

EPA'S NEW SOURCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL WOOD HEATERS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

On February 3, 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its final New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for residential wood heaters.

The standards for wood heaters – including wood pellet stoves and other pellet-burning appliances – were designed to require new wood heaters to burn cleaner, and to improve air quality in communities where wood burning appliances are commonly used. The rule does not apply to existing wood burning appliances.

The rule requires any new non-commercial wood-burning appliance to utilize fuel that has been graded through an EPA-authorized graded fuel program including the PFI Standards Program. Other authorized programs include ENplus and CANplus.

For appliances such as pellet stoves, manufacturers will be required to state that their products have been tested with fuel from a particular grading program. Manufacturers also must state such claims in the owners' manuals. Appliance owners who use pellets not included in the warranty will have their warranties voided.

The rule also includes minimum requirements for pellet fuel. In addition to the requirement to participate in an EPA-authorized fuel grading program, fuel used in EPA-certified stoves must also meet the following specific conditions, in addition to restrictions on the types of fuels that may be used:

- Density: consistent hardness and energy content with a minimum density of 38 pounds/cubic foot;
- Dimensions: maximum length of 1.5 inches and diameter between 0.230 and 0.285 inches;
- Inorganic fines: less than or equal to 1 percent;
- Chlorides: less than or equal to 300 parts per million by weight;
- Ash content: no more than 2 percent;
- Contains no demolition or construction waste;
- Trace metals: less than 100 mg/kg.

STEPS FOR PELLET FUEL MANUFACTURERS: MEETING EPA FUEL REQUIREMENTS

Though PFI is challenging the NSPS Rule, the Rule's requirements are in effect. Currently, appliance manufacturers are certifying their appliances with EPA, which means that graded fuel for these products must be available in the marketplace. Fuel manufacturers who wish to produce fuel for new pellet appliances seeking EPA certification are encouraged to enroll in an EPA-authorized fuel grading program, such as the PFI Standards Program. PFI's program is the most recognized fuel standards program in the United States.

Visit [PFI's website](#) to learn more about the recently updated program and the process for joining. Our site also lists the accredited auditing agencies that can guide your company through the application process – and continue to ensure that your facility meets the program's ongoing testing requirements, and those required by the NSPS rule.

For more information about pellet fuel standards, visit www.pelletheat.org/pfi-standards or contact PFI staff at 703-522-6778.



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