REQUIREMENTS FOR NATURAL GAS/PROPANE CONSUMING INSTALLATIONS AT OIL PRODUCTION SITES WITHIN SASKATCHEWAN & ALBERTA

#59199 V1 - REQUIREMENTS FOR NATURAL GAS/PROPANE CONSUMING INSTALLATIONS AT OIL PRODUCTION SITES WITHIN SASKATCHEWAN & ALBERTA
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**Introduction**

These requirements are presented as a reasonable approach to enhancing the safety of gas burning installations at oil production sites.

Alberta and Saskatchewan have experienced issues with gas installations at oil field sites where the safety of operators and workers have been compromised.

Investigation has revealed that current practice for installations has fallen far short of minimum requirements of the CSA B149 Gas Codes.

The CSA B149 gas codes are developed for use across Canada for all installations of appliances, equipment, components, and accessories where gas is used for fuel purposes. As such, these codes are widely used in all industries and provide a reasonable level of safety for property and people.

These codes when applied to the oil production industry should provide a reasonable level of safety for oil field personnel and property.

This document has minimum legal and code requirements for gas installations at oil production sites. Excerpts are taken from the B149.1, B149.2, B149.3 Gas Codes.

Typical installation requirements are shown as well as contact information for the appropriate regulatory authorities. Permit requirements are detailed as well.

**NOTE:** All installations at Oil Field Sites/Refineries, where gas is used for fuel purposes, are required to meet the B149.1 and B149.2 codes. Consult *The Gas Inspection Act 1993* (Saskatchewan), *The Gas Licensing Act 1993* (Saskatchewan), or *The Safety Code Act* (Alberta) and regulations adopted by these Acts.
Definitions, Terms and Interpretations

Definitions:

**CSA – B149.1, B149.2, B149.3** – Canadian Gas Codes

**Appliance** – a device to convert gas into energy that includes any component, control, wiring, piping or tubing required to be a part of the device.

**Approved** - acceptable to the *authority having jurisdiction*.

**Building** – a structure or part thereof used or intended for supporting or sheltering persons, animals, or property and classified by its occupancy in accordance with the applicable building code of the authority having jurisdiction or, in the absence of such, in accordance with the National Building Code of Canada.

**Certified** - investigated and identified by an accredited certification organization as conforming to recognized standards, requirements, or accepted test reports.

**Container** – (with respect to NGV/Propane Storage) either a cylinder or a tank.

**Equipment** – a device, other than an appliance, accessory, or component, that is connected to piping or tubing system.

**Gas** - Includes any of the following gases or mixtures of them: Natural Gas, manufactured gas (hydrogen, digester gas and carbon monoxide), or mixture of propane gas and air, propane, propylene, butanes, (normal butane or isobutane), and butylenes.

**Vaporizer** - an *appliance* for converting liquid propane to vapor by means other than atmospheric heat transfer through the surface of the container.

Interpretations

**The Gas Inspection Act 1993 - Saskatchewan**

"Gas Equipment"

(i) means any apparatus, appliance, device, instrument, fitting, fixture, machinery, material or thing used in or for, or capable of being used in or for, the transmission, distribution, supply or utilization of gas;

(ii) includes any assemblage or combination of materials or things that is used, or is capable of being used or adapted, to serve particular purpose or to serve a
particular function when connected to a gas installation;
(iii) does not include any electrical equipment within the meaning of The Electrical Inspection Act, 1993 (Saskatchewan);

“Gas Installation”

(i) means the installation of gas equipment and a system of gas piping in or on any premises from the meter or regulator where gas is delivered to the premises up to the point or points where the gas can be consumed or used in or on the premises by any gas equipment;
(ii) includes the connection of any of that gas piping with any of that equipment and any part of the gas system and the alteration, extension and repair of that gas piping;
(iii) does not include any electrical installation within the meaning of The Electrical Inspection Act, 1993 (Saskatchewan);

“Supply Authority”

- means a person who supplies gas directly to a customer by means of a distribution system or from a bulk storage tank.

Safety Codes Act - Alberta

“Gas System”

means any equipment or installation used or intended to be used in or in conjunction with the processing, transmission, storage, distribution, supply or use of gas but does not include anything excluded by the regulations from the definition of gas system;

Certification and Permit Regulation (AR 168/2002) - Alberta

“Gas Installation”

means any piping, venting system, appliance, component, accessory, or equipment to process, transmit, store, distribute, supply, or consume gas.

