



**CLARIFICATION GUIDANCE ON GAS FIREPLACES AND  
OTHER UNSPECIFIED COMBUSTION APPLIANCES**

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**1) Guidance on Gas Fireplaces:**

a) If the fireplace is a non sealed combustion type and venting into a conventional chimney (with or without a pre constructed liner), a spillage test is required. The spillage test could be performed in a traverse like pattern with a smoke stick directly in front of the fireplace. This would be performed during worst case and any spillage after one minute is a failure. If spillage occurs during worst case, it would then be performed during natural conditions. Carbon monoxide testing may be difficult or impossible to perform if the certified professional cannot place the test probe in the exhaust vent. If a test probe cannot be placed in the exhaust vent, testing ambient air directly in front of and above the fireplace is recommended. Draft testing may also be difficult or impossible to perform if the certified professional cannot place the test probe in the exhaust vent. Any corrective action required is stated on page 13 of Building Analyst standards. CAZ Depressurization Limits concerning a natural draft boiler/furnace would apply.

b) If the gas fireplace is a sealed combustion insert, a spillage test is not required. It is recommended to use smoke directly in front of the unit while operating (any signs of spillage may indicate an issue). Carbon monoxide must be measured at the exterior termination point. If this point is not accessible, measuring ambient carbon monoxide directly in front of and above the unit is recommended. Draft testing may be impossible to perform since there may not be an appropriate location to properly place a test probe in. Any corrective action required is stated on page 13 of Building Analyst standards. CAZ Depressurization Limits concerning a sealed combustion appliance would apply.

**2) Guidance on Gas Stoves (heating stoves):**

a) If the gas stove is specified for use as a heating appliance, a spillage test is required. This would be performed during worst case and any spillage after one minute is a failure. If spillage occurs during worst case, it would then be performed during natural conditions. If the vent pipe is accessible, carbon monoxide testing within the vent pipe is required. Also, if the vent pipe is accessible, draft testing is required. Any corrective action required is stated on page 13 of Building Analyst standards. CAZ Depressurization Limits concerning a natural draft boiler/furnace would apply.

### 3) General information (Combustion Safety Testing):

- a) Page 10 of Building Analyst standard states the following, With the exception of unvented gas or propane cooking appliances, CO must be tested in all combustion appliances under worst case conditions and normal draft conditions (when the appliance fails under worst-case).
- b) Page 14 of Building Analyst standard states the following, No unvented combustion appliances may operate in the living space with the exception of gas ranges/ovens.
- c) Both the gas fireplace and gas stove (heating stoves) do not fall into the category of a gas range/oven since both are defined as and specifically used for heating purposes.
- d) The combustion appliances outlined above, although not specifically mentioned by their individual type in the BPI standards, do require minimum combustion safety testing.

If you have any additional questions now or in the future, please do not hesitate to contact:

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