

Office of the Fire Commissioner



Inspection and Technical Services Manitoba

Gas Burning Equipment Special Acceptance/Field Approval Program

Date Issued: August 25, 2014
OFC ITSM 14 – 002

The Gas Burning Equipment - Special Acceptance/Field Approval program offered by the Inspections and Technical Services Manitoba (ITSM) section of the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) provides for the approval of gas burning appliances, equipment and components which are custom-made, one of a kind, built on site or in limited numbers, not conducive to certification by designated certification organizations. The program is not intended to circumvent the normal procedure of certification of appliances, equipment and components by designated testing organizations.

The program is used for approval of fuel features of appliances or equipment. Fuel features mean components that use a hydrocarbon fuel, handle a hydrocarbon fuel, control combustion or vent combustion products and features of construction and installation that relate to the safe use and handling of a hydrocarbon fuel. In general, this means gas supply piping and valves, the appliance and its venting system.

The Special Acceptance/Field Approval program through OFC is valid only for the original intended purpose. Any change to the application/equipment as specified on the original application including BTU input change, a fuel switch, etc. would void the approval of the appliance/equipment and would require the submittal of a new application for the altered appliance/equipment.

The approval under this program does not include approval of the electrical features of appliances, equipment or components. It is the responsibility of the owner/vendor to ensure the electrical components meet the requirements of the Canadian Electrical Code. OFC has a separate program for the Special Acceptance/Field Approval of electrical components.

In Manitoba, every natural gas, propane or manufactured gas fuelled appliance that is offered for sale, sold, rented, bought or installed must be approved under the *Gas and Oil Burner's Act* and Regulation.

There are two ways that natural, propane or manufactured gas fuelled appliances may be approved:

1. Field Approval by a 3rd party agency approved to perform CSA B149.3 Field inspections,
2. Field Approval by the Office of the Fire Commissioner in accordance with CSA B149.3.

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Modifications may be required as a result of our review or inspection. Only after inspection and testing are completed, are appliances approved and legal to operate.

The Application for Special Acceptance/Field Approval must be submitted to the OFC along with the required documentation.

A separate application must be submitted for each location where an appliance, equipment or a component requiring approval is going to be installed. A submission will be reviewed only after receipt of an application. Documentation must be supported and stamped by a Professional Engineer and must be submitted with the application by email, fax, mail or in person at 500-401 York Avenue in Winnipeg, MB.

The following engineered documentation must be submitted with each application:

- A completed Application for Special Acceptance of Unapproved Equipment form;
- A completed Assurance of Professional Design and Commitment for Inspection form;
- A valve train schematic identified from B149.3,
- A ladder style electrical schematic,
- A bill of materials for valves, components and controls including model number, part number, and name of manufacturer,
- Any operating and component manuals, and
- A sequence of operation.

Upon receipt of an application, and associated application fee, the submission will be reviewed by the ITSM Engineering Unit to ensure that it is complete. If additional information is required, it will be requested from the applicant. Subsequent review will consist of a detailed examination of the appliance's fuel features by an ITSM Engineer. Upon completion of the review, we will advise the applicant to book an inspection using the ITSM central dispatch to arrange for an appliance site inspection and testing.

Site inspection

The purpose of the site inspection is to verify that:

- The appliance/equipment has been constructed in accordance with the supporting documentation reviewed and accepted by the ITSM Engineer, in compliance with CSA B149.3; and,
- The appliance/equipment has been installed in accordance with the supporting documentation reviewed and accepted by the ITSM Engineer, in compliance with CSA B149.1; and

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- All safety tests required in accordance with the supporting documentation reviewed and accepted by the ITSM Engineer, and applicable codes have been verified.

The Inspector will require the owner of the appliance or equipment to perform or cause to be performed, tests deemed to be necessary to verify proper operation of the appliance being approved. It will be necessary for qualified personnel to be present during the site inspection and to have the necessary test equipment on hand.

Upon successful completion of the site inspection and testing, the Inspector will place an OFC Special Acceptance/Field Approval label on or in the immediate vicinity of the appliance rating plate.

If an appliance does not have a rating plate supplied by the manufacturer or if the manufacturer's rating plate does not contain the required information, it will be the applicant's responsibility to supply a rating plate with the required information and to attach this rating plate to the appliance.

The rating plate shall contain the information required in the applicable appliance standard or in the absence of such a standard; it shall contain the information specified in Section 11 of the B149.3 Code for Field Approval of Fuel Related Components on Appliances and Equipment. Custom rating plates shall contain a 2" by 2.75" space for the OFC Special Acceptance/Field approval label.

Field approval costs

Upon completion of site examination and testing, the inspector will issue a written confirmation of the appliance approval to the applicant's representative present on the site, or will provide orders to Remedy, identifying further deficiencies that must be addressed.

Fees

The fees under this program are:

- Special Acceptance/Field Approval application fee - \$215 for one item. This fee is non - refundable, and is due at the time of application
- Site inspection - \$90/hr - the applicant will be invoiced for all time on site following each site visit or consultation.
- Multiple appliances require separate applications. Identical items at the same location will be invoiced at \$70/unit.

Forms

- Application for Special Acceptance of Unapproved Equipment Form
- Assurance of Professional Design and Commitment for Inspection Form