Gas Code Regulation (AR 67/2001) - Alberta

“Utility”

means an individual, firm, corporation, or other entity authorized to distribute gas services to a consumer in Alberta.
Permits Requirements

Applicant

Gas Inspection Act 1993 - Saskatchewan

No person shall commence any work to which this Act applies unless the person:

(a) has been issued a permit by the corporation to authorize the work; and
(b) has paid a fee fixed by the corporation for the permit.

Certification and Permit Regulation (AR 168/2002) - Alberta

A permit issuer may issue a permit in the gas discipline to a person who holds a trade certificate as a gasfitter issued under the Alberta Learning Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act.

Where Required

Gas Inspection Act 1993 - Saskatchewan

- All gas installations and equipment;
- Filling plants;
- Portable propane storage containers; and
- Butane systems

Certification and Permit Regulation (AR 168/2002) – Alberta

A permit is required to install, alter or make an addition to any gas installation as defined in Certification and Permit Regulation.

NOTE: Saskatchewan and Alberta
The CSA-B149 codes do not apply to petroleum refineries and chemical plants were gas is used as a feedstock or process gas.

Inspection Requirements

Gas Inspection Act 1993 – Saskatchewan

An inspector may at any reasonable time, enter premises for the purpose of enforcing this Act or the regulations;

Safety Codes Act - Alberta

If there is an imminent serious danger to persons or property, the Safety Codes Officer (SCO) may take any action that the officer considers necessary to remove or reduce the danger.
Installer Qualifications

Trades – Saskatchewan

3(1) A gas-fitter’s licence may be issued to any person who possesses any qualifications and passes any examination that the director may require.
(2) The holder of a gas-fitter’s licence may work for a licensed contractor on all gas installations and equipment specified in his licence and in the licence held by the contractor.
(3) The classes of gas-fitter’s licences are:
   (a) general gas-fitter; and
   (b) domestic gas-fitter.

NOTE: In Saskatchewan, a gas fitter shall obtain a general gas fitter’s licence from the Province of Saskatchewan or be registered as an apprentice in the Plumbing or Pipefitting Trade with Apprenticeship and Trade Certification.

NOTE: In Saskatchewan, a domestic gas-fitter is not qualified to work at oil field sites.

Trades – Alberta

Gasfitter First Class: may install, test, and maintain all gas piping systems, appliances, and equipment regardless of pressure or volume and the associated air supply and venting in residential, commercial, and industrial applications.

Gasfitter Second Class: may install, test, and maintain all gas piping systems for fuel, regardless of pressure or volume. Also permits the installation, repair and utilization of gas as a fuel for heating, lighting, or power on appliances that do not exceed 400,000 Btuh input. May not conduct motor vehicle conversions.

NOTE: In Alberta, a gasfitter from another province shall not engage in the occupation of gasfitter, without first obtaining a Certificate or is registered as an apprentice gasfitter under the Alberta Learning Apprenticeship and Training Act.

Responsibilities – Saskatchewan and Alberta

Installers shall ensure that an appliance, accessory, component, or equipment installed by them comply with the Code requirements, and the person initially activating the appliance shall ensure that the appliance is in safe working order.
**Equipment**

**Gas Inspection Act, 1993 - Saskatchewan**

No person shall manufacture, sell or offer for sale, display, advertise, rent, or use or otherwise provide or offer for use any gas equipment, or attempt to do any of those things, unless the gas equipment is:

(a) approved; or
(b) certified by a prescribed testing laboratory.

**Gas Code Regulation (AR 67/2001) - Alberta**

No person may manufacture, install, sell or offer for sale any equipment related to gas systems for use in Alberta unless it has been:

3(1)(a) tested and certified by a certification organization accredited by the Standards Council of Canada, or
3(1)(b) inspected and accepted by a certification organization accredited by the Standards Council of Canada, and the equipment bears evidence of having been accepted in the manner authorized by the certification organization.

**Reporting Fires / Explosions/Accidents**

**Saskatchewan**

Where an accident involving a gas installation or gas equipment occurs and results in the death or injury of a person or in a fire or an explosion, the contractor or the contractor's agent or the owner of the gas equipment or the owner's agent shall immediately notify the chief inspector, stating the precise location of the accident, its general nature and results.

