Building Standards Advisory

Promoting construction of safe, healthy, habitable buildings

Clearance Above Cooktops

Question

"What clearances are required around *cooktops*?"

Answer

The minimum clearance requirements between cabinets and cooking *appliances* are provided in the National Building Code of Canada (NBC) Subsection 9.10.22. Fire Protection for Gas, Propane and Electric Cooktops and Ovens and illustrated in Figure A-9.10.22. reproduced in this advisory with permission of the National Research Council.

Valances hiding lights on upper cabinets must also be above these minimum limits.

The 750 mm minimum clearance above *cooktops* is also reinforced in the Saskatchewan Codes of Practice, Gas Installation Supplement prepared by the Gas Inspections Division of SaskPower as a companion document to the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standard B-149.1 "Natural Gas and Propane Installation Code".

Compliance with *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*, Regulations and the National Building Code of Canada 2010 (NBC 2010) is addressed in this advisory. Words in italics, other than Act titles, are defined in the NBC 2010.

Microwave ovens designed for installation over the range are not addressed in the NBC 2010. However, the function and objective statements in the NBC 2010, specific to clearance above *cooktops*, address fire impacting areas beyond the point of origin and minimizing the risk of accidental ignition. Saskatchewan recommends installation no less than 600 mm above the cooktop.

Where clearances are addressed by the NBC and the Canadian Electrical Code or the Natural Gas and Propane Installation Code, conformance with all relevant criteria is achieved by compliance with the most stringent criteria.

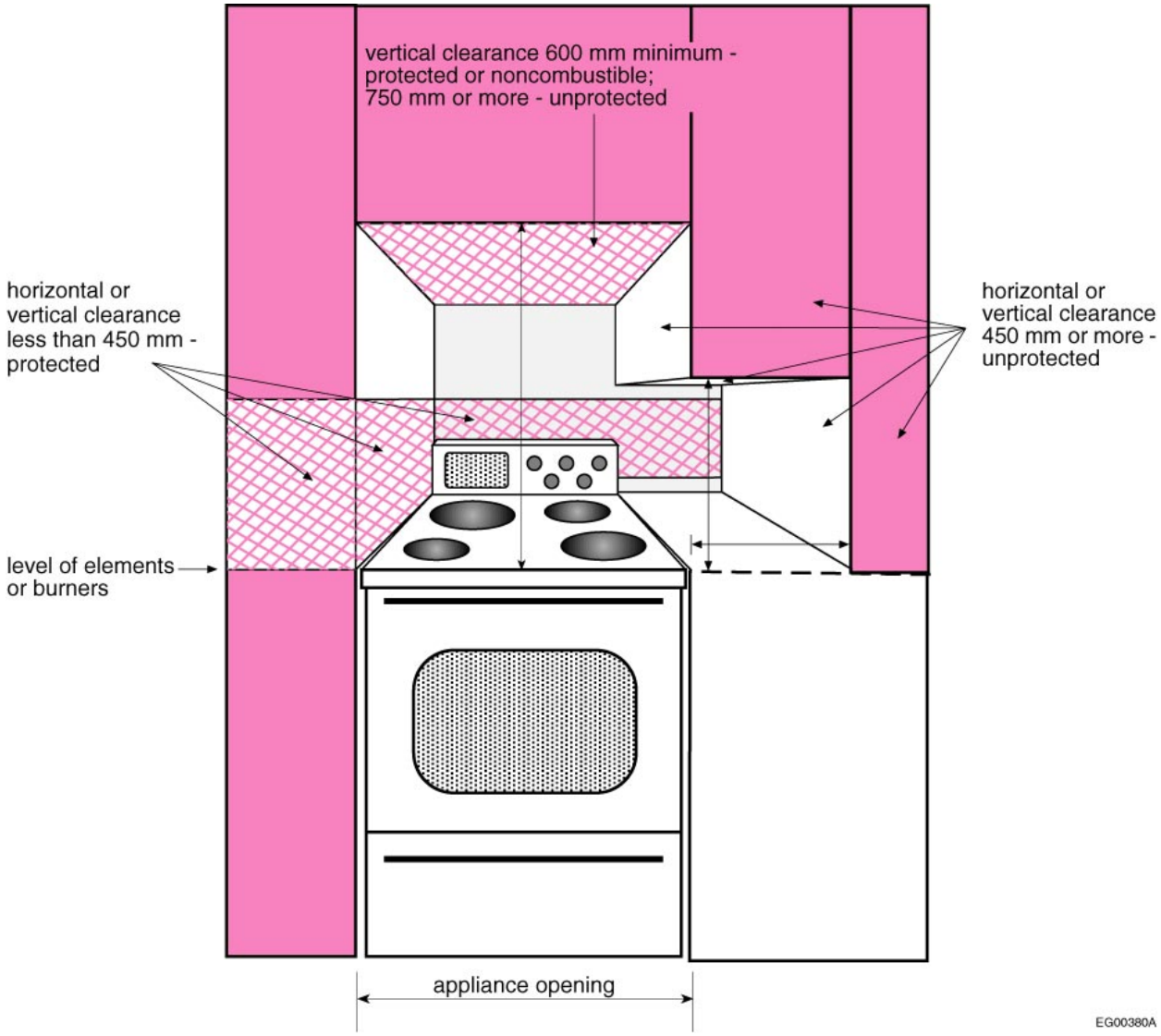
Background

There is considerable property damage, personal injury, and numerous deaths each year in Canada as a result of cooking fires. In addition to examining provisions of the NBC 2010 that prescribe minimum clearances from gas, propane, and electric *cooktops,* and ovens to *combustible* materials, this advisory addresses the installation of over the range microwave ovens.

Natural gas and propane ranges must be installed in accordance with CAN/CSA-B-149.1, "Natural Gas and Propane Installation Code". This code is adopted by regulation under *The Gas Inspection Act, 1993*, and supplemented with the Saskatchewan Codes of Practice, Gas Installation Supplement.

Electric ranges must be installed in accordance with CSA Standard C22.1, "Canadian Electrical Code, Part 1". This code is adopted by regulation under *The Electrical Inspections Act, 1993,* and is supplemented by the Saskatchewan Interpretations.

However, these codes do not address clearances above the surface of the *cooktop*, or between the sides of the *appliances* and combustible finishes. Those provisions are found in the National Building Code 2010 adopted by regulation under *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*.



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This advisory is published by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Government Relations for purposes of providing information to users on the topic contained herein. In case of conflict between *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standard Act* (the UBAS Act), the National Building Code of Canada 2010 (NBC 2010) and this advisory, provisions of the UBAS Act and NBC 2010 shall apply.