



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

Robert L. Quinn, Commissioner

MECHANICAL SAFETY & LICENSING BOARD

William (Bill) Trombly Jr. Board Chairman

Office: Incident Planning and Operations Center, 110 Smokey Bear Blvd, Concord, NH
Mailing Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305
603-223-4289, FAX 603-223-4294

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INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN Chimneys with Gas Appliances Installed

Recently it was brought to the attention of the N.H. Mechanical Licensing Board that many chimney repair and maintenance companies have been asked to provide local gas inspectors a Gas Fitters License when working on masonry chimneys that have a gas burning appliance installed in it. Many personnel working in the chimney business don't hold a Gas Fitters License and therefore have had to contract with a licensed gas technician to assist them with repairs and maintenance tasks associated with the chimney. Gas appliances vented into a chimney as well as gas appliances that are common vented with oil burning appliances in a chimney is the primary focus of this bulletin.

When the chimney industry personnel perform a level II chimney inspection they are required to disconnect all appliance vent connectors to gain access to that portion of the chimney for cleaning and inspection. They are also required to clean the inside of the appliance vent connector at the same time. Rules for servicing the gas burning appliance vent connector is included in NH Saf-Mec 300 and therefore requires the servicer to hold the appropriate gas license.

If chimney industry personnel perform maintenance and service work on a chimney that doesn't include removal or reinstallation of the gas appliance vent connector or gas piping, then a gas license would not be required under the Saf-Mec 300 rules. Following are some examples of tasks chimney personnel may perform to a chimney with gas appliances connected to it, or installed in, without holding a Gas Fitters License:

- Making repairs to the chimney above the roof line but not including extending or shortening the chimney as it could change the way it drafts.
- Making repairs to a chimney clean out or cleaning out the chimney base below the gas appliance vent connector.
- Cleaning, inspecting, and maintenance work to a masonry fireplace with a gas log set installed in the firebox. Personnel would be responsible to turn off the pilot and main burner or electronic ignition system to prevent the appliance from operating while work is performed to the fireplace flue. Care would need to be taken to prevent soot and other products inside the fireplace to make contact with the gas appliance. Once the fireplace work is complete the gas service would need to be restored to the appliance by trained personnel that are familiar with the task.

If a masonry chimney requires a new lining, industry personnel would need to consult with a properly licensed Gas Technician to coordinate the installation. A licensed gas service technician would be required to design and/or size a proper lining system. A trained and qualified chimney professional is allowed to place the new lining system inside the chimney and complete the termination at the top of the chimney without the need to have a licensed gas technician onsite. However, connecting the new liner to a gas appliance is a licensed task and must be completed by a licensed gas technician. The licensed gas technician would be required to inspect the liner before putting the appliance into operation. A new lining system may impact how the gas burning appliance operates and adjustments may be necessary for the safe operation of the gas appliance and therefore requires a properly licensed gas technician.