**Alberta**

An accident that was caused or appears to have been caused by a gas installation or gas equipment that has resulted in:

- a fatality;
- property damage estimated to exceed $250 if the accident is a fire or explosion; or
- an injury to a person requiring professional medical treatment

shall be reported to a Safety Codes Officer in the gas discipline.
### Types of Gas

#### Properties

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<td>2.4-9.5</td>
<td>1.9-8.5</td>
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</table>

**NOTE:** Well Head Gas may require testing to obtain calorific value so appliance orifice sizing may be obtained.

**NOTE:** All gas shall be odorized in accordance with CSA Standard Z662 when used for other than petroleum refineries or gas used as a feedstock in chemical plants.

### Certification

Certification Agencies accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) for gas appliance equipment are able to certify gas-fired appliances, equipment and accessories for use within Canada. See SCC website at www.scc.ca.
APPENDIX I

TYPICAL INSTALLATIONS

Stationary Engines

A gas engine shall be equipped with:

- An automatic safety shut-off valve;
- An automatic speed governor;
- A vacuum switch or low oil pressure switch;
- A zero governor-type regulator; and
- A flexible hose connector, which shall be of the approved heavy duty type where the connector is installed on the upstream side of the zero governor-type regulator.

Engine exhaust gases shall be piped either:

- By the most direct route to an outdoor location; or
- To a chimney conforming to clauses specific to stationary engines in part 6 of the current B149.1 code.
- When engine exhaust temperatures are known not to exceed 194°F (90°C), minimum clearance to combustibles shall be in accordance with Table 7.18.10 of the current B149.1 code.

A room containing a stationary gas engine shall have:

- Combustion air opening(s)
- Ventilation openings

This requirement shall apply to engines of all inputs.

- A room containing a propane-fuelled engine shall be ventilated at the floor level and shall take air for combustion directly from outdoors.

Piping

Material (minimum requirements)

Iron Pipe

- Piping shall comply with ASTM Standard A 53 or A 106.
- Fittings shall be either malleable iron or steel and shall comply with ANSI/ASME B16.3.
Tubing

- Tubing shall be of seamless copper or steel.
- Steel tubing shall comply with ASTM Standard A 179/A 179/M.
- Type G tube shall meet ASTM Standard B 837
- Type K and L tube shall meet ASTM Standard B 88.

Hose

- Every hose and hose fitting shall have a minimum working pressure of 350 psig (2400 kPa) and shall comply with CGA Standard CAN/CGA-8.1 or CAN1-8.3.
- Slip on ends shall not be permitted.
- When a sign of wear, deterioration, or other damage is apparent in the reinforcement material of either a hose or hose connector, the hose or hose connector shall be replaced immediately.

Underground Piping/Distribution System

- Copper tubing used underground shall be either Type L or G, externally coated with extruded polyethylene or PVC resin at time of manufacture, or Type K.
- Plastic piping or tubing shall only be used for outdoor underground service.
- Plastic piping or tubing shall be accompanied by a tracer wire or equivalent tracing material.
- Underground piping or tubing shall not pass below a foundation.
- All distribution systems shall meet either the requirements of the current CSA B149.1 or CSA B149.2 or CSA Z662 code as applicable.

Pressures

Inside Buildings

Gas pressure in a building piping or tubing system, extending from the utilities distribution system, shall not be higher than indicated for pressures inside buildings in Table 4.1.1 of the current B149.1 code.

Outside

A propane service line between the first and second stage regulator that is supplying vapour to a piping or tubing system shall not exceed 10 psig (70 kPa) unless mechanical or other means may have to be incorporated to prevent liquefaction of propane in a piping or tubing system.
Testing and Purging

- Before an appliance or gas equipment is connected to a piping or tubing system, the piping or tubing system shall be pressure tested with either air or an inert gas.
- The pressure and duration of the test shall be in accordance with Tables in Clause 5 of the current B149.1 code.
- Propane liquid piping or tubing shall be pressure-tested at a pressure of not less than 375 psig (2585 kPa) or the setting of the hydrostatic relief valve in piping that can contain liquid propane and that can be isolated by valves and that requires hydrostatic relief valves as specified in clause 4 of the current B149.1 for a period of not less than 3 hrs.
- A piping, tubing system, or hose containing either air or inert gas shall be purged in a safe manner either to the outdoors or to an approved purge burner.

