

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

January 27, 2016

CLARIFICATION OF RULES ON PROPANE CYLINDERS, PROPANE TANKS AND ARC-PRODUCING ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

2015 Canadian Electrical Code Rule 2-324

2-324 Electrical equipment near combustible gas equipment (see Appendix B)

The clearance distance between arc-producing electrical equipment and a combustible gas relief device or vent shall be in accordance with the requirements of CSA B149.1.

Some examples of arc-producing electrical equipment are: air conditioners, switches, receptacles, relays, SMART meters, (no smart meters in NWT at this time) meter base mounted transfer devices i.e. Generlink etc.

Normal location light fixtures located above relief devices or vents are not considered to be arc-producing whether they are energized or not.

Northland Utilities utilize Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) in reading customer revenue meters throughout the City of Yellowknife. These are not SMART Meters and therefore may be located within the clearance distances prescribed by the CSA B149.1 (see below)

Appendix B note to Rule 2-324

The clearance distances specified in CSA B149.1 between a source of ignition and a combustible gas relief discharge device or vent are as follows:

- (a) 1 m for natural gas; and
- (b) 3 m for propane gas.

CSA B149.1 definition of a relief device:

CSA B149.1 - Relief device — a device designed to open to prevent a rise of gas pressure in excess of a specified value **due to an emergency or abnormal conditions.**

The above definition refers to pressure relief on the tank. Every tank has one. It is designed for emergency relief only so under normal operating circumstances it will not relieve pressure.

A vent refers to the vent you see on the regulator set. If it happens to be within the hazardous area, it may be piped to a point outside of the hazardous area.