

Risk Management Considerations for Wood Stoves

The minimum standard for installation and maintenance of solid fuel burning appliance must follow CAN/CSA – B365-10, *The Installation Code for Solid Fuel Burning Appliances*.

All installations and inspections must be completed by a Wood Energy Technology Transfer (WETT) certified installer and/or inspector.

WETT Inc. operates as a not for profit organization providing professional training and public education that promotes safe and effective use of wood burning appliances in Canada. WETT Inc. has an administrative designate called, WETT – (Wood Energy Technical Training) that provides technical training through certified courses for persons involved in wood energy system installations and maintenance.

WETT certified personnel are not the authority having jurisdiction and they do not approve or certify an installation. They can only provide a WETT inspection report, not a WETT certificate or approval letter. The local building official would approve the installation based upon the requirements set out in CAN/CSA-B365-10. In addition, the building official must verify a WETT certified installer or inspector has completed the work, that approved materials are installed and that they carry a certification label indicating that the materials conform to the applicable safety tests (ULC & CSA).

A WETT certified inspector can conduct three separate types of inspections based on the requirements of the customer:

Level 1: Readily accessible - visual only

Level 2: Accessible - visual with the accessible components removed and inspected

Level 3: Concealed accessibility - visual and inspect all components of the system, including opening of walls and ceilings as required to gain access to all components (invasive method).

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Risk Management Considerations

Installers and Inspectors

All work is to be completed by a WETT certified installer and or inspector. In addition, copies of reports, checklists and associated information provided by the WETT installer or inspector should be retained.

WETT certified contractors can minimize the liability associated with the installations and inspections of wood burning appliances by following a few simple steps:

1. Discussing and fully disclosing all work to be completed or what type of inspection will be completed.
2. Documenting all work that will be performed and obtaining authorization in writing in the form of signature before any work is completed.
3. Retaining and providing copies of all documentation, including all checklists, photographs, deficiencies and recommendations.

Chimneys

As per Ontario Fire Code 2.6.1.4(1) – every chimney, flue and flue pipe must be inspected to identify any dangerous conditions:

1. At intervals not exceeding 12 months.
2. At the time of addition of any appliance and
3. After any chimney fire.

As per the Ontario Fire Code 2.6.1.5., chimneys, flues and flue pipes must be cleaned as often as necessary to keep them free of accumulations of combustible deposits (for example, creosote deposits which are created by slow burning or smoldering fires).

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

As per Ontario Fire Code 9.33.4., any occupancy with fuel burning appliances installed must have a carbon monoxide detector installed outside of the sleeping area.