



SAFE WORK



PORTABLE OIL-FIRED CONSTRUCTION HEATERS

Portable oil-fired construction heaters may present a risk of fire or explosion as well as carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning if they are not installed, operated and maintained according to manufacturer's instructions and adopted installation codes.

The safe operation of portable oil-fired construction heaters requires the following:

- All portable oil-fired construction heaters must be inspected annually by the Mechanical and Engineering Branch of the Department of Labour and Immigration to ensure the equipment is functioning properly.
 - Inspectors will tag each heater with a construction heater permit label (CH number) valid from September 1st to August 31st of the following year.
 - One permit label and inspection will cover a portable oil-fired construction heater at any number of locations during the heating season. Additional inspections are not required when these units are moved.
- Owners and suppliers of portable oil-fired construction heaters must ensure this equipment meets the requirements of the CSA code and is ready for safe use.
- Employers must ensure that safe work procedures are in place for the operation of portable oil-fired construction heaters and that workers are trained in these procedures **before** using/operating the heating units. Safe work procedures must consider:
 - Adequate clearance around the unit for fire safety and servicing requirements (and according to manufacturer's instructions);
 - Appropriate venting of the heater to ensure the unit's combustion products are not vented indoors or into an enclosed work area;
 - Minimum (3 ft.) clearance is maintained between construction heater and oil drum;
 - Adequate physical protection (suitable to the risk) around the portable construction heater; and
 - Secure and level installation of the heating unit and oil drum.
- Manufacturer instructions for the operation and maintenance of portable oil-fired heaters must be provided to users, and maintained in a visible location near the heating units.

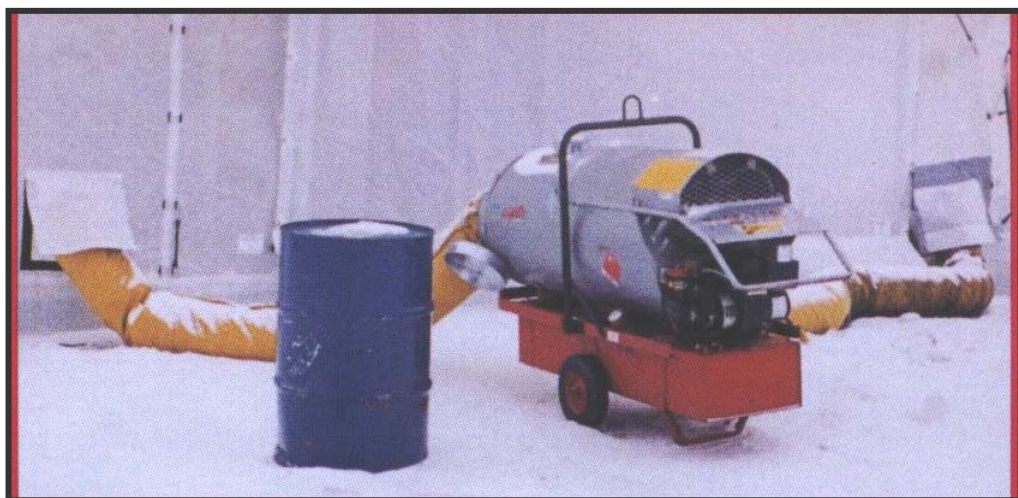


Photo provided courtesy of Industrial Commercial Equipment Manufacturing Ltd. (ICE)

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