



Fuels Safety Program	Ref. No.: FS -171 - 10	Rev. No.: 1
ADVISORY	Date: January 2010	Date: August 2010

Subject: Use of Existing Chimneys with Direct Vent Gas Fireplaces

Sent to: Posted on TSSA Web-Site, Canadian Standards Association, Intertek, Underwriter's Laboratory, Underwriter's Laboratory of Canada, OMNI Test Laboratories, Hearth Patio and Barbecue Association of Canada, Kingsman Industries, Monessen Hearth Systems, CSA Subcommittee, Simpson Dura-Vent, Union Gas, Enbridge Gas, Kingston Utilities, Kitchener Utilities, Code Adoption RRG, Natural Gas Advisory Council, Propane Advisory Council, TSSA Propane Risk Reduction Group, Ontario Propane Association (OPA)

All equipment covered under Ontario Regulation 212/01 – “Gaseous Fuels” and Ontario Regulation 211-01 – “Propane Storage and Handling” shall be approved. These regulations state: “No person shall offer for sale, sell, lease, rent or install an appliance, equipment or thing unless it is approved or will be approved prior to being put into use.

It has been brought to the attention of The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) that some Direct Vented Gas-Fireplaces are using existing masonry and factory built chimneys as their outdoor air conduit for combustion. A flue pipe is often routed from the fireplace, through the existing chimney and is connected to a vent terminal. A kit connects the bottom of the chimney to the air intake of the fireplace. Combustion air is drawn through the existing chimney and the kit to the fireplace.

The certification standards for Direct Vented Gas Fireplaces require that the vent/air intake pipes are to be supplied as part of the direct vent system and a leakage test be performed on the fireplace which includes the vent/air intake pipes.

The use of existing chimneys does not satisfy either of these requirements. Further more there is no way to ensure existing chimneys meet the leakage requirements which is a fundamental principal on how a balanced flue system works.

Though instructions for the use of these kits have been found in certified instructions, TSSA will be treating any such installation as unapproved since it is not in compliance with the certification standard. Any installation discovered in the Province of Ontario shall be treated as an unacceptable condition which is an immediate hazard and the fuel supply terminated as per Section 13 of Ontario Regulation 212/01.