Fuels Safety Program. "In Ontario, all agents employed in the installation, repair or servicing of natural gas appliances must possess valid certification, as per Ontario Regulation 215/01 (Fuel Industry Certificates)."

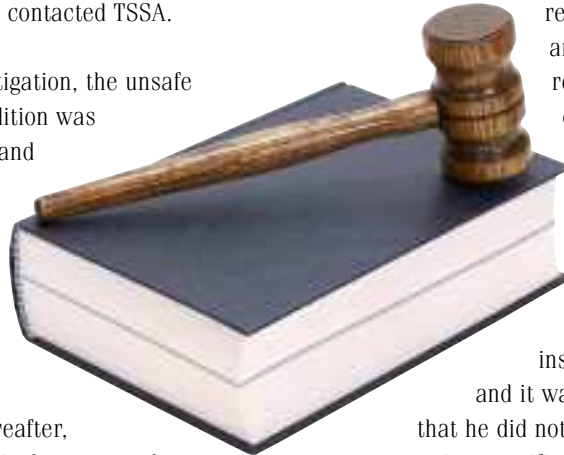
In August of 2008, Marvin Wilson, a fuels contractor from Tweed, Ontario, pled guilty to knowingly installing a gas-fired appliance without holding the appropriate certification,

and was subsequently fined \$3,000, plus the 25% Victim Surcharge.

In February of 2008, Wilson installed a gas-fired hot water tank at a Trenton restaurant and TSSA received an anonymous tip regarding installation concerns. When TSSA's fuels inspector arrived, Wilson's name was noted on the test tag as the installing technician, and it was quickly verified that he did not possess the appropriate certification.

While there were no injuries as a result of this violation, and Wilson did not have any prior convictions under the *Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000*, he was aware of provincial certification requirements and, as such, pled guilty to the charge. Accepting responsibility, Wilson sought to resolve this matter at an early stage by enrolling in an approved Gas Technician 2 training program.

"Prosecution for non-compliance, such as failing to comply with certification requirements, is an important tool of enforcement," says John Marshall, Director of TSSA's Fuels Safety Program. "However working with stakeholders toward compliance and cooperation, often in proactive partnership, is the cornerstone of fuels safety."



CSA International and Rinnai America announce a voluntary recall of certain direct vent wall furnaces

In cooperation with CSA International, Rinnai America Corp. of Peachtree City, Georgia announces the voluntary recall in Canada of approximately 200 direct vent wall furnaces. A gasket in the unit can fail, posing a risk of poisonous carbon monoxide gas leaking into the home.

Rinnai has received 11 reports of carbon monoxide leaking from the furnace. No injuries have been reported.

This recall involves natural gas or LP gas (propane)-fueled Rinnai EnergySaver Direct-Vent Wall Furnaces, Models RHFE-

431 and RHFE-556. The following model numbers are included in the recall:

MODEL RHFE-431

FAIII-N FAIII-P

WTA-N WTA-P

WTA-72B-N WTA-76B-N

MODEL RHFE-556

FAIII-N FAIII-P

WTA-N WTA-P

The model number is printed on the top of the rating plate located on the right side of the unit. The recall includes only those units manufactured from February 2000

through December 2007. The manufacturing date code is the first four digits of the serial number, written as YY MM, and is located at the bottom of the rating plate.

Consumers who have affected wall furnaces should stop using the furnace immediately and contact Rinnai to arrange for the installation of a free retrofit kit. For additional information, contact Rinnai toll-free at (866) 746-8344 anytime or visit their website at www.wallfurnacerecall.com.

TSSA Initiates FUEL SUPPLIER AUDITS

TSSA's regular compliance audits of licensed sites and contractors are an essential component of its prevention-based public safety services. It provides regulatory interaction between TSSA and the industry to gain a common understanding of safety and compliance requirements and field issues. Recently, TSSA has expanded its audit program to include fuel suppliers. In the fuels regulations, the fuel supplier has a responsibility to conduct compliance and safety inspections prior to initially supplying fuel to a premise and again periodically on a 10 year basis.

While many fuel suppliers in natural gas, propane and fuel oil are carrying out their responsibility appropriately, the audits have uncovered concerns such as:

- some fuel suppliers accepting inspections from third parties without sufficient due diligence to ensure that the person performing the inspection has the proper or valid certificate;
- some fuel suppliers not completing all their initial inspections prior to supplying fuel;
- some fuel suppliers identifying non-compliances but not following up to

ensure that corrective action has occurred; and

- some fuel suppliers not completing all their periodic inspections and continuing to supply fuel.

