



Updated January, 2011



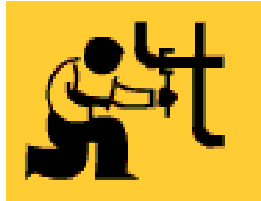
## CODE INFORMATION SHEET

# General Information for Plumbing & Heating Contractors

### Propane & Natural Gas Certification:

Since July of 1991, anyone installing or servicing gas appliances in Vermont has been required to hold current certification through the Division of Fire Safety of the Vermont Department of Public Safety (formerly through the Department of Labor and Industry). This requirement was put into place after a number of tragic carbon monoxide deaths in the .1980's.

Vermont's gas certification is based upon completion of Books 1,4,2, 6 and 7 of the National Propane Gas Association's Certified Employee Training Program for propane, or the American Gas Association's 'Fundamentals of Natural Gas' training program for natural gas. The focus of both of these programs is to provide a gas technician with the knowledge to insure safe installations of new appliances, along with the tools to evaluate existing ones for compliance with safety codes.



Over 1500 individuals have become certified since 1991 through one or both of these training programs, and we have seen great improvement in the quality of installations since then. I am concerned that many licensed plumbers and experienced heating contractors still do not have this required certification. As you are aware, Vermont has continued to, experience a number of preventable deaths due to carbon monoxide, leading to additional rules for carbon monoxide detectors in all buildings where people sleep, and additional training for gas technicians. If you install, inspect or service gas appliances in Vermont you must be certified through the Division of Fire Safety.

Gas certification courses are offered by a number of groups including the Vermont Fuel Dealers Association (485-7999), the Propane Gas Association of New England (603- 544-2228); Education, Training & Safety Associates (888-883-2348); and Vermont Gas Systems (863-4511), among others. This investment in training will help to reduce the number of deaths and injuries from carbon monoxide poisoning in Vermont.

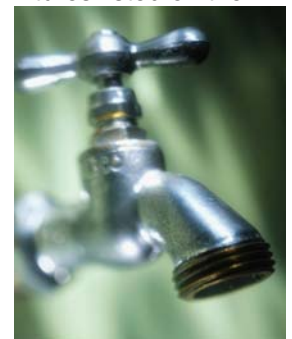
### Plumbing Work Notice (permit) for Boilers & Water Heaters:

A plumbing work notice must be filed with the regional office, for the area where the plumbing job is located, when a boiler or water heater is installed in any public building or any building connected to public water or sewer. A plumbing work notice is not required when a boiler or water heater is replaced by a similar fixture that uses the same fuel and the existing water supply, and there is no change in the venting, BTU output or water capacity. To obtain a plumbing work notice go on line at [vtfiresafety.org](http://vtfiresafety.org) or contact any of the regional offices listed at the top of the work notice form. For work within the City of Burlington file the work notice 'directly with the Burlington City Plumbing Inspector.

### Priority Plumbing Work Notices (permits) & Inspection:

Priority for inspection, review and investigation have been established in the Vermont Plumbing Rules based on the type and size of building, the complexity of the plumbing work and consideration of risks to people resulting from any code violation. Information to determine if plumbing work is "priority plumbing work" is listed at the lower right-hand corner of the work notice form. The fee for "priority plumbing work" is determined by the number of fixtures listed on the work notice form, with a minimum fee of \$20.00.

The fee for non-priority work is \$20.00 regardless of the number of inspections. The licensed plumber that filed the plumbing work notice must contact the plumbing inspector to schedule an inspection for all priority plumbing work.



A map of the areas covered by the state plumbing inspectors is located on the back of the work notice form.

**Current Plumbing License Required:** The plumber or heating' contractor must have a current master plumbers license, or a water heater specialist or heating system specialist license, to obtain a valid plumbing work notice. If your plumbing license has lapsed you will not be able to file for a plumbing work notice. The expiration date of your license is listed on your license and a license renewal form is sent to your address of record prior to the expiration date. Information on the status of your license is also listed on line at [vtfiresafety.org](http://vtfiresafety.org).

**Responsibility for Obtaining a Plumbing Work Notice (permit):** The licensed plumber responsible for the plumbing work is required to file for the plumbing work notice. The building owner also has responsibility to ensure that the plumber hired by the owner has obtained the required permit before beginning the plumbing work. The Division of Fire Safety has broad responsibility. To enforce the plumbing code and rules including issuing citations and penalties to any person who interferes with the licensed plumber who attempts to obtain a valid work notice.

**Boiler Construction & Installation Information:** Information on the construction and installation of boilers and water heaters is now contained in Section 3 of the Vermont Fire & Building Safety Code 2006. There is no longer a separate boiler code. All boilers and water heaters in public buildings must be manufactured, constructed and assembled in accordance with the appropriate American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) standards recognized by the National Board of Boiler & Pressure Vessel Inspectors. The boiler or water heater must display a label to identify that the boiler or pressure vessel meets the ASME standards.

## 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 person certified in accordance with section 1.13 of the Vermont Fire & Building Safety Code.

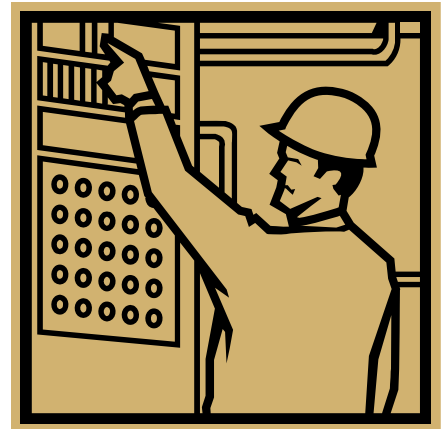
Inspections shall be in accordance with the standards and recommended procedures for inspection of existing appliances established under NFPA 31, 54 and 211, including the measurement of carbon monoxide in the flue gas.

At the time of inspection the appliance shall be marked with the date of the inspection and the name and certificate number of the person 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 inspector conducting the inspection shall contact the state or municipal fire marshal and then disconnect (red tag) the heating appliance from operation.

Filing plumbing work notices, using the correct materials and equipment, and keeping plumbing licenses and gas and oil certifications up to date, are the most important tools in protecting people in Vermont from risks associated with plumbing and heating systems. We all need to work together to protect the people in Vermont.

For additional information on plumbing questions contact the State Chief Plumbing Inspector at 786-5.841 or for licensing and certification information contact 479-7561.



This sheet is designed to promote fire prevention, code compliance and to enhance the public safety of all Vermonters. This sheet provides a detailed overview of one common issue and is not an all-inclusive list of state laws or additional code requirements that may apply. For additional information or details you should contact one of the state plumbing inspectors. This sheet was developed as an educational resource with information provided from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the International Code Council (ICC).

### Division of Fire Safety Regional Offices

Barre 802-479-4434 \* Rutland 802-786-5867 \* Springfield 802-885-8883 \* Williston 802-879-2300

[www.vtfiresafety.org](http://www.vtfiresafety.org)