



Update on Canadian Environmental Protection Act and progress on National EPA type of regulation

In early February Tex McLeod from the Hearth Patio and Barbecue Association of Canada (HPBAC), Ghyslain Belanger from the Association des Professionnels Du Chauffage (APC) and Anthony Laycock from WETT met with representatives from Environment Canada to review planned activities for 2005/06 which pertain to woodburning.

One of the primary activities being worked on by Environment Canada is the development of regulations for the sale of woodburning appliances. The initial goal was to introduce legislation by 2005. This goal has not been met. Environment Canada (EC) has just submitted a report to the CCME (Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment).

As it turned out EC could not regulate wood burning appliances nor could they find a legal home to regulating / limit sales to EPA rated models. Their recommendations include extending Canadian Environmental Protection Act's (CEPA) authority to include regulation at the point of sale. EC's proposed changes would allow the act to regulate at point of sale, products which when in use, emit toxins.

CEPA is up for it's five year review. Both EC and Health Canada have reviewed the current act and outlined some recommendations for change. These recommendations include the regulation of woodburning appliance sales to be limited to EPA and / or CSA B415 rated appliances.

Following the submission of recommendations, limited public consultations have been taking place. The next step in the process is to review the results of this consultation and then present final recommendations to the Standing Committee of Environment and Sustainable Development. The standing committee will hold hearing to review proposed changes to the legislation.

HPBAC, APC and WETT actively participated in several subcommittees which dealt with regulation issues. We have long been advocates of EPA type of legislation and are frustrated by the delays in seeing this introduced. We will be continuing to monitor this situation.

June AGM on West Coast

In the spirit of recognizing the broad geographic scope of our membership, the WETT Annual General Meeting will be held on June 5, 2005 in Richmond, British Columbia. Holding our annual meetings in varied locations across the country provides the opportunity for members to become more involved with WETT and to meet with members from other parts of the country. In the past three years the WETT AGM has been held in Moncton, New Brunswick, Toronto, Ontario and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The 2005 AGM will be held in conjunction with the Western Hearth, Patio and BBQ Forum. The forum kicks-off on Saturday night with a "Casino themed" Dinner Dance. This is followed by two days of workshops and both indoor and outdoor tradeshow, packed with industry leaders showcasing their new and innovative products. For more information on this show please visit WETTBC's website at www.wetbca.ca.

We hope you can join us out west.

WETT Annual Meeting

June 5, 2005, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Best Western Richmond Hotel, Richmond, BC

New WETT Wallet Cards a Hit

Many members who have recently renewed their membership have received their new membership cards. The response to these new cards has been very positive. These new cards offer a more professional appearance and greatly enhance the professionalism of WETT and WETT certificate holders. We encourage you to wear these cards as a visible location so your customer's can appreciate the importance of WETT certification.

B365 2001 Edition *Notable changes in the new installation code* by John Gulland, Gulland & Associates

Released in mid-2001, the new edition of the Installation Code for Solid-Fuel-Burning Appliances and Equipment (CSA B365-01) has now been made mandatory in Canadian building codes. This is a good time to review the significant changes from the 1991 edition and consider how they may affect our work. Many subtle changes were made for the 2001 edition, but we'll cover only the most significant ones here.

Recognition for WETT certification, clause 3.5.3

As reported in the Winter 2001 edition of WETT Ink, the new B365 gives recognition to WETT certification. Under the heading "Training and Quality of Labour", clause 3.5.2 on page 6 reads in part:

Personnel performing installation, inspection, and maintenance work shall be experienced and/or trained in such work and comply with the requirements of the authority having jurisdiction.

Note: Persons holding a valid Wood Energy Technical Training (WETT) certificate would be considered qualified to perform this work.

Although the note does not function as a mandatory requirement, it does recognize the role of WETT certification in promoting safe installations.

Protection against depressurization, section 4.

By far the most significant change in the new edition is in section 4. Air for Combustion and Ventilation, starting on page 7. The section has been completely rewritten to reflect a shift away from requirements for the supply of outdoor combustion air towards rules for managing house pressures or the consequences of smoke spillage. The change resulted in the removal of Table 1 that dealt with sizing of outdoor air ducts.

The new section is based on, and is compatible with, the treatment in the 1995 National Building Code Subsection 9.32.3.8 Protection Against Depressurization. The new approach deals with house pressures, either by neutralizing negative pressure with a powered make-up air supply or by providing warning of spillage.