Next Steps

When the initial audit program is complete, TSSA will analyze the results and proceed with a mechanism to address concerns. Any proposed new regulatory system or process will be discussed with industry for suggestions, input and practical implementation.

Regulatory changes for FUELS SAFETY

TSSA participates in ongoing review of its regulatory framework, in conjunction with industry members through its advisory councils and makes recommendations to the Ministry of Small Business and Consumer Services for approval. As such, TSSA pursues regulatory improvements, enacting director's orders as up-to-date regulations under the *Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000* as well as new amendments to further improve public safety throughout the province.

TSSA's Fuels Safety Program provides fuel-related safety services to ensure the safe transportation, storage, handling and use of fuels for residential, industrial and commercial use through a combination of risk-informed decision-making, public education and outreach, industry and stakeholder partnerships, and ongoing regulatory improvement.

"In partnership with advisory council members and industry experts who play a significant role within our risk reduction groups," says John Marshall, TSSA's Director of the Fuels Safety Program, "we're continually creating greater ways to serve public safety, and gain the greatest positive impact on safety in the province of Ontario."

For an overview of the regulatory changes that affect your profession and/or operation under Ontario Regulation 215/01 (Fuels Industry Certificates) and Ontario Regulation 216/01 (Certification for Petroleum Mechanics) as of August 1, 2008, please refer to the summary below.

Summary of Regulation Amendments Ontario Regulation 215/01 (Fuels Industry Certificates)

CROP DRYER TECHNICIAN (CDT):

Clarification that a CDT certificate holder can only activate a newly installed appliance following at least one year work experience on this type of equipment.

EXPIRY AND RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATES:

If an applicant fails an examination or series of examinations on three successive attempts, the applicant must successfully complete a director-approved program by an accredited training provider before re-examination.

SPECIAL EFFECTS TECHNICIAN (FX):

Eliminated due to lack of applicants/desire from industry.

GAS TECHNICIAN 3 (G.3):

A G.3 certificate holder can now complete a pressure test tag under the general supervision of a G.1 or G.2 certificate holder.

GAS UTILITY TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATE (GUT-1/GUT-2):

Introduced solely for employees of natural gas distributors, permitting the certificate holder to inspect, test, adjust, purge or activate a natural gas appliance and the equipment and accessories essential to its operation, but only during those hours that the certificate holder is working as an employee of the natural gas distributor.

INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN (IMT):

Revised wording within the scope of an IMT certificate holder to reinforce that an IMT may only work on the premises of his/her employer.

INTERNAL COMBUSTION ALTERNATIVE FUEL TECHNICIAN – INDUSTRIAL VEHICLES EQUIPMENT (ICE-IV):

Now called 'Internal Combustion Alternative Fuel Technician – Industrial Equipment' (ICE-IE), recognizing the expanded definition of "equipment" as opposed to "vehicles" due to new technologies and equipment currently used in the industry.

OIL BURNER TECHNICIAN (OBT)/IMT:

An important safety concern is that lack of field experience may allow an unsupervised individual to conduct work that he or she may not be fully qualified or prepared to do. Thus, the new requirements provide:

- clarification that OBT-3 can perform a comprehensive inspection under the general supervision of an OBT-1 or OBT-2, and on oil-fired appliances that have an input rate not greater than two US gallons per hour, provided the certificate holder has demonstrated the essential skills to do so to the supervising certificate holder; and
- a revision that an IMT certificate prerequisite is inadequate for application for an OBT-1 certificate; the applicant must be an OBT-2 certificate holder.

PROPANE TANKER OPERATOR (PTO-I) AND PROPANE CYLINDER INSPECTOR (PCI-I):

Certificates are now referred to as PTO and PCI, changed to recognize that there is only one level for each of these certificates. The PTO certificate holder can additionally reactivate an appliance in accordance with the manufacturer's certified lighting instructions.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES TECHNICIAN 2 (RV.2):

Work experience prerequisites clarified for an RV.1 certificate where an applicant must obtain at least six continuous months of documented work experience under the direct supervision of an RV.1 certificate holder.

REFUELING STATION TECHNICIAN (RST-NG):

The requirements for an applicant of a RST-NG certificate have been clarified to read that the applicant shall be the holder of a G.3 certificate.

