

BULLETIN 01-2009

March 6, 2009

**TO: LICENSED GAS CONTRACTORS
 LICENSED GAS FITTERS
 WHOLESALEERS
 PROPANE COMPANIES
 GAS UTILITIES
 MECHANICAL CONSULTANTS**

SUBJECT: GENERAL BULLETIN

Temporary Permits

Effective May 1st 2009 temporary permits may be submitted without the permanent permit.

The temporary permit is valid for 90 days after which time the permanent permit must be submitted or the gas service must be turned off. Leaving the gas service on and not submitting the permanent facility permit is considered an unreported installation subject to the penalties laid out in *The Gas Inspection Act, 1993*.

Tracer Wire

As per B149.1 code item 6.15.14, plastic pipe shall be accompanied by a tracer wire or equivalent tracing medium. Tracer wire is to be minimum 14 AWG TWU copper wire. **No other** form of tracing medium is acceptable at this time. Tracer wire must be taped to the plastic pipe using low conductivity electrician's tape at 5 metre intervals unless the pipe and tracer wire are installed simultaneously by ploughing. Underground splices of tracer wire shall be avoided, but when necessary, due to length of installation or due to branch lines, may be carried out using insulated butt crimp connectors of the same AWG as the tracer wire or soldering the joint. These connections are to be adequately taped or sealed to prevent the ingress of moisture into the joint. Tracer wire terminations shall be readily accessible by attachment to service risers or equivalent above ground structures.

Multi-storey wood structures

Multi-storey wood buildings can shrink or settle as much as $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch per floor depending on moisture content and the height of the wood framing.

The design and installation of every gas system shall include a means to accommodate for building settlement so as to protect piping or tubing from damage as specified in Clause 6.16.3 of the Natural Gas & Propane Installation Code. Do not conceal any swing joint used to protect the system as per Clause 6.14.4; all piping shall be tested before being concealed as per 6.22.4.

Instantaneous Water Heaters

Please remember that these are high input appliances. As such, gas pipe sizing and even gas meter size is critical for proper operation of this appliance along with the other appliances in the home.

Boiler Start ups

Some of the Boiler Manufacturers are asking for a flue gas analysis as part of the start up procedure. Please ensure the flue gas analysis and the installation manual is left on site for the inspector to review.

Equipment Activations

New equipment activation tags are to be used for any activations. The tags are available from our office.

S636 Venting - An Update

It is not permissible to run exhaust venting through sleeves (existing plastic pipe) or thimbles except as allowed or specified in the vent pipe manufactures instructions.

Currently it is not possible to mix and match piping and fittings. The S636 standard is quite clear that a venting system is a 'system' and all the components must be from the same manufacturer. The exceptions are the specialty fittings supplied by the appliance manufacturer. Primer is required for all glue joints.

Be aware that there was a serious carbon monoxide incident in Saskatchewan this winter.

The venting on a high efficient furnace was not installed correctly, resulting in a disconnection of a joint within the dwelling; this caused a family of six to be admitted to hospital.

All gas contractors are to ensure that all of their employees are made aware of this incident and to have them thoroughly check all venting joints before leaving any installation; -replacement, addition or a new installation.

All CPVC and PVC venting must be installed as per manufactures instructions including correct glues.

Gas Line Marking

In the event of a gas emergency in any building with more than one meter or to facilitate maintenance or alterations, it is critical the shut-off valve and the gas lines for that apartment, room or area are correctly marked. This is an issue we will be watching for.

Clause 6.17.4 requires that

Every piping or tubing system that enters a **building** that has two or more gas meters shall be permanently identified with the room number, apartment number, or the area of the **building** it serves.

Acceptable means of compliance include:

Embossed Tag - raised lettering on a stainless steel, brass or aluminum tag



Engraved Tag - engraved lettering on a stainless steel, plastic or aluminum tag

All tags shall be fastened using an ultraviolet and corrosion resistant system such as stainless steel wire.

Unacceptable means of compliance include:

“Permanent” Marker – whether or not used on a tag, wall, or piping.

Any type of Printed or Written Tag – there is no existing ink product with sufficient durability to UV degradation to be considered acceptable.

Illegible Markers or Tags

Licensing Issues for over 400,000 btuh (117 kW)

Please be aware that only a licensed general contractor may submit permits for installations where system loads exceed 400,000 btuh (117 kW). As well, only licensed general gas fitters may work on installations where system load exceeds 400,000 btuh (117 kW).

(b) domestic installation means an installation in a dwelling and any other installation where the total combined gas load does not exceed (117 kilowatts per hour.)(400,000 btuh)

Permit Issues

The installing contractor is responsible for the correct information on a permit.

e.g., “Hook-up trailer” is not adequate. The permit must show the manufactures name for each piece of equipment in the trailer.

e.g., “Owner supplied” is not a valid name for a piece of equipment.

The Gas Inspection Act, 1993 requires that permits be submitted before work starts on any installation. The department has allowed a 30 day grace period for replacements and additions but not for new installations or reconnects. The Act specifies a \$250 penalty maybe applied to work commenced without a permit.

Completing defects

Please complete all defects within the allotted time and notify SaskPower Gas Inspections by returning the signed defect within the 30 days, or as per *The Gas Inspection Act, 1993*, you will face bond action and further inspection fees.

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



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