

CSA B149.2-20 Propane storage and handling code

The CSA B149.2 Propane storage and handling code applies to the storage, handling, and transfer of propane, propane used as an engine fuel on other than highway vehicles, as well as the installation, operation, and maintenance of containers and equipment to be used for propane at consumer locations in distribution facilities and filling plants. As a significant percentage of our population in BC resides outside of metropolitan areas which are not serviced by natural gas-providing gas utilities, propane systems are commonly found in these regions to provide heat and hot water to communities.

Technical Safety BC plans to recommend adopting the 2020 edition of the CSA B149.2, including informative Annex Q.

Section or clause	Revision	Impact
General	Removal of bold and italicized text and symbols indicating revisions to improve accessibility by allowing for digital readers.	All code users: The codes are now accessible on electronic reading devices.
Scope	Additions and editorial amendments to the scope of the code clarify the inclusion of container storage at container refill centres, and exclusion of the use of propane as refrigerants.	Owners and suppliers: Clarifies that the code applies to container storage at container refill centres and does not apply to the use of propane as refrigerants.
General	Editorial changes throughout reflect the terminology and revisions to defined terms and section 5 of B149.1.	All code users: Provides consistency across the series of codes applying to the gas industry.
Clause 6	Content added to provide coverage and processes for filling of cylinders for hot air balloons where there was no coverage before. This aligns with Transport Canada's amendment to Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulation to harmonize hot air balloon requirements across North America.	Owners and operators of hot air balloons and propane suppliers: Propane suppliers will need to follow specified processes when filling propane cylinders for use in hot air balloons, including a prefill inspection, and supervision by a hot air balloon crew member. This will provide additional safety for operators and propane service personnel.

Section or clause	Revision	Impact
Clauses 6.4 and 6.5	Updated requirements for cylinder exchange, including allowing for new technologies in cylinder exchange vending machines that can be proven to provide an equivalent level of safety to those previously required by the code.	Business owners of propane cylinder exchange programs and propane suppliers: Owners can use a vending machine to exchange propane cylinders instead of personnel. Purchasers of propane cylinders: Improves convenience of propane cylinder exchange by allowing use of vending machines.
Clauses 7.10, 7.11, and Table 7.4	Revisions to clearance requirements for consumer propane tanks to align with NFPA. Concrete base securing vertical tanks greater than 125 USWG capacity must now have footings below the frost line, to align with BC Building Code. Table 7.4 expanded to include larger tanks up to 30 000 USWG (previously 10 000 USWG).	Propane suppliers: Improves safety and provides clarification to propane suppliers in large installations (larger than 10 000 USWG) such as worker camps.
Clause 9.3.5	New reference to nationally recognized certification standard for direct fired vaporizers.	All code users: Supports development of standards and the national certification program, as well as improves on safety of equipment in industry.
Annex O (new)	New mandatory annex prescribes requirements for the use of non-refillable propane cylinders in a laboratory or classroom. The requirements for this use were not outlined in previous versions.	Training institutions, entertainment industry: Newly developed annexes for the safe handling and use of propane both in a classroom or laboratory, and at shows and exhibitions, provide clear safety requirements in areas not previously covered by this code.
Annex Q (new) <i>Recommended adoption</i>	Adopt a new informative annex for the temporary use of propane cylinders at shows, exhibitions, and similar events replaces our directive for temporary propane installations and clarifies requirements by placing them with code requirements accessible to readers of the code.	Recommendation is to adopt informative Annex Q- temporary use of cylinders at shows, exhibitions and other similar events through regulation, or through a directive to replace existing directive D-G5 051206 6- Guidelines for temporary propane installations .