Ontario Regulation 216/01 (Certification for Petroleum Mechanics)

Significant changes or additions include:

- "Petroleum Equipment Mechanic" modified to "Petroleum Mechanic";
- definition of a "mechanic" amended; and
- scope of a "Director's Order" introduced and defined.

There have been various changes and amendments to the scope of petroleum mechanic certificates in order to reflect current industry practice including, but not necessarily limited to, the following highlights.

PETROLEUM MECHANIC HELPER (PMH) CERTIFICATE:

Ontario Regulation 216/01 now reinforces the necessity of first obtaining PMH certification as a

prerequisite for any other additional Petroleum Mechanic (PM) certificate accreditation such as PM-4, PM-3, PM-2 or PM-1.

PM-4 CERTIFICATE:

A reinforcement of scope for installing, working on and removing above ground tanks with a maximum capacity of 5000 L or less and all equipment and accessories essential to its operation.

PM-3 CERTIFICATE:

The scope of a PM-3 certificate holder has been modified and updated for above ground installations and the equipment and accessories essential to its operation. For example, a PM-3 certificate holder will now be allowed to install an above ground petroleum transfer system.

PM-2 CERTIFICATE:

The scope of a PM-2 certificate holder has been modified and updated for underground installations and the equipment and accessories essential to its operation.

PM-1 CERTIFICATE:

The scope of a PM-1 certificate holder has been modified and updated for servicing and maintaining petroleum equipment and systems essential to their operation. For example, a PM 1-certificate holder may now install submersible pumps, suction pumps and related systems in accordance with a certified manufacturer's specifications.

DEFINITIONS:

A new, important definition that directly impact duties, responsibilities, and rights as a PM is as follows: "Direct supervision" means the supervision by an accredited certificate holder who is on site at all times, in close proximity to a trainee, and is readily available to work with, assist, and/or supervise the trainee.

The word "supervision" has always been used to regulate and control the type of work that an entry-level certificate holder, such as a PMH certificate holder, or a recently accredited certificate holder can do in order to gain real-time work experience.

Ontario Regulation 216/01 now mandates that a PM-1, PM-2, or PM-3 certificate holder must provide proof of experience, acceptable to the Director, which clearly demonstrates accumulated time for unsupervised work.

This new regulatory requirement recognizes that trainees – whether entry-level PMH technicians or those seeking other PM certification categories – must have a means of learning the skills and practical knowledge while being actively employed.

For further details regarding Ontario Regulation 215/01 and Ontario Regulation 216/01 that came into effect as of August 1, 2008, please visit 'Latest News' or the Safety Legislation and Regulatory Information page under the Fuels Safety Program on TSSA's website at www.tssa.org. For any questions or concerns, please contact the Customer Contact Centre toll-free at **1-877-682-TSSA (8772)**.

URGENT REMINDER

All PM mechanics must receive the one-day upgrade training prior to December 31, 2008 or your certificate will be revoked.

ADVISORY FS–III-07: Variance Conditions for Temporary Use of Existing Uncertified Plastic Vents

When replacing gas appliances, existing uncertified plastic vents must be replaced by vents certified to ULC S636 “Standard for Type BH Gas Venting Systems”. This could delay the appliance activation by a few days for various reasons (i.e. need to access enclosed venting, scheduling, etc).

In order to minimize disruptions of supplying hot water and/or space heating to customers, TSSA will consider a single, blanket variance application from registered contractors for their collective customer base to allow temporary use

(up to 10 business days) of existing uncertified plastic vents provided the contractor adheres to the following conditions:

- the existing vent is working effectively (visual inspection and pressure test is required as per FS-101-07);
- the contractor has an effective tracking system to ensure the following action within 10 business days: the vent is replaced or a variance is obtained for continued use of existing vent or the gas supply is shut off;
- the variance applicant is subject to an audit at any time at the discretion of TSSA;
- the application of this variance shall be auditable (thus, appropriate documentation demonstrating that the variance conditions are being complied with shall be maintained); and
- this variance may be approved for a term of 18 months and may be eligible for renewal upon satisfactory review.

ADVISORY FS IIO-07: Variance Conditions for Temporary Use of Existing Unlined Chimneys

When replacing gas appliances the chimneys must be brought to current code requirements. This often requires installation of a certified chimney liner, which could delay the appliance activation by a few days due to various reasons (e.g. bad weather preventing safe access to the roof, scheduling, etc).

