



**Plumbing & Gas Discipline Advisory**  
**RE: USE OF PROPANE FOR FESTIVALS AND EVENTS**

Issued: July 9, 2010

Every year in the city of Calgary several festivals and events are hosted by private organizations and charities. These events often serve food that is prepared on site with the use of cooking equipment that has not been manufactured and certified for use outdoors or in tents or temporary structures. In an effort to accommodate the desires of these groups to have freshly prepared meals and snacks, The City of Calgary has made the effort to ensure inspections are performed at these venues to limit foreseeable hazards in the interests of public safety. The Safety Codes Officers (SCO) who carry out these inspections use the current edition of the Natural Gas and Propane Installation Code (B149.1-10) as well as the Propane Storage and Handling Code (B149.2-10).

This document has been prepared in an effort to aid event organizers and vendors and to give guidance in the requirements for the safe use and storage of propane cylinders and equipment. Although the applicable codes are unable to cover every possible application, they do make clear the implicate intent in the safe use of propane equipment and appliances. In the event that a situation is not clearly dealt with in the Code, it is left to the discretion of the SCO on site.

It is the responsibility of event organizers, vendors, installers and end users to ensure that all national, provincial and local Codes are adhered to. The ultimate goal of all parties involved is the safety of everyone attending these events.

- Some vendors on site use manufactured mobile structures that have been built and approved to CSA standards as a complete unit. These units can be trailers with the cooking equipment already installed, as well as tent type structures that collapse for transport as a trailer or inside of a trailer. These units will have a rating plate that states they have been manufactured for use as a mobile food preparation unit, or there may be documentation that is to be kept with the unit that states it has been field approved for food preparation. In either case it will state what standard these units have been approved to. An approval from an international body may not be recognized in Canada or Alberta, which would then require further testing by an accredited agency recognized in Alberta, prior to use at an event.
- All appliances, accessories, and equipment, must be used and installed according to the manufacturer's instructions (B149.2-10 clause 4.2.1). Often times there will be noted on the rating plate, "Not intended for use outdoors," or "Not intended for use indoors." Statements like this are not recommendations they are requirements and must be followed. If more information can be provided by the manufacturer, some accommodations may be permissible to meet the intent of the manufacturer (B149.2-10 clause 4.2.2).
- Appliances must be installed to ensure the manufacturer's stated clearances to combustibles are maintained. An appliance may also be a source of ignition and

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therefore must be kept a minimum of 10 feet from a regulator vent or propane cylinder (B149.2-10 clause 5.8.1.(b))

- Propane cylinders and equipment must be protected from damage (B149.2-10 clause 5.3.1). This would include running hoses in a travel corridor or walkway, creating a tripping hazard or possible damage to the hose. In the event that vehicles could pose a risk to cylinders, more substantial barriers would be required, such as concrete highway barriers (B149.2-10 clause 5.3.2 and 7.19.4.2.(b) ).
- Pressure regulators must be secured to prevent damage to hoses and maintain the proper orientation and exposure to weather (B149.2-10 clause 5.4.2).
- Refillable propane cylinders all have a stamp on them with a manufacture date. Cylinders with a manufacture date that is older than 10 years must be re-certified and re-stamped. Expired cylinders must be removed from service (B149.2-10 clause 6.1.5).
- Propane cylinders cannot be stored or used inside of any structure (B149.2-10 clause 6.5.1.2).
- Propane cylinders being stored or in use must be in groups no larger than 4. All cylinders must be secured in a way to prevent them from being knocked over. Cylinders must be spaced so that a minimum of 10 feet separates groupings, whether in use or in storage. Cylinders that are not in use and not hooked up must have the protective cap installed.
- Every propane cylinder must be on firm level base (B149.2-10 clause 6.7.1)
- The permit regulations also state that: a container having **a propane capacity of not more than 454 litres water capacity** or when containers are manifold together, the aggregate capacity of the containers **does not exceed 454 litres water capacity**, do not require a Gas permit. A Gas permit is required when a horizontal tank is on site or when, what the industry commonly refers to as “pigs,” are connected together, as in that case the capacities are exceeded.

Other codes may also be applicable in some circumstances; these few are intended to illustrate examples of issues commonly encountered at these events. Further questions and concerns can be addressed by calling 3-1-1 and asking for a Plumbing & Gas Senior Inspector. The other disciplines of Building and Electrical may also be reached through 3-1-1 to answer questions concerning their respective Codes.

ISC: Unrestricted