



# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLUMBING ENGINEERS

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

## BOSTON CHAPTER

CHARTERED 1973

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## Responsibility for Flue Gas Venting

The Board of Examiners of Plumbers and Gasfitters (the Board) voted on June 7, 2006 to adopt an interpretation of the licensure requirements for the installation of venting systems for gas fueled equipment. Previously the installation of such systems was subject to a 1986 Superior Court Decision which allowed the installation to be by sheet metal workers.

The Board in its deliberations took into consideration the recent legislation regarding the installation of carbon monoxide detectors. This legislation was enacted in response to CO poisoning incidents which occurred in residential situations.

At the end of its deliberations the Board determined in part:

*...only a licensed Plumber or gas fitter or an appropriately trained person under the control and supervision of a licensed plumber or gas fitter can perform such work, specifically including the venting of gas fueled equipment in accordance with applicable regulations and code provisions.*

The Board also found that Gas fitting work includes:

*...installation, alteration and replacement of the piping system through which the fuel gas is supplied, but it is not limited to that aspect alone..... The gas appliance system includes the venting of flue gases.*

The interpretation further stipulates that for gas equipment under 400,000 BTUH; the breeching, chimneys, venting systems or special venting systems shall be installed by licensed Plumbers or gas fitters. On the other hand, listed chimney liner systems as defined in NFPA-54 may be installed by specially qualified personnel but a Master Plumber or Gasfitter must take out the permit and must supervise and assume responsibility for the installation.

For large boilers over 400,000 BTUH the venting systems may be installed by qualified personnel but again under the license and permit of the Master Plumber or Gas fitter.

These are significant changes for the Design Community particularly for those filed sub-bid Projects. Typically in our region the Plumbing Documents include all the fuel gas piping in the Project and some of us were in the habit of indicating the flues to be by the HVAC Sub. This interpretation will require that the Plumbing documents include all the venting.

Although not discussed in the Board's interpretation it would now seem clear that the venting of the gas train should also be included in the Plumbing scope of Work.

By Manuel B. Garcia, PE, CPD