



Safety Notice: Gas Fireplaces

Member Information

Overview

Gas fireplaces manufactured by Canadian Fire Hearth Mfg. Inc and Luxor Mfg. Inc were recently identified as having fraudulent non-certified labels. As a result of this non-compliance, impacted homeowners, builders and members are required to follow the [Safety Notice](#) issued by Municipal Affairs. BILD Alberta is engaging with impacted members and the Government of Alberta to identify appropriate next steps and potential solutions.

The following outlines information BILD Alberta has been provided to-date along with preliminary direction from Municipal Affairs.

Background

- In Alberta, under the *Safety Codes Act – Gas Code Regulation*, manufacturing, installing, or selling any gas equipped systems is not permitted unless it is certified, inspected, and accepted by a certification body or an inspection body accredited by the Standards Council of Canada.
- Gas fireplaces are required to undergo safety and performance testing in order to be certified to a nationally recognized standard and cannot be installed if they that do not meet the minimum standards for certification.
- The Government of Alberta recently became aware of non-certified gas fireplaces manufactured by Canadian Fire Hearth Mfg. Inc and Luxor Mfg. Inc were installed in various homes in the province.
- It appears that builders were not aware of any non-certified issues with these gas fireplaces at the time of installation and followed the appropriate process when purchasing and installing these units. The information provided to-date indicates that the units had a certification sticker despite not being certified.
- It is not clear how the manufacturer acquired certification labels or when they inserted these labels into non-certified units, but it has since been confirmed the manufacturer is no longer in business.
- At this stage, no information has been provided that indicates the fireplaces are of faulty design or contain unacceptable parts that can cause immediate danger to homeowners. However, they are not certified and should not be used until the issue is rectified.
- Once the issue was identified, BILD Alberta engaged with builders and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to address the issue of non-compliance.
- Municipal Affairs examined the issue and published a Safety Notice on January 28, 2021, outlining all impacted units and required next steps.
- British Columbia issued a similar safety notice in 2018 but it does not appear that this was flagged by other provinces or national bodies. As a result, Alberta builders and homeowners were unaware of this issue until very recently.

- As a result of the Safety Notice, residents and builders are asked to identify if their fireplace serial numbers were part of the notice and if the certification labels are from the following testing laboratories:
 - LabTest Certification Inc.
 - QAI Laboratories Ltd.
 - OMNI-Test Laboratories Inc.
- In addition, all fireplaces are required to bear a valid certification mark of the Standards Council of Canada, if there is no certification label, the unit may also be impacted.
- Once identified, all impacted fireplace units must take part in the following steps:
 - Must be immediately removed from operation.
 - Owners must contact the testing agency listed on their non-certified label.
 - [Complete a product malfunction report](#) identifying the affected unit(s) and submit to Municipal Affairs.
- Any fireplaces displaying certification that is in the date range of the safety notice or match the identified serial numbers are not to be installed, sold or offered for sale within Alberta until further notice.
- BILD Alberta does not have any regulatory authority and/or liability on this issue and will continue to help coordinate information gathering.

Next Steps

- Municipal Affairs indicated there is no initial evidence of a faulty design or unacceptable parts and the challenge will be to identify a way to update the required documentation that provides evidence the fireplaces are in compliance with the minimum requirement identified in the standard.
- Municipal Affairs is coordinating with testing agencies in an attempt to identify cost-effective ways for residents to re-certify all affected units.
- Impacted homeowners should be referred to the Safety Notice and follow the outlined steps until Municipal Affairs provides further direction.