

## REGULATIONS FOR CHECKING PROPANE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

Under certain circumstance your propane distribution system should be inspected and leak tested. The NFPA 54 (National Fuel Gas Code), as well as insurance companies require that in certain circumstances the propane system must be leak tested. The following situations are examples for when a leak test may have to be performed:

- ◆New system installation
- ◆New customer setup
- ◆System interruptions from repair work, modifications, additions, or a shut off, ect.
- ◆Tank run outs/out-of-gas situations
- ◆Suspected leak

The following NFPA 54 *System and Equipment Leakage Test* codes describe the procedures for qualified persons servicing a system for gas utilization:

- 4.2.2 *Before turning gas on.* Before gas is introduced into a system of new gas piping, the entire system shall be determined that there are no open fittings or ends and that all manual valves on equipment are closed and all unused outlets are closed and plugged or capped.
- 4.2.3 *Test for Leakage.* Immediately after gas is turned on into a new system or into a system that has been restored after an interruption of service, the piping system shall be tested for leakage. If leakage is indicated, the gas supply shall be shut off until necessary repairs have been made.
- 4.2.4 *Placing Equipment in Operation.* Gas utilization equipment shall not be permitted to be placed in operation until after the piping system has been tested and determined to be free of leakage and purged in accordance with 4.2.3

Wisconsin's Department of Commerce has enacted a "New Liquefied Petroleum Gas Law (ACT 203)." According to this law, any person using a gas system provided by a retail supplier must **notify the supplier before modification of their gas system**, as stated below:

"101.16 (4) (b) 1. A person who owns, leases, or uses a propane gas system and who is a customer of a retail supplier shall notify the retail supplier of propane gas for the propane gas system of any interruption in the operation of the propane gas system due to the replacement, modification, repair, or servicing of the propane gas system by any person other than the retail supplier. The customer shall provide the notice at least 7 days in advance of the interruption in the operation of the propane gas system, except as provided in subd. 2. The retail supplier, or the person replacing, modifying, repairing, or servicing the propane gas system, shall perform a check for leaks or other defects in the propane gas system before placing the propane gas system back into operation in the manner required by rule. If the interruption of a propane gas system subject to subd. 1. is due to emergency repair or servicing, the customer shall provide the notice to the retail supplier as soon as possible and no later than 24 hours after the repair or servicing is completed."

To view the complete act listed above, please visit the web link listed below:

<https://dsps.wi.gov/Documents/Programs/Gas/Act203Memo.pdf>