Plant Sites

On a plant site as defined by Alberta Boilers Safety Association (ABSA) pressure piping in excess of 15 psi falls under their jurisdiction. The requirements for the appliances, accessories, components, or equipment shall comply with the current B149.1, B149.2 and B149.3 codes.

On a plant site as defined by Saskatchewan Boiler and Pressure Vessel department, all gas piping, where the gas is used for fuel or is stored for use, is under the jurisdiction of SaskPower via The Gas Inspection Act, 1993. All other piping is under the jurisdiction of Sask. Boilers and Pressure Vessels.

Protection

- Piping or tubing shall be protected against damage or breakage due to strain, wear, and mechanical impact.
- Gas risers and meter sets require protection from vehicular traffic and physical damage.

Identification

- In every commercial or industrial building, a gas tubing or piping system shall be identified by one of the following:
  - The entire system being painted yellow;
  - The system being provided with yellow banding at maximum intervals of 20 ft. (6 m); or
  - The system being labeled or marked NATURAL GAS or PROPANE utilizing yellow labels or markings at maximum intervals of 20 ft. (6 m).
  - Piping or tubing with pressures in excess of 14 inches water column shall be identified with labels or tags, indicating pressure, at shut off valves, wall and ceiling penetrations.
Propane Containers

Transporting

Transportation of tanks shall adhere to the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations (Transport Canada).

Setting

- A horizontal tank of 2000 USWG (7500 L) or less capacity shall:
  - Be mounted on a maximum of two supports on firm ground.
  - Have the top of the support not less than 3 inches (75 mm) above grade and at least 6 inches (150 mm) between the bottom of the tank and grade.
  - Have a maximum distance of 30 inches (750 mm) between the bottom of the tank and a concrete pad, slab, or grade.

Location

- A propane tank shall not be installed within a diked area containing a tank of flammable or combustible liquids and shall be located not less than 20 ft (6 m) from the centerline of the dike.
- Every tank shall be located outside of a building.
- A tank shall be located with respect to a building wall in accordance with Tables in Clause 6.10.2 of the current B149.2 code.

Protection

- When a container is located in a vehicular traffic area, protection from physical damage shall be provided in compliance with Clause 4.3.2 of the current B149.2 code.
- When a tank is installed in a location that does not afford reasonable protection from motor vehicle damage, it shall be protected by posts or guardrails as specified in Clause 6.19.4 of the current B149.2 code.
- Every steel container shall be kept painted.
- Readily ignitable materials, including weeds and long dry grass, shall be removed from within 10 ft. (3 m) of a container, and this area shall be kept clear of such material at all times.

Line Relief Devices

- Installed where required by clause 4.3 of the current B149.1 code or clause 4.5 of the current B149.2 code.
- Vented to the outdoors in accordance with clause 4.5 of the current B149.1 or Clause 4.8 of the current B149.2 code.
Regulators

- Every permanent propane installation shall utilize at least a two stage regulator system.
- A regulator shall be firmly secured to the container valve, regulator bracket on the wall or hood, or be otherwise secured.
- Every regulator shall be of sufficient size to provide the required flow.
- Vented to the outdoors in accordance with clause 4.5 of the current B149.1 or Clause 4.8 of the current B149.2 code.

Vaporizers

- A direct-fired tank heater shall not be used.
- An engine exhaust system shall not be used.
- A direct fired vaporizer shall be located at least 10 ft. (3 m) from any tank or from the fill points of any tank, and at least 25 ft. (7.5 m) from a building or property line.

Cylinders

- Cylinder(s) being transported shall be secured to prevent damage and positioned so that the relief valve is in direct communication with the vapour space of the cylinder at all times.
- Requalification and re-marking of refillable cylinders shall be done by qualified persons at locations registered with Transport Canada.
- When the visual inspection method is used for requalification, it shall be done at 10 year intervals starting with the date of manufacture.
- The cylinder shall be stamped with the requalification date.
- Each cylinder shall be set upon a firm weatherproof base located on consolidated ground at grade level.
- A maximum of four (4) cylinders manifolded together to form a system may be located against a common wall of a building.

Valve Trains

- All gas burning equipment must use an approved fuel gas train
- Where appliances are certified, the approval of the fired gas train is part of the certification.
- Where appliances are not certified, the CSA B149.3 Code for Field Approval of gas burning appliances is used as a minimum standard to construct the fuel gas train subject to field approval.
- All appliances must be commissioned by properly trained and licensed/certified gas fitters.

