

# Office of the Fire Commissioner



## Inspection and Technical Services

### Gas and Oil Burning Equipment Field Approval Program

Date Issued: September 24, 2018  
OFC - ITS 18 - 004

Replaces OFC-ITSM 2014-002

The Field Approval program offered by Inspection and Technical Services (ITS), a section of the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC), provides approval of gas and oil burning appliances, equipment and components which are custom-made, one of a kind, built on site or in limited numbers, not conducive to certification by designated certification organizations. The program is not intended to circumvent the normal procedure of certification of appliances, equipment and components by designated testing organizations.

The program provides for the approval of fuel features of appliances or equipment. Fuel features include components that use fuel, handle fuel, control combustion or vent combustion products and features of construction and installation that relate to the safe use and handling of fuel. In general, this means gas and oil supply piping and valves, the appliance and its venting system.

The Field Approval program is valid only for the appliance or equipment included in the application form and is site-specific (i.e. transferring the appliance or equipment to another location will void its field approval). Any change to the application or equipment as specified on the original application including BTU input change, a fuel switch, etc. would void the approval of the appliance/equipment and would require the submittal of a new application for the altered appliance or equipment.

The approval under this program does not include approval of the electrical features of the appliances, equipment or components. It is the responsibility of the owner/vendor to ensure the electrical components meet the requirements of the Canadian Electrical Code. OFC provides a separate program for the field approval of electrical components.

In Manitoba, every appliance or equipment that uses natural gas, propane, manufactured gas or oil as fuel source and that is offered for sale, sold, rented, bought or installed must be approved under *The Gas and Oil Burner Act* and Regulation.

There are two ways that an appliance or equipment using natural gas, propane, manufactured gas or oil fueled appliances may be approved:

1. Field Approval by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party agency approved to perform field inspections in accordance with the *Canadian Standards Association B149.3 - Code for the field approval of fuel-related components on appliances and equipment* (CSA B149.3 Code). See [OFC ITSM Bulletin 17 - 004](#) for a list of recognized inspection bodies.
2. Field Approval by the OFC in accordance with CSA B149.3 Code.

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Toll Free: 1-800-282-8069 (in Manitoba only)  
24 Hour Emergency Line: 1-888-389-3473  
Website: [www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca](http://www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca)



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Modifications may be required as a result of a review or inspection. Only after inspection and testing are completed, are appliances or equipment approved and legal to operate.

If Field Approval by the OFC is chosen as the route to obtain field approval, the *Application for Field Approval of Uncertified Fuel Burning Equipment* form must be submitted to the OFC along with the required documentation. A separate application must be submitted for each location where an appliance, equipment or a component requiring approval is going to be installed. A submission will be reviewed only after receipt of a complete application.

Supporting engineered drawings and/or technical documentation may be submitted with the application and fee:

- In person
- Via email to [firecomm@gov.mb.ca](mailto:firecomm@gov.mb.ca) with subject line: *Field Approval of Uncertified Fuel Burning Equipment*, or
- Via mail at 508-401 York Avenue in Winnipeg, MB R3C 0P8.

The following documentation must be submitted with each application form:

- A valve train schematic identified from CSA B149.3 Code;
- A sequence of operation;
- A ladder style electrical schematic;
- Manufacturer produced manual that includes design and construction of appliance or equipment documentation **OR** a completed *Assurance of Professional Design and Commitment for Inspection* form, which is to be completed by the participating mechanical engineer on behalf of the client;
- A bill of materials for valves, components and controls including model number, part number, and name of manufacturer; and
- Any operating and component manuals.

Upon receipt of an application package, and associated application fee, the submission will be reviewed by the ITS Engineering Unit to ensure that the file is complete. If additional information is required, it will be requested from the applicant.

**Note:** The Agency reserves the right to request “Stamped Engineered Drawings” where required, as well as a completed Assurance of Professional Design and Commitment for Inspection – Oil and Gas Form, which is to be completed by the participating mechanical engineer on behalf of the client.

The review will consist of a detailed examination of the appliance or equipment’s fuel features by an ITS Engineer. Upon completion of the review, the OFC will advise the applicant to book an inspection through its central booking system to arrange for an appliance site inspection and testing.

### Site inspections

The purpose of the site inspection is to verify that:

- The appliance or equipment has been constructed in accordance with the supporting documentation reviewed and accepted by the ITS Engineer, in compliance with CSA

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B149.3 Code;

- The appliance or equipment has been installed in accordance with the supporting documentation reviewed and accepted by the ITS Engineer, in compliance with *CSA B149 Series* or *CSA B139 - Installation Code for Oil Burning Equipment*; and
- All safety tests required in accordance with the supporting documentation reviewed and accepted by the ITS Engineer, and applicable codes have been verified.

The Inspector will require a qualified individual to perform tests deemed to be necessary to verify proper operation of the appliance being approved.

It will be necessary for a qualified individual to be present during the site inspection and to have the necessary test equipment on hand. This may also include the manufacturers representative.

Upon successful completion of the site inspection and testing, the inspector will place a Field Approval label on or in the immediate vicinity of the appliance rating plate. If an appliance does not have a rating plate supplied by the manufacturer or if the manufacturer's rating plate does not contain the required information, it will be the applicant's responsibility to supply a rating plate with the required information and to attach this rating plate to the appliance.

The rating plate must contain the information required in the applicable appliance standard, or in the absence of such a standard, it must contain the information specified in Section 11 of the B149.3 Code . Custom rating plates must provide for a 2" by 2.75" space to affix the field approval label.

### Field approval costs

Upon completion of site examination and testing, the inspector will issue a written confirmation of the appliance approval to the applicant's representative present on the site, or will provide an *Inspection Notice* or an *Order*, identifying further deficiencies that must be addressed.

### Fees

The fees under this program are:

- Field Approval application fee is \$1,053 per item. This fee is non-refundable and is due at the time of application.
- Site inspection is \$90 per hour. The applicant will be invoiced for all time on site following each site visit.

### Forms

- *Application for Field Approval of Uncertified Fuel Burning Equipment* form
- *Assurance of Professional Design and Commitment for Inspection* form