



May 15, 2020

File: 125-20/SFBDAR

Adam De Caire
Director of Public Affairs
Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association of Canada

Delivered via email: adam@hpbacanada.org

Dear: Adam De Caire,

The *Environmental Management Act*, Solid Fuel Burning Domestic Appliance Regulation (SFBDAR, B.C. Reg. 218/2016) ensures that new wood-burning appliances sold in B.C. are as clean burning as possible. SFBDAR requires all new wood-burning appliances to be certified to meet the latest emission standards set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) or equivalent standards set by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). For more information on the regulation's requirements, please visit the [SFBDAR webpage](#).

The USEPA has recently published final amendments to the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for New Residential Wood Heaters and New Residential Hydronic Heaters and Forced-Air Furnaces (USEPA 2020). The rule requires wood-heating appliances to meet more stringent emission standards "Step 2" after May 15th, 2020. Therefore, for appliances to meet USEPA emission standards under the SFBDAR, NSPS "Step 2" certification will now be required in B.C.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have affected many businesses as British Columbians follow the orders and directives issued by the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) to protect public health. The ministry recognizes the PHO directives have affected many activities regulated under the *Environmental Management Act*, including the activities of the hearth retailers, distributors and manufacturers. The public's adherence to the PHO's directives has resulted in a reduction in general retail sales including the purchase of solid-fuel-burning appliances. This, in turn, has impaired the industry's ability to meet their schedule for clearing existing inventory and replenishing with newer certified appliances, in accordance with the requirements of the SFBDAR.

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Recognizing that these are unprecedented circumstances that industry could not have reasonably foreseen, the ministry's [Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Procedures](#) guide staff to consider all factors when verifying compliance, such as the unintended outcomes of the PHO directives. It is expected that as the existing inventory of appliances (Step 1 certified) is cleared, it will be replaced with newer appliances that meet the latest NSPS "Step 2" certification. Please know that ministry staff are taking a reasonable approach to impacts on [compliance capability due to COVID-19](#) and are available to assist the industry as questions arise.

We appreciate the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association in bringing this matter forward and that efforts are being made by companies to achieve compliance with the SFB DAR.

Yours truly,



Christa Zacharias-Homer
Director, Clean Air, Integrated Pest Management and Industry
778-698-4911

Cc: Brady Nelles, Director-Compliance, Regional Operations Branch