PLUMBING SAFETY
Information Bulletin

STANDATA

September 2008

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(File Number 16090-P01)

Oil Interceptor Drainage and Vent

SUBJECT: Oil Interceptor Installation and Piping Material

This bulletin has been jointly developed by Safety Services and the Plumbing Technical Council to inform the plumbing industry of the requirements associated with the installation of drainage and vent piping to and from an oil interceptor.

Where the discharge from a *fixture* may contain oil or gasoline, an oil *interceptor* shall be installed (See Article 2.5.5.2. for venting requirements for oil *interceptors*) and the oil interceptors must be vented in accordance with the following:

2.5.5.2 Venting of Oil Interceptors
(See Appendix A.) (See also Article 4.3.5.2. of Division B of the AFC.)

1) Every oil interceptor shall be provided with 2 *vent pipes* that
   a) connect to the interceptor at opposite ends,
   b) extend independently to outside air, and
   c) terminate not less than 2 m above ground and at elevations differing by at least 300 mm.

2) Adjacent compartments within every oil interceptor shall be connected to each other by a vent opening.

Intent: To limit the probability that pressure differentials within oil interceptors will lead to an accumulation of flammable or explosive gases, which could lead to an explosion or fire, which could lead to harm to persons.

3) Where a secondary receiver for oil is installed in conjunction with an oil interceptor, it shall be vented in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, and the *vent pipe* shall
   a) in no case be less than 1 1/2 inches in *size*,
   b) extend independently to outside air, and
   c) terminate not less than 2 m above ground.

Intent: To limit the probability that a lack of vent pipes or the installation of vent pipes in a location where they are susceptible to blockage will lead to a restricted flow to the sump, which could lead to backups, which could lead to the entry of waste into occupied space, which could lead to unsanitary conditions, which could lead to harm to persons.

Alberta Municipal Affairs

Issue of this STANDATA is authorized by the Administrator

[Original signed]
Carey LaRose

SAFETY CODES COUNCIL

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4) The *vent pipes* referred to in Sentence (1) are permitted to be one *size* smaller than the largest connected drainage pipe but not less than 1 1/4 inches in *size*, or can be sized in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

5) Every *vent pipe* that serves an oil or grease interceptor and is located outside a *building* shall be not less than 3 inches in *size* in areas where it may be subject to frost closure.

An **objective** of this Code is to limit the probability that, as a result of the design or installation of the *plumbing system*, a person in or adjacent to the *building* or facility will be exposed to an unacceptable risk of injury due to fire. The risks of injury due to fire addressed in this Code are those caused by - **OS1.1 -** fire or explosion occurring.

Installers are reminded that drainage and vent piping to oil interceptors must be suitable for the intended environment. Division A, Sentence **1.2.2.1.(1)** states: "All materials, systems and equipment installed to meet the requirements of this code shall be free from defects and possess the necessary characteristics to perform their intended functions when installed."

ABS drain, waste and vent pipe and fittings shall not be used to conduct sewage to an oil interceptor or to vent an oil interceptor. The intent of this requirement is to limit the probability that ABS would be severely effected by the interaction with oil products that accumulate in the oil interceptor.

Materials that are suitable for use include PVC pipe, copper tubing, and cast iron soil pipe.

The purpose of this notice is to ensure that **Designers** and **Installers** are aware of the provisions for venting oil interceptors and using materials suitable for the intended application.