



<b>Fuels Safety Program</b>	Ref. No.: FS - 052 - 04	Rev. No.:
<b>ADVISORY</b>	Date: September 17, 2004	Date:

**Subject:** Existing B-Vent (not Certified for Exterior Applications) which has been Installed Outdoors  
**Sent to:** All TSSA Registered Natural Gas and Propane Contractors and TSSA G1,G2, G3, GP and DA Certificate Holders

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The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) is concerned that certain natural gas and propane burning appliances are vented with B-Vents (not certified for exterior applications) which have been installed outdoors (See figures on the back of this page for illustration). This application may pose a carbon monoxide (CO) safety hazard in the home due to extreme cold temperature/atmospheric conditions; as well, these vents may be subject to accelerated deterioration.

Analysis of data regarding these outdoor B-Vent installations revealed that the likelihood of a safety hazard occurring is low; however, there is always the possibility of an incident occurring. With this information, TSSA has worked with industry to develop options for the owner/user who has a non-compliant B-Vent installed on the exterior of their premise.

These options are:

- Replace the non-compliant B-Vent with a current code compliant venting system
- OR
- Leave the non-compliant B-Vent in place with the following provisions:
  - It is in safe operating condition as determined by a qualified certificate holder (gas technician)
  - It continues to be in safe operating condition as determined through annual inspections by a qualified certificate holder (gas technician) which are arranged by the premise owner/user
  - When a gas appliance is replaced, removed, or a new appliance installed, the non-compliant B-Vent shall be replaced with a current code compliant venting system.

Enclosed you will find the following information to assist you in dealing with B-Vents (not certified for exterior applications) which have been installed outdoors.

- Director's Order FS-051-04
- Information sheet, Owner/User Notification, to provide to Owners/Users who have non-compliant B-Vents (Attachment #1-Owner/User Notification -Director's Order FS-051-04)
- Reporting Notification from you to the fuel distributor (Attachment #2 – Fuel distributor Notification - Director's Order FS-051-04)
- Appliance Tag Requirements (Attachment #3 – Equipment Tag - Director's Order FS-051-04)

Please see Attachment A – Advisory FS-052-04 that provides a step-by-step procedure for dealing with this issue.

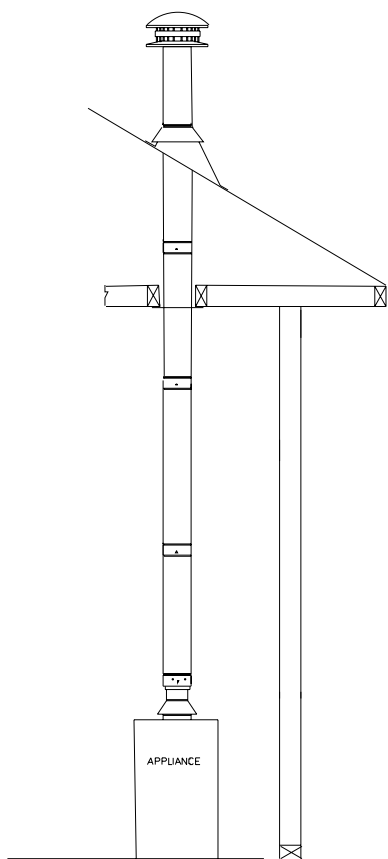
Within industry, there has been a misunderstanding that these **existing non-compliant B-Vents** can simply be enclosed or “boxed in” as a corrective measure. B-Vents certified for exterior applications must be initially installed according to the manufacturer's certified instructions so that the certification is valid. Simply enclosing the B-Vent installed outdoors, after it has been in service, will not make the system code compliant and may make future inspections difficult. When you discover a B-Vent (not certified for exterior applications) which has been installed outdoors, the only options available are as outlined in Director's Order FS-051-04.

TSSA and the associated industries thank you in advance for your co-operation in this regard. If you require further clarification or have questions, please contact your fuel distributor, or TSSA at 1-877-682-8772 Web site: [www.tssa.org](http://www.tssa.org).



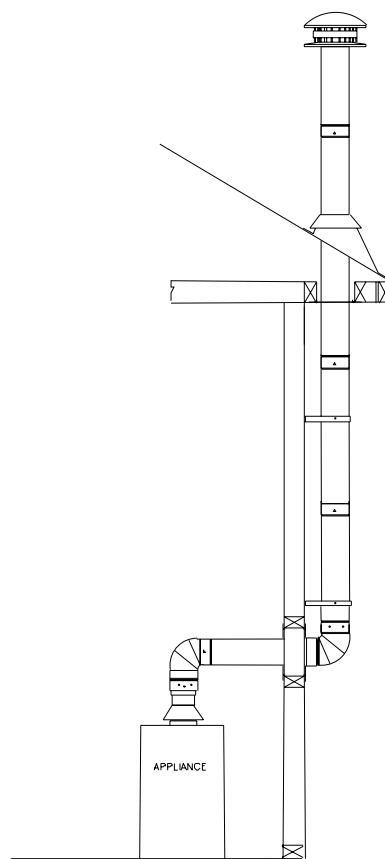
# Director's Order FS-051-04 Advisory FS-052-04

