

Energy Efficiency Standards Regulation – Gas Fireplaces

The Province of British Columbia made changes to the gas fireplace standards in the Energy Efficiency Standards Regulation (EESR) under the *Energy Efficiency Act* (EEA) on March 6, 2018. The updated standards are effective for products manufactured on or after January 1, 2019. Detailed information on efficiency standards, labelling, ignition systems, compliance and enforcement is provided below. The consolidated Energy Efficiency Standards Regulation is posted at this [link](#).

Gas Fireplaces

The updated standard defines two types of gas fireplaces: vented gas fireplace heaters, also known as fireplace heaters, and vented decorative gas appliances, also known as decorative fireplaces. Fireplace heaters and decorative fireplaces must meet the prescribed standards and have an energy efficiency verification (EEV) label affixed (on or immediately adjacent) to the rating plate. Updated standards are shown in table 1 and 2 below. Detailed information on ignition systems, compliance and enforcement, are included on the following pages.

Table 1: Updated Standards for Vented Gas Fireplace Heaters

Scope:	Vented gas fireplace heaters are defined by the scope of CSA 2.33-2016
Effective Date:	Effective for products manufactured on or after January 1, 2019
Efficiency Standard:	FE Rating \geq 50%
Ignition System Standard:	Must have pilot-on-demand, interrupted or intermittent ignition system; and Must not have standing pilot light.
Testing:	CAN/CSA P.4.1-15
Labelling:	Must state the FE rating on the EEV label; The EEV label must show the designated tester's trademark and be affixed to the rating plate; and Sales displays must display the labelling information where it can be easily seen.

Table 2: Updated Standards for Vented Decorative Gas Appliances

Scope:	Vented decorative gas appliances are defined by the scope of CSA 2.22-2016
Effective Date:	Effective for products manufactured on or after January 1, 2019
Efficiency Standard:	Not Applicable
Ignition System Standard:	Must have pilot-on-demand, interrupted or intermittent ignition system Must not have standing pilot light
Testing:	CAN/CSA P.4.1-15
Labelling:	Must state the FE rating on the EEV label; The EEV label must indicate it's a decorative product and not intended to be used as a heating appliance; The EEV label must show the designated tester's trademark and be affixed to the rating plate; and Sales displays must display the labelling information where it can be easily seen.

Ignition System Definitions

Standing Pilot — a continuously burning pilot that, once placed in operation, is intended to remain ignited continuously until it is manually interrupted. The term standing pilot light includes continuous pilot ignition (CPI) systems and millivolt systems.

Pilot-on-demand — A pilot that, once placed into operation, is intended to remain ignited for a predetermined period following an automatic or manual operation of the main burner gas valve. The pilot is automatically extinguished when no automatic or manual operation of the main burner gas valve occurs during the predetermined time.

Intermittent ignition— an ignition source that is automatically ignited when an appliance is called on to operate and which remains continuously ignited or energized during each period of main burner operation. The ignition source is automatically extinguished when each main burner operating cycle is completed. The intermittent ignition systems are often called intermitted pilot ignition (IPI) or spark-to-pilot.

Interrupted ignition – an ignition source that is automatically ignited or energized when an appliance is called on to operate and is automatically extinguished or de-energized during the trial for ignition period.

Compliance

Fireplaces that use a standing pilot light to ignite the main burner(s) are not compliant. Gas fireplaces that use standing pilot lights and are manufactured on or after January 1, 2019, can not be legally sold in British Columbia.

Pilot-on-demand systems are compliant. The B.C. gas fireplace standard does not have a specific duration for the predetermined time-out of pilot-on-demand systems. Manufacturers should consider a maximum 7-day automatic shutoff to align with [Amendment 15 of the Canadian federal energy efficiency regulation](#).

Gas fireplaces that have a compliant ignition system and have the capability of standing pilot operation (like an IPI/CPI switch) can not be legally sold in British Columbia. To be legally sold in British Columbia, the user control of the standing pilot must be disabled, or a pilot-on-demand system must be used to automatically extinguish the pilot after a predetermined period. A functional IPI/CPI switch on a thermostat, remote control or the control panel of the fireplace is not compliant. Dealers should confirm with manufacturers that the CPI feature has been disabled, and if not, how it should be disabled.

Remotely operated pilots use one or more of the following ignition systems; standing pilot, pilot-on-demand, intermitted, or interrupted ignition. Gas fireplaces with remotely operated pilots that have a compliant ignition system and have the capability of standing pilot operation must disable the user control of the standing pilot before being offered for sale in British Columbia. Remotely operated standing pilots are not compliant.

Direct ignition systems are classified as either intermitted ignition or interrupted ignition.

Enforcement

Designated energy efficiency compliance inspectors are provincial employees with the B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. Inspectors ensure that the energy devices manufactured, sold or leased in the Province comply with the minimum energy performance standards and labelling requirements as defined in the EESR. On-site inspections of manufacturing facilities, dealers and stores are authorized by the B.C. EEA.

Inspectors may inspect the physical product, request design and testing documentation or remove the product for testing. Inspectors will check to confirm that gas fireplaces that are capable of standing pilot operation have had the user control of the standing pilot feature disabled.

Questions

Questions can be directed via email to:

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