NOTE: Saskatchewan: Appliances over 1,000,000 Btuh require approval of Gas Inspections prior to commissioning.
APPENDIX 2

Legislation – Alberta

Acts

Safety Codes Act (Chapter S-1)

2(1) This Act applies to fire protection and applies to the design, manufacture, construction, installation, operation and maintenance of:
(a) buildings;
(b) electrical;
(c) elevating devices;
(d) gas systems;
(e) plumbing and private sewage disposal systems; and
(f) pressure equipment.

Gas Code Regulation (AR 67/2001)

Adopts the B149 Series Gas Codes:

CSA-B149.1 - Natural Gas and Propane Installation Code
CSA-B149.2 - Propane Storage and Handling Code
CSA-B149.4 - Natural Gas for Vehicle Installation Code
CSA-B149.5 - Installation Code for Fuel Systems and Tanks on Highway Vehicles
CSA-B108 - NGV Refuelling Stations Installation Code

By Reference
CSA-B149.3 - Code for the Field Approval of Fuel Related Components on Appliances and Equipment
CSA-Z662 - Oil and Gas Pipeline Systems

Note: By “reference” codes are for equipment approvals

Certification and Permit Regulation (AR 168/2002)

Permit eligibility and conditions

Administration Regulation AR83/94

Occupational Health and Safety Act

Due diligence is the level of judgement, care, prudence, determination, and activity that a person would reasonably be expected to do under particular circumstances.

Due diligence is as much a culture and way of doing business as it is a legal defense.
Legislation - Saskatchewan

Acts

Gas Inspection Act 1993 & Regulations

Application

This Act applies to:
(a) all gas installations and gas equipment;
(b) the inspection of gas installations and gas equipment;
(c) the design, manufacture, display, advertising, sale and use of gas equipment;
(d) filling plants;
(e) portable propane storage containers;
(f) the filling of propane automobile storage containers.

Non-application

This Act does not apply to:
(a) the collection, transmission and distribution systems of supply authorities;
(b) any prescribed gas equipment or prescribed gas installation; or
(c) card-lock equipment used at a filling plant.

Gas Licensing Act 1993

Regulations concerning gasfitters and gas contractor licenses.

NOTE: Domestic gas-fitters are not qualified to work at oil field sites.


Regulations concerning Flammable, Combustible and Explosive Products and/or substances
How to obtain copies of Acts and Regulations:

**Alberta**

Queens Printer  
Edmonton – (780) 427-4952  
Calgary – (403) 297-6251  
www.qp.gov.ab.ca

Municipal Affairs Public Safety  
Safety Services  
16TH Floor  
10155 – 102 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 4L4  
(780) 427-8256  
www.gov.ab.ca/ma

Workplace Health and Safety  
10th Floor South Tower  
7th Street Plaza  
10030 – 107 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 3E4  
Call Center – Toll free - 1-866-415-8690  
www.whs.gov.ab.ca/law/index.html

Alberta Learning  
Apprenticeship and Industrial Learning  
Web Site: www.tradesecrets.org

Alberta Boiler Safety Association (ABSC)  
www.albertaboilers.com  
www.absa.ca

To reach a Government Office toll free, Dial 310-0000 and the number at the prompt.

To order Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Codes  
1-800-463-6727 or  
on line at www.csa.ca
**Saskatchewan**

Queen’s Printer  
8th Floor, Chateau Tower, 1920 Broad Street  
Regina, SK - Canada S4P 3V7  
Phone: 1-306-787-6894 or  
Toll Free in SK: 1-800-226-7302  
Website: www.qp.gov.sk.ca

SaskPower  
Bld #1; 2230 6th Avenue  
Regina, SK S4P 0S1  
(306) 566-2500  
Website: www.saskpower.com

Saskatchewan Labour, Occupational Health and Safety  
1870 Albert Street  
Regina, SK S4P 3V7  
Toll Free: 1 - 800 - 567 - 7233  
Website: www.labour.gov.sk.ca

Apprenticeship Trades and Qualifications:  
Web site: www.gov.sk.ca

To order Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Codes  
1-800-463-6727 or  
on line at www.csa.ca
Gas Safety Offices

Information provided cannot cover all installations. If there is anything that requires clarification or more information is required, please contact the nearest Gas Safety office.

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<td>(780) 427-6868</td>
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<td>(306) 934-7738</td>
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