## B-Vent not Certified for Exterior Application



Compliant Installation

Figure 1A



Non-Compliant Installation

Figure 1B



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

September 17, 2004

**Contractor/Certificate Holder Step-by-Step Procedure  
Existing B-Vent (not Certified for Exterior Applications) which has been Installed Outdoors**

**Step 1:**

**Certificate Holder is at an Installation**

- Determine if the B-Vent is installed outdoors (see Figures - Advisory FS-052-04)
- If you cannot determine that the B-Vent has been certified for exterior use and installed according to the manufacturer's certified installation instructions, inform Owner/User of their options as described within Attachment #1 – Owner/User Notification - Director's Order FS-051-04.

**If the Owner/User wishes to leave the existing B-Vent in use, proceed to step 2.**

**If the Owner/User wishes to replace the existing B-Vent with a current code compliant venting system, proceed to step 3.**

**Step 2:**

**Owner/User Chooses Option of Leaving the Existing B-Vent in Use**

**2A. Inspection Requirements**

- Determine if the B-Vent is in safe operating condition
- This inspection should include but not be limited to the following
  - Check for down draft with draft gauge or smoke test – if any combustion products are spilling within the building – the vent condition is considered an immediate hazard (infract and terminate fuel supply as per current regulations)
  - Visual inspection of both the interior and exterior of the vent for corrosion and/or perforations
    - If any perforations are found, it is considered an immediate hazard (infract and terminate fuel supply as per current regulations)
    - If any corrosion or defect is found, as a certificate holder, you shall determine using experience and judgement whether the vent will operate safely for at least a period of one year. If not infract/tag as per current regulations.
  - If the vent is improperly sized or poorly configured, the certificate holder must determine whether it is an immediate hazard or unacceptable condition and infract/tag according to the current regulations.
  - Any other inspection items that the certificate holder identifies as necessary for that specific installation

**2B. Affixing Notice to the Appliance or Work When Initially Inspected**

- Affix a completed notice, Equipment Tag, to the appliance as close as possible to the vent in a visible location protected from the elements as outlined in Attachment #3 – Equipment Tag - Director's Order FS-051-04
- The following shall be completed on the Notice (Tag)
  - Address

- Contractor's name, phone and registration #
- Date
- Confirmation, check mark, that the venting system is in safe operating condition
- Confirmation, check mark, that the fuel supplier has been notified
- Confirmation, check mark, of compliance with Director's Order FS-051-04
- Certificate Holder's name, classification and certification #

**2C. Notification Requirements**

**(Only Required when Initially Discovered and Inspected)**

- Complete Attachment #2 – Fuel distributor Notification - Director's Order FS-051-04
- All blanks must be completed in order that the existing vent be left in use
  - Fuel Supplier name and fax #
  - Certificate Holder name and certificate #
  - Contractor name, registration # and phone #
  - B-Vent owner/user name and address
  - B-Vent owner/user signature confirming receipt of Attachment #1 – Director's Order FS-051-04
  - Your initial inspection confirming the following: (1)the vent is in safe operating condition, (2)the owner/user has been provided with the information sheet, (3)the owner/user has been made aware of their options and (4)the owner/user has been made aware of the requirement for annual inspections.
  - If the owner/user is unavailable, leaving the existing B-Vent in use and not dealt with is not an option. The owner/user must make an informed decision.
- Send notice to the fuel distributor using same procedure as used for forwarding infraction notices/warning tags to the fuel distributor

**2D. Affixing Notice to the Appliance or Work When Annually Inspected**

- Affix a completed notice, Equipment Tag, to the appliance as close as possible to the vent in a visible location protected from the elements as outlined in Attachment #3 – Equipment Tag - Director's Order FS-051-04
- The following shall be completed on the Notice (Tag)
  - Address
  - Contractor's name, phone and registration #
  - Date
  - Confirmation, check mark in box 4, that the venting system is in safe operating condition
  - Certificate Holder's name, classification and certification #

**Step 3:**

**Owner/User Chooses Option of Replacing Existing B-Vent with a Current Code Compliant Venting System**

**3A. Replace existing B-Vent with current code compliant venting system**

**3B. Notification Requirements**

**(Only Required if Appliance has a Notification Tag as Described in 2B and/or 2D)**

- Complete Attachment #2 – Fuel distributor Notification - Director's Order FS-051-04
- All blanks must be completed in order
  - Fuel Supplier name and fax #
  - Certificate Holder name and certificate #
  - Contractor name, registration # and phone #
  - B-Vent owner/user name and address
  - Your initial demonstrating that the existing B-Vent has been replaced with a current code compliant venting system
- Send notice to the fuel distributor using same procedure as used for forwarding infraction notices/warning tags to the fuel distributor