



For Immediate Release: April 18, 2008

Contact: Jason Bourque, CAE
Program Manager
j.bourque@ciph.com

National Building Code to Change the Definition of “Mechanically-Vented”

On April 17, 2008, the National Building Code’s Standing Committee on Housing and Small Buildings (often referred to as Part 9) met in Halifax to review a proposed Code Change Request (CCR) relevant to depressurization.

The CCR was jointly developed by the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating and the Canadian Home Builders’ Association. The current 2005 version of the NBC has an anomaly between the definition of “mechanically-vented” and the appendix note associated with Section 9.32.3.8 (Protection Against Depressurization). The definition, as it currently stands in the code, requires that fuel-burning appliances that are not direct-vent or direct power-vent require make-up air requirements. The requirements are so onerous that it effectively can double or triple the cost of a conventional power-vented appliance.

CIPH is pleased to report that the Standing Committee unanimously agreed to modify the term “mechanically-vented” to allow for power-vented equipment. This aligns the definition with the intention outlined in the appendix note.

The new definition will be included in the public review of the NBC, scheduled to occur this Fall. Assuming no issues arise during the public review process, the new definition will be in effect for the 2010 version of the NBC.

In the meantime, British Columbia and Ontario both made provisions to alter the Section before they adopted the 2005 NBC. Currently Alberta is the only province to have adopted Section 9.32.3.8 of the 2005 NBC verbatim, resulting in increased costs for conventional appliances.

CIPH intends to:

1. Continue its work with the Province of Alberta to ensure an interpretative Standata is issued and to present alternative solutions (sometimes referred to as variances) that should allow for power-vented equipment until the Province’s adoption of the 2010 NBC.
2. Contact all other provinces/territories that have not yet adopted the 2005 NBC. They will be encouraged to modify the term to match the Standing Committee’s approved change prior to adopting the 2005 NBC in their jurisdiction.

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating is a not-for-profit trade association. Founded in 1933, the Institute is a vibrant organization committed to providing members with the tools for success in today’s competitive environment. More than 260 companies are members of this influential Canadian industry association. They are the manufacturers, wholesaler distributors, master distributors, manufacturers’ agents and allied companies who manufacture and distribute plumbing, hydronic heating, industrial PVF, waterworks and other mechanical products. CIPH wholesalers operate more than 600 warehouses and showrooms across Canada. CIPH members employ more than 10,000 Canadians and are an integral part of the Canadian economy. Total industry sales exceed \$4.6 billion annually.

Since 1943, the Canadian Home Builders’ Association has been the voice of the residential construction industry in Canada. CHBA is built on a vision of a strong and positive role for the housing industry and a commitment to support the business success of their members and their ability to provide affordability, quality and choice for consumers.

F:\wpfiles\PIAC\Advocacy Links\2008\NBC Definition Mechanically Vented Apr 08.pub



295 The West Mall, Suite 330, Toronto, Ontario M9C 4Z4.

info@ciph.com, Fax. 416-695-0450, www.ciph.com, Tel. 1-888-ASK-CIPH (275-2474), 416-695-0447.