

## BC Update: PST and New Wood Burning Regulations

### New Wood Burning Regulations

As of November 1<sup>st</sup>, British Columbia has instated new Solid Fuel Burning Appliance Regulations. In an effort to reduce the amount of particulate matter produced from woodburning appliances, the Ministry of Environment has stated that as of November 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, all new woodburning appliances sold in BC are to be certified to meet PM emissions standards set by the US EPA 2015 (4.5 gm/hr) or equivalent standards set by the Canadian Standards Association in 2010. The regulation also specifies what fuels may be burned, and has provisions around the sale and installation of outdoor wood boilers.

New regulation does not affect existing wood stoves or fireplaces.

#### Summary of Information

What has changed?

On November 1, 2016 the BC Government's new Solid Fuel Burning Domestic Appliance Regulation (SFB DAR) went into effect.

What is the purpose of the new regulation?

To ensure that new wood burning appliances sold in BC are as clean-burning as possible. The regulation requires nearly all wood burning appliances sold in BC to meet either the US EPA standards set in 2015 or the CSA standards set in 2010. The regulation also specifies what fuels can be burned, and provisions around the sale and installation of outdoor wood boilers

What is covered by the regulations?

The regulation applies to devices designed to burn solid fuel for heating indoor spaces, cooking or aesthetic enjoyment.

What products are exempt?

Exempt devices include barbecues, chimeneas, outdoor fireplaces and ovens, and solid fuel burning device with output greater than 150 kilowatts. Solid fuel is defined as untreated wood, wood products and wood pellets.

Is it still legal to use old wood stoves and fireplaces?

Yes. The new regulation does not affect existing wood stoves or fireplaces and can continue to use them subject to any local bylaws.

What are the new rules for outdoor wood boilers?

The following requirements apply to outdoor wood boilers (hydronic heaters):

- 1) Starting in March 1, 2017 only boilers certified to meet emissions standards set by the US EPA or the CSA are legal to sell in BC
- 2) Starting in May 1, 2017 only certified outdoor wood boilers are allowed to be installed anywhere in BC and they must be installed 40 metres from property lines
- 3) In the interim between Nov 1, 2016 and May 1, 2017 the following rules apply
  - a. Certified boilers can be installed 40 metres from property lines
  - b. Uncertified boilers can be installed if they are 80 metres from property lines
- 4) Pellet boilers only require a 10 metre setback from property lines.
- 5) Retailers of outdoor boilers will be required to inform purchasers of the installation requirements.

- 6) After November 1, 2026 it will no longer be legal to use uncertified outdoor wood boilers unless they have 80 or more metres setback from property lines

What is **legal to burn** in wood stoves and other solid fuel burning appliances?

1. Untreated, seasoned wood or wood products including cordwood, wood chips, and ends from cutting lumber to length
2. Wood pellets and other pelletized biomass fuels
3. Manufactured fire logs
4. Corn kernels and seed hulls (only occasionally used in BC) Paper and cardboard may be used for the purpose of starting fires.

What is **not permitted** to be burned in a solid fuel burning appliance?

1. Garbage
2. Plastics
3. Treated or painted wood
4. Demolition debris
5. Rubber
6. Unseasoned wood products

### **Record Keeping Requirements**

Manufacturers and Retailers will be required to retain records demonstrating that the appliances they sell meet the required standards for five years.

### **Compliance and Enforcement**

- Initially the focus will be to educate retailers and manufacturers of appliances about the new requirements to encourage voluntary compliance.
- Compliance audits of retailers could be undertaken
- Complaints of alleged non-compliance could be followed up
- If there is evidence of non-compliance, enforcement responses could result in violation tickets and administrative penalties consistent with the Compliance Policy and Procedures Manual

The fact sheet provides a toll free number and email address for reporting suspected violations.

For more information, read the [BC Ministry of Environment Fact Sheet](#) or the [Questions and Answers on the Solid Fuel Burning Domestic Appliance Regulation](#).

## **Understanding BC PST for Retailers and Installers**

Does your business make retail sales of goods **and** also install goods into buildings or land?

If you answered yes, you're considered a contractor doing business in BC, and there are Provincial Sales Tax (PST) rules you need to know.

Find out more about the PST on the BC Ministry of Finance [contractor](#) webpage or if you want a quick high level overview watch their YouTube video [PST for real property contractors](#).

Make sure you know and get the PST right.

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