



<b>Fuels Safety Program</b>	Ref. No.: FS - 064 - 05	Rev. No.:
<b>ADVISORY</b>	Date: November 7, 2005	Date:

**Subject:** Semi-Detached Homes with Common Chimney Flue  
**Sent to:** Posted on Web-Site

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The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) is aware that there are many existing semi-detached houses where the gas-fired appliances for both homes are vented into a common chimney flue. This practice was permitted in past codes but is now prohibited (See Figure #1).

The following is provided to clarify the current application of clause 7.12.11 of the CSA B149.1-00 (8.12.11 of the CSA B149.1-05), Natural Gas and Propane Installation Code to existing installations.

Applying the stated clause (The venting of a gas-fired space-heating appliance into a chimney flue common to both halves of a semi-detached house is prohibited) to installations/equipment installed when it was permitted in previous code editions. The conditions below must be followed:

1. No new, additional or replacement gas-fired equipment shall be connected to a common chimney flue.
2. When an appliance is permanently removed from service, the remaining installation shall be evaluated for safe continued use. The gas technician who permanently removes the appliance from service shall inspect all appliances connected to the common chimney flue, check the vent sizing is appropriate based on all the appliances connected to the common chimney flue and that the flue is in a good condition\*.
3. The gas technician conducting this evaluation shall inform the affected appliance owners/users that this evaluation is being conducted to best ensure safe continued operation of their common chimney flue. See Attachment #2 for a homeowner information sheet.

\* The inspection of the common chimney flue shall include but not be limited to the following

- o Check for down draft with draft gauge or smoke test – if any combustion products are spilling within the building – the chimney flue condition is considered an immediate hazard (infract and terminate fuel supply as per current regulations)
- o Visual inspection of both the interior and exterior of the chimney flue (using normal industry practice) for deterioration and infract as warranted
- o If the flue is improperly sized, the gas technician shall determine whether it is an immediate hazard or unacceptable condition and infract/tag according to the current regulations.
- o Any other inspection items that the gas technician identifies as necessary for that specific installation

Semi Detached Homes with Shared Common Vent

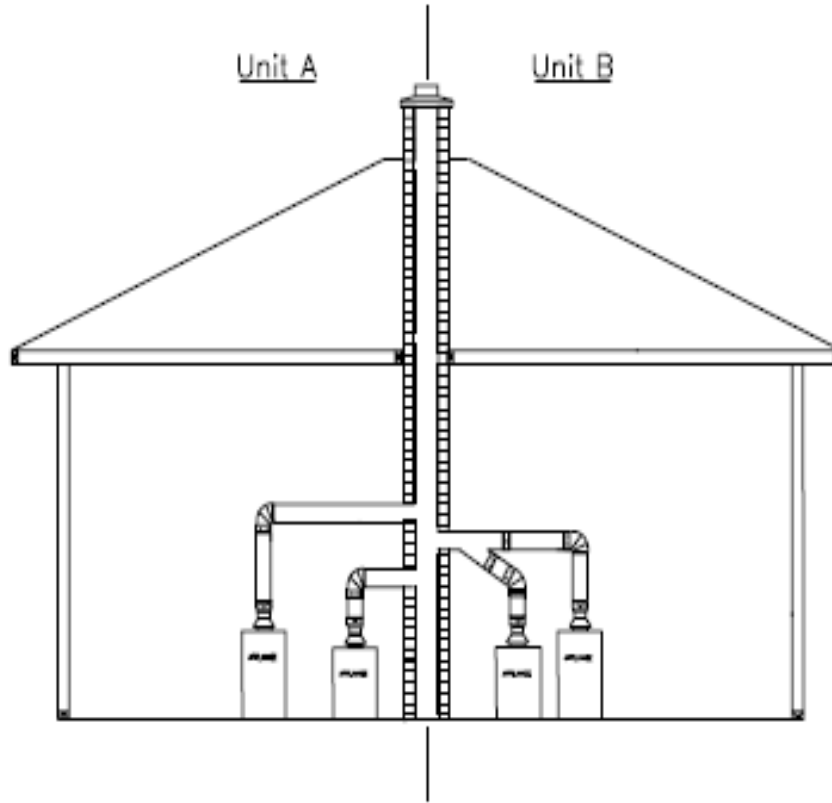


Figure 1

## Attachment #2 - Advisory FS-064-05



**FUELS SAFETY PROGRAM  
TECHNICAL STANDARDS  
& SAFETY AUTHORITY**  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Centre Tower  
3300 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada M8X 2X4

**Re: Existing Shared Flue Chimney**

**Attention: Home Owner/User:**

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) is concerned that certain natural gas and propane burning appliances, such as furnaces and water heaters, are vented into shared chimney flues between semi-detached dwellings. When an appliance is removed from these chimneys, an evaluation is required to best ensure that the chimney flue continues to operate properly with the remaining appliances.

TSSA has the mandate to maintain and improve safety for Ontario citizens in the fuels and other regulated sectors. TSSA is officially designated and legally contracted by Ontario's Ministry of Consumer and Business Services to implement and enforce the *Technical Standards and Safety Act*, which governs fuels safety in Ontario.

Today's building and gas safety codes prohibit venting of appliances in semi-detached dwellings into a shared or common chimney. When an appliance is removed from a shared chimney, it now cannot be simply replaced and vented into that shared chimney as the code no longer allows this type of installation. If these installations are maintained and evaluated as appliances are removed from a shared chimney, the installation will continue to operate safely. To evaluate the chimney's effectiveness and safe operation, the gas technician must gain access to your home to evaluate the chimney. For example, they must inspect the appliances venting into that shared flue to ensure that it is sized appropriately.

To best ensure you and your family's continued safety, we ask that you allow this inspection/evaluation of the chimney and its associated appliances. TSSA and the associated industries thank you in advance for your cooperation in this regard. If you require further clarification or have questions, please contact the gas technician requesting the inspection, your fuel supplier or TSSA at 1-877-682-8772 Web site: [www.tssa.org](http://www.tssa.org).