

OIL TANK REGULATIONS, WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

In November 2002, the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) advised all owners of fuel oil heating systems of the requirements to have their heating systems inspected by qualified oil burner technicians, and the need to register their underground (buried) fuel oil storage tanks with TSSA.

The regulations require fuel oil distributors to conduct inspections on **all fuel oil heating systems**. This includes all underground and aboveground tanks, associated piping, venting, and heating appliances such as furnaces, boilers, and water heaters. The fuel oil distributors must inspect all equipment to which they deliver fuel, whether it is located above or below ground, initially and at least once every 10 years. Fuel oil cannot be delivered to equipment that poses an immediate hazard. Many fuel oil delivery companies will inspect the equipment yearly at no additional cost to the homeowner to ensure that the tank is safe before the delivery of fuel oil at the start of the heating season. In addition, please be aware that most fuel oil distributors will not deliver fuel to premise if the storage vessel is over 10 years old.

Should the inspecting technician determine that there is an issue with the installation of the tank or supporting components of the heating system they will issue an order for rectification. Depending on the severity of the violation, a fuel supplier can specify a time period of up to a maximum of 90 days for corrective action or the delivery of fuel oil will cease. If the installation is serious enough a Red Tag is issued, and the distributor must immediately stop the supply of fuel oil to the installation and/or the appliance is turned off.

Many insurance carriers choose not to provide insurance coverage when tanks have passed a prescribed age. This is not a requirement of TSSA. TSSA does not regulate Insurance carriers who ultimately may decide to impose a replacement requirement based on the age of the tank according to their own risk assessment criteria.

Here are some tips to help navigate you through this... process

- Have equipment serviced **YEARLY** by a certified Oil Burner Technician
- Replace oil tank if it is older than 9 years.
- Ensure oil tank has approved secondary containment.
- If your system is older than 10 years, consider upgrading and/or changing to a high-efficiency natural gas or propane which will help you save on fuel consumption and homeowners insurance.

There are specific code or regulation requirements that dictate the replacement of above ground storage tanks, but not solely based on age limit considerations. The deadline for replacing underground storage tanks is determined by CAN/CSA-B139-00 Installation Code for Oil Burning Equipment.

However, neglecting to do everything possible to ensure the safe storage of your heating fuel, can have extreme impact on the environment and your pocketbook.

To find out more about Fuel oil governed under the Technical Standards and Safety Act, and Ontario Regulation, 213/0, you can obtain a copy from the TSSA Web at www.tssa.org

WHO TO CALL

Carbon Monoxide – Call 911 only

Fuel Concerns – Call your Fuel Supplier, TSSA (Technical Standards Safety Authority), or MOE (Ministry of Environment)

Natural Gas (unusual odours) – Call Union Gas

Propane (smell like rotten eggs) – Call your Propane Supplier