

## BULLETIN 01-2008

**TO: LICENSED GAS CONTRACTORS  
LICENSED GAS FITTERS  
NATURAL GAS SUPPLIERS  
PROPANE DISTRIBUTERS**

**SUBJECT: PLASTIC VENTING SYSTEMS - S636 CERTIFIED**

This bulletin is an attempt to clarify the requirements for the installation of plastic venting systems in Saskatchewan.

A brief explanation of the S636 Certification process:

The ULC - **S636** Standard for Type BH Gas Venting Systems is a standard that includes requirements for the design, construction and performance of venting systems for gas-fired appliances and has classifications for flue gas temperatures. The temperature classifications that the plastic venting material PVC and CPVC are certified for are as follows;

**PVC - up to and including 65°C (149°F)**

**CPVC - up to and including 90°C (194°F)**

Therefore the plastics PVC and CPVC that are certified to the S636 standard **must** be used to convey flue gas temperatures respective of their certification.

As of February 1, 2007 SaskPower Gas Inspections required all plastic venting systems installed after that date to be certified to the **S636 Standard**. This was implemented to meet the change to the B149.1 gas code introduced in the 2007 code supplement.

Clause changes:

**8.9.5**

*Venting systems* that employ plastic *vents* shall be installed such that the first 3 ft (900 mm), or total vent run if less than 3 ft (900 mm) from the appliance flue outlet, is readily accessible for visual inspection.

**8.9.6**

*Vents* constructed using plastic piping shall be certified to ULC S636.

Supporting clauses:

**Table 8.5**

**8.10.4**

A special *venting system* or a *BH venting system* shall be installed in accordance with the terms of its listing and the *appliance* and *vent* manufacturer's *certified* installation instructions.

**8.11 Vent and chimney requirements**

A *Type B, BH, BW, or L vent* or a *factory-built chimney* used for venting an *appliance* shall be *certified*.

#### 4.1.3

An *appliance, accessory, component, equipment*, or any other item shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's *certified* instructions and this Code.

#### 4.1.4

Where a conflict exists between the manufacturer's *certified* installation instructions and this Code, the requirements of this Code shall prevail unless otherwise *approved*.

Some confusion exists with installers in interpreting these clauses when utilizing plastic piping to vent gas-fired appliances. To clarify these in respect to SaskPower Gas Inspection's interpretation the following requirements shall be complied with;

- ★ The requirements apply to the venting system and not to the intake system (combustion air) of the appliance.
- ★ Pipe and fittings are to be installed as a system as per the manufacturer's certified installation instructions. Do not mix and match from different manufacturers or pipe and fitting types from the same manufacturer. (Complete system ULC-S636 PVC or complete system ULC-S636 CPVC from the same manufacturer.)
- ★ When installing S636 pipe and fittings from a manufacturer that requires a primer to be used at a specified ambient temperature, the **certified primer** shall be used, regardless of the ambient temperature. This will ensure adequate preparation of the pipe and fittings to achieve a properly bonded joint. (Do not use a primer on any ABS appliance connection and use only certified transition cement.) When installing S636 pipe and fittings from a manufacturer that does not require primer to be used in any condition, the installer shall follow the manufacturer's certified instructions.
- ★ When replacing an appliance vented with non-certified plastic piping and fittings the venting system must be replaced with a certified ULC-S636 venting system. This may mean the relocation of the venting system to accommodate this requirement.
- ★ The certified ULC-S636 plastic venting system shall be suitable for the maximum flue gas temperatures that could occur in the venting system.
- ★ When a plastic venting system is used to vent a condensating boiler it shall be a minimum of UIC-S636 certified CPVC gas venting materials.
- ★ The venting system shall not be painted or insulated in conditioned spaced. (The plastic materials and markings must be visible for inspection and maintenance.)

Designers and installers are reminded that the design and installation of plastic venting systems must comply with the requirements of the B149.1. For more information or other situations in regards to plastic venting installation not covered by the above interpretations please contact your district gas inspector for advice.

Thank you for your cooperation in matters of public safety.



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