Section 4. gives the installer two options for compliance:

1. Conduct a house pressure test using the methodology outlined in the Canadian General Standards Board standard 51.71, The Spillage Test, and if the depressurization level exceeds the limits listed in the standard, install a powered make-up air supply that is electrically interlocked to the largest exhaust.
2. Install a carbon monoxide detector at or near ceiling level in the room containing the wood burning appliance.

The only circumstance in which powered make-up air *must* be installed is where a decorative appliance, such as a fireplace with loose fitting doors or no doors, is installed in a house that also contains a spillage-susceptible gas or oil burning appliance. In this case the concern would be that the large air consumption of the fireplace could cause backdrafting of a B vented gas appliance or an atmospheric oil burner.

To explain the reasons for this major change to section 4. the B365 committee added an appendix on page 36.

The appendix reads in part:

Air supplies routed from outside directly to the appliance combustion chamber do not isolate the appliance from room pressure as was originally thought. Good wood appliance venting system design, component selection, and proper operation have been shown to be more reliable in ensuring successful venting and in preventing spillage problems than supplying combustion air from outdoors.

It is now generally agreed, based on research findings, that protection against depressurization can best be provided by evaluating and, if necessary, adjusting the pressure in the house by supplying make-up air from outdoors so that the pressure remains within the limits tolerated by the appliance, as is set out in Clause 4.1 of this Standard and its referenced documents.

Here are some things you can do to prepare for this change in approach to ensuring reliable appliance operation in tightly constructed new houses.

1. Read section 4. of B365 starting on page 7 and the relevant appendix starting on page 36.
2. Read Chapter 6. Safe Venting of your WETT reference manual. The chapter describes how chimneys behave in houses and gives detailed instructions for conducting a house pressure test and an overview of the installation of make-up air systems.
3. Plan to enrol in the WETT courses Smoke Spillage Prevention and Testing and Managing House Pressures. These are one-day courses that will help prepare you to comply with the new section 4. of B365.

Elbows in flue pipes

The B365 code has always limited the number of 90° elbows in a single wall flue pipe assembly to two. But did you ever wonder if four 45° elbows were permissible? Or if a single wall base tee should be counted as an elbow? The 2001 B365 puts an end to the speculation. Here is the revised clause on page 11:

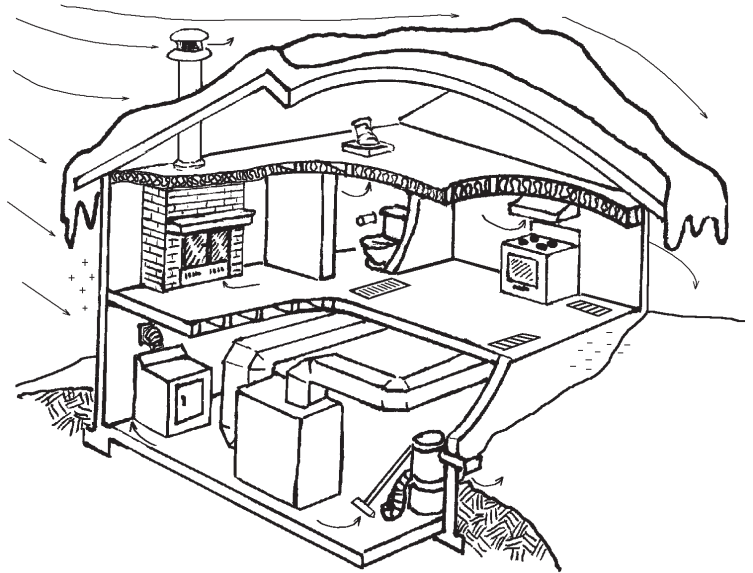
5.4.2 (b) A flue pipe shall be as short and straight as practicable; a single-wall flue pipe shall not exceed 3 m (10 ft) total length of straight pipe and shall not have a combined change of direction of more than 180°;

Note: The change in direction could consist of 2 x 90° elbows or tees, 4 x 45° elbows, or some other combination adding up to a maximum of 180°. An insulated chimney tee is not considered part of the flue pipe.

This is a practical and helpful solution that should mean no more time is wasted debating these issues. On the other hand, it should be acknowledged that 90° elbows in flue pipe assemblies should be avoided where possible because they cause flow resistance in the system.

Sidewall venting of pellet stoves

A new section on pellet vent installations was added to the 2001 edition of B365. See 5.6 Venting of Pellet-Burning Appliances starting on page 13. It includes a long list of limitations on the location of sidewall vent terminations. The limits include clearances from doors, windows, air intakes or gas meters, and above grade and public walkways. The section also prohibits termination under a veranda, porch or deck. It would be a good idea for pellet stove salespeople and installers to review the new requirements and accommodate them in their installations. Note that the pellet venting rules in B365 might differ from those in the stove or vent manufacturer's instructions, and even though the manufacturer's instructions normally govern in such situations, an insurance inspector might not see things that way.



