

What you need to know about B149

B149.3 Compliance

A ULC-S guide to
understanding

ULC-S is an alliance between Underwriter's Laboratories of Canada (ULC) and Stantec Consulting Ltd. Together we can provide guidance on the requirements, and provide field approvals of your gas-fired appliances. ULC is an approved certification body operating in the province of Alberta, and accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) with over 100 years experience. Combined with Stantec's deep rooted relationships in the Alberta Oil & Gas sector, we can efficiently bring your equipment into compliance.

The B149 series of codes was first published in 1958. The province of Alberta has been issuing a variance for 13 years to help the Oil & Gas sector bring their inventory into compliance with the most recent variance having expired June 30, 2016. All non-certified appliances must be field approved by an accredited Certification/Inspection body (CB/IB).



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Frequently asked questions

What does B149.3 pertain to?

- Any appliance or equipment that burns “fuel”
- Any stationary appliance
- In accordance with Section 3 of the Gas Code Regulation (AR 111/2010)

Is my equipment grandfathered?

All appliances installed prior to 2013 can be registered under the LEMS (Legacy Equipment Management System) program, but requires field approval as per the agreements and guidelines listed by the deadline. Any gas-fired equipment installed under a previous variance shall be deemed compliant provided an engineering documentation package is available that provides evidence of compliance and the equipment is equipped with a permanent compliant rating plate that includes the name of the P.Eng.

When is a field evaluation needed?

- An existing non-certified appliance in operation with no current field approval
- Any new non-certified appliances and equipment for which there is no approved standard
- When upgrading of an existing certified or non-certified appliance is required
- When an existing appliance is relocated

Who is exempt?

Exemptions are only applicable to marine terminals, gas* used as a feedstock to refineries or designated for storage and handling, gas used in natural gas vehicles, and alternative fuels other than gas.

*Gas – defined for the use of this code as natural gas, manufactured gas, propane, propane air, propylene, butane, and butylene

Is non-compliant equipment unsafe?

Not necessarily. It may not be using a certified component where one exists and may just need the evidence of having been evaluated by a CB/IB and approved.

When is a permit needed?

A permit is required by the municipal jurisdiction for the installation of any new appliance or piping that falls within the Gas Code Regulation. A permit is not required for the installation of the uncertified portion of the appliance that falls within the scope of the CB/IB (eg; the components in the fuel train as listed in B149.3).

What is the electrical area classification of a fuel train?

The Alberta Oil & Gas code does not cover the portions of an installation pertaining to fuel trains but defaults to a minimum classification where the area has not been documented by a licensed P.Eng. A P.Eng. can override the rulings using the rules and definitions as laid out in the Canadian Electrical Code, if adequate documentation is provided (eg; a stamped area classification drawing).

Do you have more questions?

Approved CBs/IBs operating in the province of Alberta, such as ULC-S, are trained and familiar with the applicable codes and standards. Also, the Alberta Municipal Affairs issues safety information bulletins under STANDATA and can be found on their website: municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/am_gas_safety_information_bulletins

Connect with us



Stantec Field Evaluation Services

Duane Svenson
Phone (587) 702-5615
ulc.s@stantec.com

UL Canada Field Evaluation Services

Latifa Mousli
Phone (587) 343-3837
latifa.mousli@ul.com

Tim Evans
Phone (416) 288-2343
timothy.evans@ul.com