

GAS INSPECTION BULLETIN

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPANE AND NATURAL GAS REFRIGERATORS

Bulletin No.: 84-176-09-02

Effective : Immediately

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Issued under B-7.1 section 29 and Regulation 84-176 Section 5 of the *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act*.

Technical Inspection Services advises all compressed gas contractors, compressed gas technicians, and the general public of the following safety hazards associated with the use of gas fired (propane and natural gas) refrigerators.

Due to concerns that if gas fired refrigerators are not properly installed, operated and maintained, a risk of carbon monoxide related injury up to and including death may occur.

CO (carbon monoxide) is a colourless gas produced when fuels such as natural gas and propane burn incompletely. CO itself is odourless and tasteless but may be accompanied by an abnormal odour of incomplete fuel combustion. Symptoms of CO poisoning include nausea and vomiting, dizziness, burning eyes, difficulty breathing, confusion and loss of consciousness.

Effective immediately, all gas fired refrigerators installed in New Brunswick on or after this date must be vented to a safe location outdoors. Only gas fired refrigerators approved to be used with a venting system shall be installed. Gas fired refrigerators equipped with a CO detector to shut down the flow of gas to the burner if a CO leak is detected shall also be vented to a safe location outdoors. Installers must follow the refrigerator's manufactures certified installation instructions and the current CSA B149.1 Natural Gas and Propane Installation Code.

The use of Serval gas refrigerators manufactured between 1933 and 1957 shall be discontinued. The U.S. Products Safety Commission (CPSC) reports there have been several incidents of CO poisoning in the U.S. and Canada involving the use of the older models of Serval refrigerators many resulting in death. Please see this recall warning at www.recall-warnings.com/cpsc-content-98-98145.html Please note the Serval refrigerators in question are different than those currently produced by Dometic Corporation under the brand name of Serval.

Existing gas refrigerators installed in New Brunswick must have been installed by a licensed Gas Contractor, must have been installed as per the gas code in use at the time of the installation, and installed and maintained as per the refrigerator's certified installation instructions.

Technical Inspection Services recommends unvented refrigerators be inspected and serviced at least once a year, preferably prior to seasonal start up by a licensed Gas Technician. If you have any doubts about the safety of your gas fired refrigerator, please contact a licensed Gas Service Contractor.

If you dispose of your refrigerator, please render it safe by removing the door. This will ensure children will not suffocate if trapped inside the refrigerator cavity. Gas Technicians shall remove the gas control valve and dispose of it separately making the refrigerator inoperable.

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