



Fuels Safety Program	Ref. No.: FS – 102-07	Rev. No.:
ADVISORY	Date: April 16, 2007	Date:

Subject: Variance Conditions for Vents Systems that were Installed Prior to August 1, 2007 but the Appliance Not Activated Until After August 1, 2007

Sent to: Posted on Web-Site and Distributed to 149.1 Code Adoption RRG, Natural Gas Council, Propane Council

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) will adopt the 2007 supplement to the national Natural gas and propane installation code (B149.1S1-07), on August 1, 2007. A major change in the code supplement is that all plastic piping will have to be certified to ULC S636 “Standard for Type BH Gas Venting Systems”.

This requirement has been put in place due to the investigated failures in a number of existing plastic gas vents, predominantly ABS plastic pipe and fittings. Noted failures have included stress cracking and melting. This may result in a carbon monoxide (CO) safety hazard in homes and may possibly cause personal injury.

This code change will affect all new appliance installations and replacement installations. For example, if an existing water heater is replaced with a new water heater, the existing plastic venting must be completely replaced with a certified ULC S636 plastic venting system.

There may be situations (homebuilders and condominium builders) where the vent is installed in advance of the appliance and its activation. When this happens so that the vent is installed before August 1, 2007 and the appliance is installed and activated after August 1, 2007, the installation is caught between effective dates for the venting. The date the appliance is activated is the determining compliance date. In order to assist builders in this situation where they may have installed uncertified vent before August 1, 2007 and installed and activated the appliance after August 1, 2007, TSSA will consider a variance to allow the use of the uncertified vent provided that the following conditions are met:

1. Completed application form with either the required deposit or purchase order number;
2. Summary of how this situation occurred; and
3. The vent is visually inspected and found in good working order.

If any of the above conditions are not met, the entire venting system shall be replaced with vent suitable for the appliance that is certified to ULC S636.

Notes:

1. Buildings or developments housing multiple units will be treated as a single variance
2. Applications for variance for this issue will not be accepted after November 30, 2007 as this variance addresses a phase in period.