



<b>Fuels Safety Program</b>	Ref. No.: FS – 101-07	Rev. No.:
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**Subject:** Variance Conditions for Continued Use of Existing Uncertified Plastic Vent  
**Sent to:** Posted on Web-Site and Distributed to 149.1 Code Adoption RRG, Natural Gas Council,  
Propane Council

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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.

Existing appliances and their plastic venting systems will not require action until replacement of the appliance is required as this code change is not retroactive.

There may be situations where the replacement of the entire vent is not possible or is impractical due to specifics of that particular installation. For those situations, TSSA will consider a variance to allow the continued use of the existing vent provided that the following conditions are met:

1. Completed application form with either the required deposit or purchase order number;
2. Summary of why it is not possible or practical to replace the entire vent;
3. The 1<sup>st</sup> 5 feet immediately downstream of the appliance is replaced with vent suitable for the appliance that is certified to ULC S636;
4. The existing vent is visually inspected and found in good working order;
5. The existing vent is pressure tested as follows:
  - Use air or an inert gas;
  - A minimum test pressure of positive or negative 7 inches water column shall be applied to the entire length of the existing plastic vent but shall not exceed a pressure of 2 psig. at any time;
  - The minimum test pressure of +/- 7 inches water column shall be measured by either a pressure gauge or equivalent device and, if a gauge is used, the minimum diameter shall be 3 in (75 mm) and the maximum range shall exceed the test pressure by at least 15% but not more than 300%. The pressure gauge or equivalent device shall be calibrated to read in increments of not more than 2% of the maximum dial reading of the pressure gauge,
  - The minimum test pressure shall be applied for at least 5 minutes and at least 75% of the test pressure shall be retained.
6. Conditions 4 and 5 shall be repeated every 5 years to demonstrate that the existing vent remains in good condition.

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.

Note: Buildings housing multiple units will be treated as a single variance