

Fuel Safety Bulletin

2010-04

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Subject: Underground oil lines

Recently, we have come upon a situation that has caused some confusion among Oil-Burner Technicians and contractors in the field. This item involves the materials, installation and testing of underground oil lines, as required by the CSA B139 Code.

CSA B139 Installation Code for Oil-Burning Equipment states;

9.3.2.1.1 Materials used for underground piping or tubing shall be certified and suitable for the application.

The wording in 9.3.2.1.1 would indicate that the piping used must be certified and suitable for underground use. Standard or galvanized steel pipe is neither certified nor suitable for this use, nor was it ever approved for this use. Only “Type K” copper tubing in an ABS encasing pipe, or steel piping having engineered cathodic protection is suitable for underground use. All other clauses of Section 9.3.2 of course, apply in full.

CSA B139 Installation Code for Oil-Burning Equipment states;

9.3.2.3.1 Prior to being connected to a tank, all underground piping or tubing shall be pneumatically or hydrostatically tested to at least 350 kPa (50 psi) gauge or 1-1/2 times its maximum operating pressure, whichever is greater.

There has been some confusion on this clause. Some feel that this testing must be done only upon initial activation.

NOTE: The testing required by clause 9.3.2.3.1 **MUST** be carried out on a new line or before reconnecting any underground line that has been disconnected for any reason.

For any questions regarding this Bulletin, please contact me at our Halifax offices.

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