

Vermont Building and Fire Safety Code Update

Fire Protection Marking

Sidewall vents act as a breathing device for heating systems. They take in fresh air and mix it with fuel to produce heat, while discharging exhaust fumes that can include carbon monoxide (CO). If a vent becomes buried in snow or obstructed by a shrub, this may shut down the heating appliance – or draw exhaust fumes into the building, which can produce high levels of CO inside the building. The new fire code requires all through the wall vents for fuel fired heating appliances, located less than 7 feet aboveground level, to have signage permanently affixed at a height of 7 feet, mounted directly above the through the wall vent.



Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

CO alarms are required to be installed in commercial buildings in areas adjacent to fuel fired heating appliances that use through the wall vents that terminate less than 7 feet above the ground. In buildings that have CO alarms in the areas where people sleep, the additional CO alarms adjacent to fuel fired heating appliances are not required.



Periodic Inspection of Heating Appliances

All fuel fired heating appliances shall be cleaned and maintained in accordance with the manufacturers instructions and shall be inspected at least once every 2 years by a certified heating fuel technician (see below). Inspections shall be in accordance with the standards and recommended procedures for inspection of existing appliances established under NFPA 31, 54 and 211, including the measurement of carbon monoxide in the flue gas. At the time of inspection the appliance shall be marked with the date of the inspection and the name and certificate number of the technician who performed the inspection. When the inspection determines the existing situation involves a distinct hazard to life or property and requires immediate action, the violation(s) shall be immediately corrected. If the hazard cannot be corrected the certified technician conducting the inspection shall contact the state or municipal fire marshal and then disconnect (red tag) the heating appliance from operation.

ABC HEATING AND FUEL 1-802-555-1212 Gas Burner Combustion Efficiency	
Technical System Measurements	
CO (Carbon Monoxide)	
CO ₂ (Carbon Dioxide) or O ₂ (Oxygen)	
Excess Air	
Draft at Breach (Neg or Pos.)	
Net Flue Gas Temperature F	
Efficiency of Combustion	
Checked	
Venting (Chimney, Fan Assist, Power Vent or Direct Vent)	
Heating Vent Signage	Y N N/A
Combustion Air	
Approximate System Age	
Gas Pressures: Inlet w.c. Manifold w.c.	
Comments:	
Technician Name: _____	
Vermont Certificate of Fitness #: _____	

Certification Requirements for the Installation, Inspection and Service of Gas Appliances and Oil Burning Equipment

The installation, inspection and service of gas appliances and oil burning equipment is required to be performed by a person who is certified in accordance with section 1.13 of the Vermont Fire & Building Safety Code. The certification is based on training programs established in the industry including the LP Gas Certified Employee Training Program (CETP), the American Gas Association (AGA) and the National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA). The instruction must include 2 hours of study in the prevention of Carbon Monoxide (CO) leaks and safety inspections of existing appliances. A current NORA “silver” or “gold” certificate is accepted as having received equal related instruction.



**Make sure you are working with a certified heating technician.
To learn more, contact the Vermont Fuel Education Center.**

*This Fire Code update was created by the Vermont Fuel Education Center.
To learn more or to obtain a copy of the new fire code, contact us or the Vermont Department of Public Safety.*

Vermont Dept. of Public Safety
802-479-7561
www.dps.state.vt.us/fire

Vermont Fuel Education Center
802-223-7750
www.vfec.org