Drywall no longer "protection"

Table 3 of the 1991 edition dealing with clearances to combustible material contained an unfortunate suggestion that drywall was noncombustible. Note 2 of old Table 3 read in part: "... the protection (such as drywall) applied over the combustible material is disregarded."

This error has now been corrected in the 2001 edition. The new table is referred to as Table 2 (because the old Table 1 dealt with sizing of outdoor combustion air ducts and has now been deleted). Note 2 now reads in part:

"... a noncombustible covering applied over the combustible material shall be disregarded."

You'll find the new Table 2 on page 20 of the 2001 edition of the code.

WETT Inc. provides new illustrations

The clauses in B365 that deal with floor protection for uncertified appliances can be very confusing. The B365 committee considered them so confusing that it was agreed that illustrations were needed to help users of the standard to interpret clauses 7.1.4, 7.1.5 and 7.1.6. The WETT certified members of the committee pointed out that the WETT reference manual had a good set of illustrations of floor protection for appliances with legs of various lengths. The illustrations are on pages 9 and 10 of Chapter 7. CSA received permission from WETT Inc. to use the illustrations and now they appear on page 30 of the new B365.

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Burn It Smart Directory Coming

As part of WETT's involvement with the Burn It Smart program, we have been working with several other groups to produce materials to help consumers understand our industry and who they can call for information about woodburning.

Burn It Smart is a campaign, led by The Government of Canada, to promote safer, cleaner and more efficient wood burning practices for those who heat their homes with wood, or use it for recreational purposes. Working with the program over the last couple of years, we have seen a need for a consistent directory to assist wood burners to find the correct information source for their inquiries. Frequently when consumers are looking for information on wood heating they are often unaware of where to direct their inquiry. To direct consumers to the correct information source we have developed a directory of key agencies/service providers.

We will be sending these out in the coming months to all WETT members encouraging you to help support this initiative by placing this directory on your Website, in printing materials and by posting the poster cards. The poster cards are designed for display in shop windows, bulletin boards and other locations where wood burners may frequent.

All these initiatives are designed to heighten the professionalism of our industry and to communicate the importance of WETT training.

New WETT Reference Manual on target for 2005

As mentioned in your renewal package, WETT is currently in the process of updating the Reference Manual and modifying the format into a more universally acceptable size. In addition, several chapters are being completely reviewed. Eventually all chapters will be completely reviewed and the new format size will allow for easy and economical updates. It is expected that the new format manuals will be ready for shipment later in the year. As you can appreciate this is a time consuming process being done primarily by volunteers and we want to ensure that adequate time is given to this important task.

Call for Nominations

It is nomination time again and your chance to become more involved with the WETT program. Bi-annually WETT members are invited to put forward nomination for the WETT board. The national board consists of at least 8 to a maximum of 12 WETT certificate holders. Board positions are for a two-year term.

The nominating committee has already made contact with the WETT Affiliates and regional representatives to invite their nominations for the coming term (June 2005 – May 2007).

Your input is invited

If you would like to nominate a candidate to stand for election, please fax (or mail) a letter with the individual's name and company affiliation to our Executive Director, Anthony Laycock by April 1, 2005. First however please confirm that the individual you are putting forward accepts the nomination and is prepared to serve for a two year term.

To be eligible to serve on the WETT board, candidates must be a WETT certificate holder in good standing. Equally important, our elected leaders must also have a genuine enthusiasm for the goals of the organization and display both integrity and good judgment.

Following the receipt of nominations, if necessary, a ballot will be mailed to all WETT certificate holders in good standing for voting the week of April 11th. All ballots will need to be received in the WETT office by May 20, 2005.

We look forward to hearing from you. For your reference the current board of Directors is:

Vanessa Percival, *President*, Perth, ON
Michael Kempton, *Vice President*, Bedford, NS
George LeBlanc, *Past President*, Moncton, NB
Jacqueline McCloy Pell, *Secretary/Treasurer*, Peterborough, ON

David Allen, *Director*, Yarmouth, NS
Marshall Byle, *Director*, Tiverton, ON
Zigi Gadomski, *Director*, Port Coquitlam, BC
Dan Hiebert, *Director*, Altona, MB
Brad Leonard, *Director*, Kingston, ON
Gordon Little, *Director*, Calgary, AB
Jessie Richer, *Director*, Stoney Creek, ON
Gregory Smith, *Director*, Antigonish, NS