

BULLETIN 02-2011

April 18, 2011

**TO: LICENSED GAS CONTRACTORS
LICENSED GASFITTERS
WHOLESALEERS**

SUBJECT: EXTERIOR MASONRY CHIMNEYS AND GAS LEAKS

Exterior Masonry Chimneys

In 1992, SaskPower Gas Inspections mandated the usage of certified liners or B vent or L vent in unlined or clay tile lined masonry chimneys. Since then, mid-efficient furnaces have been discontinued for efficiency reasons. Boilers and commercial water heaters now have vent dampers installed in the flue to increase efficiency. All of this means less and less heat is going up the chimney. Recently, we have found evidence of previously sound masonry chimneys failing.

Effective June 01, 2011, when replacing a gas appliance vented into an exterior masonry chimney, the masonry chimney may not be used unless it is lined with a properly sized B vent or L vent or an approved double wall liner. As well, the chimney must be boxed in and insulated such that the building provides a heated space for the chimney. One method of ensuring that the chimney is provided adequate heat is to have the three exterior sides of the boxed-in chimney insulated to at least twice the insulated value of the existing building wall.

All repairs to existing masonry chimneys serving gas fired appliances must comply with these requirements.

Gas Leaks

We are finding an increasing number of new jobs where gas leaks have been left by the installing contractor. In these cases, we do not believe a proper leak test was performed. Effective June 01 2011, we will be invoicing a minimum of a \$75.00 inspection fee per leak found and the installing contractor will be required to retest the entire piping system

Thank you for your co-operation in the matters of public safety.



G. L. Williams, P. Eng.
Chief Gas Inspector