In order to minimize a disruption of hot water and/or space heating to customers, TSSA will consider a single, blanket variance application from registered contractors for their collective customer base to allow temporary use (up to 5 business days) of existing unlined chimneys when replacing gas appliances provided the contractor adheres to the following conditions:

- applies to replacement appliances only at residential sites;
- the existing chimney shall be working effectively with previously installed equipment (re-activation of disused chimneys within the terms of this variance shall be unacceptable);
- an appropriate certificate holder for the purpose shall determine that the existing chimney is safe to operate for the period between time of that inspection/appliance replacement and time of chimney liner installation. This inspection shall include examination of the chimney demonstrating it is clear of obstruction due to soot or debris as well as a check for effective venting of all combustion products to the outdoors with suitable draft;
- contractor has an effective tracking system to ensure the following action within 5 business days:
 - the installation of a chimney liner; or
 - the termination of a gas supply;
- the variance applicant is subject to an audit at any time at the discretion of TSSA;
- the application of this variance shall be auditable. (thus, appropriate documentation demonstrating that the variance conditions are being complied with shall be maintained); and
- this variance may be approved for a term of 18 months and may be eligible for renewal upon satisfactory review.

UPDATE to Ontario Installation Code for Oil-Burning Equipment

This is an update that will address the practicability of a code requirement and its associated risk.

Industry had indicated that the requirement to test "metallic end outlet tanks for water" is onerous if the tank is located indoors (i.e. in the basement). In order to meet this requirement, many contractors have to remove the tank gauge in order to dip the tank for water. There have been problems associated with having to reinstall the tank gauge after dipping (i.e. popping out if improperly threaded back).

Testing a tank installed indoors for water in the bottom is not feasible through the fill pipe (located outdoors) as no cost-effective tool can effectively maneuver through the turns of the piping. The contractor will not be able to adequately recognize whether or not the dipping tool has reached the bottom of the tank as well.

The risk involved in dipping indoor tanks versus outdoor tanks was taken into account during consultation with industry and the Office of the Fire Marshal Ontario. All parties agreed that it is important to dip outdoor tanks for

water, as they are more susceptible to leaks due to bottom corrosion.

Comparatively, the ratio of failure with indoor tanks versus outdoor tanks is 1:5 (from tank manufacturer data for tanks that are 2200L in size).

TSSA has issued a Director's Order to amend the code so the clause below applies to outdoor tanks only:

"Metallic end outlet tanks installed outdoors, test for water at the bottom of the tank. When water is found, remove the water."

Water Heater in a Closet

TSSA has been approached by industry regarding its clarification in the last code adoption document which stated the following:

"A water heater, unless of the direct vent type, shall not be installed in a bathroom, bedroom, or any enclosure where sleeping accommodation is provided. An enclosure containing the water heater shall not be accessed by a pedestrian door which can be opened from the bathroom or bedroom."

This clarification was intended to make it clear to architects and builders that water heaters cannot be installed in a closet of a bedroom or bathroom. TSSA

has always considered the closet of a room to be part of the room. This has caused some field issues. To this end, TSSA is conducting a test program with industry to ascertain if there are conditions where this would be permitted. The test program is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

TSSA's Fuels Safety Program will be reviewing results this fall and consider next steps with regard to this requirement.





For updates and further information check out TSSA's website

www.tssa.org

Message from the Director

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incident, with no fatalities and only one serious injury. While TSSA will always strive for zero injuries and fatalities, the record of propane safety in Ontario indicates that the safety framework is robust. While the system works, it can always be improved.

Shortly after the incident, we began a comprehensive re-audit of all propane filling and storage facilities across Ontario, and we will subsequently use these findings to improve its safety services as appropriate and make

recommendations to the province as warranted.

TSSA will continue to do everything it can to ensure Ontario is the safest jurisdiction possible in the sectors it regulates. This is the bottom line against which we measure our performance as a safety management organization.

Providing further safety in the propane industry, we offer a timely reminder of capacity limits with mobile food service

equipments as detailed on page 2. And on a final note – a dedicated and safety-driven member of my team, Fuels Safety Inspector Joe Adams, is honoured with the Fire Safety Advocate Award at the 20th Annual Fire Safety Awards put on by the OFM on page 4. I trust that you will find this newsletter informative.

As TSSA's Fuels Safety Program strives for continual improvement, I welcome your feedback on how effectively we meet our commitments and responsibilities.



We welcome your comments and story ideas for future editions of this newsletter. Please contact:

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