

**APPLIANCES AND EQUIPMENT REQUIRE SPECIAL
CERTIFICATION FOR INSTALLATION AT HIGH ALTITUDE**

**TO: GASFITTERS/INSTALLERS, NATURAL GAS UTILITIES, PROPANE
DISTRIBUTORS, ACCREDITED MUNICIPALITIES AND AGENCIES**

This bulletin has been jointly developed by Safety Services and the Gas Technical Council to inform designers, vendors, builders, contractors (Gasfitters and Sheet Metal Mechanics) and owners of the minimum requirements to ensure safe and effective venting of gas appliances. In Alberta, under the *Safety Codes Act*, the inspection and approval of gas appliances and equipment for use at altitudes over 2000 ft. (600 m) shall comply with the requirements listed below.

The B149.1 – 2010 Natural Gas and Propane Installation code states;

4.22 High-altitude installations

4.22.1

For high-altitude installations, **appliances** shall be **certified** in compliance with CSA Standard CGA 2.17 and shall be adjusted to the high-altitude rating shown on the nameplate when installed at elevations between 2000 ft and 4500 ft (600 m and 1350 m) above sea level.

4.22.2

When an **appliance** is installed at elevations above 4500 ft (1350 m), the **certified** high-altitude input rating shall be reduced at the rate of 4% for each additional 1000 ft (300 m).

INTENT & RATIONALE

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The requirements of Clause 4.22 are intended to accurately adjust the input ratings of appliances certified for high altitude to ensure proper performance.

The rated output of gas-burning appliances decreases with higher altitudes due to the reduction in atmospheric pressure. This reduction in the density of the air reduces the venting effectiveness of buoyancy vented appliances (natural draft and fan-assisted).

Induced or forced draft, and direct vent appliances are also affected by high altitudes, but not to the same extent as buoyancy vented appliances. For these reasons, appliances installed at altitudes exceeding 2000 feet above sea level must be certified for this application to ensure satisfactory performance, according to CAN/CGA-2.17-M91 (R1999), *Gas Fired Appliances for Use at High Altitudes*. In the case of natural draft and fan-assisted appliances, high altitude ratings may be obtained by a change in orifice size or by a change in manifold pressure when the appliance is equipped with a gas pressure regulator. Appliances may be equipped or adjusted at the factory for the high altitude rating, or may be field converted using a manifold pressure change, or by using a certified field conversion kit. For induced or forced draft, and direct vent appliances, adjustments to the air supply are typically required to ensure proper high altitude performance. In all cases, appliances must be suitably marked to indicate their altitude adjusted input rating.

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About 22 Alberta municipalities are at elevations below 2000' (600 m). All other installations of appliances regulated by the gas regulation shall be derated and labelled as required for high altitude. *The Alberta Building Code 2006 Division B Appendix "C" contains Table C-2 Design Data for Selected Locations in Alberta.* This appendix contains elevations for various sites in Alberta.

The CAN/CGA-2.17-M91 (R1999), *Gas Fired Appliances for Use at High Altitudes states;*
1.6 Instructions

1.6.1 The appliance installation instructions shall include information on the use of the appliance at high altitude. The method to be used to obtain the high altitude rating shall be clearly detailed. The necessity of attaching any supplementary labels or marking the name/ rating plate relative to a field conversion shall also be clearly indicated.

The purpose of this notice is to clarify responsibilities under the **Safety Codes Act**. Under the **Safety Codes Act** it is the responsibility of the owner, vendor, contractor, and user to ensure that the installation and operation of appliances comply with the *Act* and are in accordance with the regulations.