



<b>Fuels Safety Program</b>	Ref. No.: FS-232-17
<b>ADVISORY</b>	Date: September 27, 2017

**Subject:** Furnaces used for Construction and Finishing Heat (B149.1-15, 4.1.3)

**Distribution:** Posted on TSSA website and sent to TSSA Fuels Advisory Councils, TSSA Fuels RRGs, TSSA Engineers and Inspectors, CPA, MGCS, MPHCA, HRAI

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### **Construction Heat Using Residential Gas-Fired Central Furnaces**

The manufacturers of central heating furnaces have, for many years, allowed the use of certain furnaces for the purpose of heating buildings that are under construction.

TSSA has been advised that furnace manufacturers will no longer allow the use of their furnaces for this purpose. This will be noted in their installation instructions as follows:

*“Gas furnaces manufactured on or after May 1, 2017 are not permitted to be used in Canada for heating of buildings or structures under construction”.*

Furnaces manufactured prior to May 1, 2017 or others not referencing the above statement are allowed to be used for construction heat as long as the certified installation instructions do not prohibit such use.

Where premises are connected to a supply of gas for the first time, the fuel distributor has a responsibility to inspect appliances before occupancy. The following guideline provides examples of fuel distributors requirements intended to satisfy this regulatory requirement, for full details please contact the fuel distributor.

### **Finishing Heat**

The furnace manufacturers and industry stakeholders including fuel distributors, homebuilders, and heating contractors have agreed to allow for the use of the furnace to heat the home during the finishing stages of construction (Finishing Heat), prior to occupancy, provided that strict requirements are followed for protection of the furnace and related components. Heating contractors (installers and those who activate) and homebuilders all have a role in ensuring that the requirements in this document are met before activating a gas furnace for Finishing Heat.

Prior to final occupancy, the fuel distributor is required to inspect all appliances on the premises. If a furnace was used for Finishing Heat, the fuel distributor may inspect it to compare the state of the furnace with the Finishing Heat requirements described in this document and other documents issued by the fuel distributor. When the furnace appears to have been activated in advance of the finishing stages of construction, or the furnace was not protected according to the requirements in this document, the fuel distributor may reject the furnace installation and the furnace will no longer be able to be used in any permanent installation.

### **Finishing Heat Requirements**

For a furnace to be used during the finishing stages of construction all of the following requirements must be met:

- The furnace's return air and supply air openings must be covered to minimize infiltration of dust prior to and during dust-generating construction activities (e.g. drywall installation, woodworking).
- All interior drywall must be installed, taped, sanded and first coat of primer applied.
- The building must be cleaned of all debris and drywall dust.
- A new furnace filter must be installed, rated at MERV 11 or finer. The filter itself must be labelled accordingly by the manufacturer for easy identification.
- The furnace must be commissioned by a TSSA-registered heating contractor in accordance with the manufacturer's certified installation instructions and to match values shown on the furnace's rating plate.
- Arrangements must be made with the fuel distributor to inspect the furnace subsequent to it being used for Finishing Heat (can be done in conjunction with inspection of all other gas appliances prior to final occupancy).

### **Additional Considerations**

- The Finishing Heat process can only be used for gas furnaces. No other gas-fired appliances may be activated until they are inspected by the fuel distributor.
- The existing process for using a portable construction heater or a furnace approved for providing Construction Heat prior to permanent occupancy remains unchanged.
- The process to use a furnace used for Construction Heat and the process to use a furnace for Finishing Heat each have different requirements. Builders cannot switch between these two processes with the same furnace.
- The furnace ducts are expected to be free and clear of debris prior to final occupancy.
- Fuel distributors may require the heating contractor's/builder's to complete, sign, and post the Finishing Heat Activation Form on the return air ducting, in advance of a furnace being activated for Finishing Heat. The fuel distributor may reject the installation if the form is missing, incomplete or unsigned.
- Fuel distributors may have other requirements that must be fulfilled and should be contacted for specific details.

### **Finishing Heat Responsibilities**

#### **Builders/Heating Contractors**

- Contact the fuel distributor to determine their Finishing Heat process requirements.
- Ensure that the requirements in this document are met before a gas furnace is activated for Finishing Heat purposes.

#### **Fuel Distributors**

- Provide access to builders and heating contractors to the Finishing Heat process details.
- Inspect all gas appliances prior to final occupancy, including furnaces used for Finishing Heat purposes.