



Gas Bulletin

No. 1 - April 05

Update - Natural Gas Rollout

The Stage 1 Natural Gas Development Agreement was signed between the Tasmanian State Government and Powerco Tasmania Pty Ltd (Powerco) on the 30th April 2003. This agreement is for Powerco to develop natural gas network facilities at Bell Bay, Burnie, Devonport, Hobart, Launceston, Longford, Westbury and Wynyard.

The networks will be commissioned and operating by first quarter 2005, with gas flowing to industrial consumers.

Powerco will then commence a 3-year construction program from January 2005 to service domestic and commercial consumers with reticulated natural gas.

These new networks should provide access to natural gas for an estimated 38,000 domestic and commercial consumers.

Gas Standards and Safety website

A comprehensive web site devoted entirely to the Tasmanian gas industries technical standards and safety requirements will be available from 31 January 05 at <http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/gas>

Gasfitter Licensing

Gas fitters wishing to undertake work on natural gas installations and appliances are currently required to hold a Certificate of Competency in Natural Gas Fitting endorsed for;

Gas fitting Type A appliance;

Gas fitting Type B appliance.

Details of Gas fitting competency certification requirements/examinations for natural gas may be obtained from our web site under Licensing - Gasfitters or on request from Gas Standards and Safety (GSS).

Future Gasfitter Licensing

Workplace Standards Tasmania has released a draft Occupational Licensing Act intended to legislate occupational licensing of electricians, plumbers, gasfitter tradespeople and contractors.

Gasfitters with current natural gas, certificates of competency will have their certification recognised for an extended time during the development and implementation of the Occupational Licensing Act.

Individuals who have not been able to practice in the natural gas industry due to the distribution network construction schedules, will be granted an extension of their certification when their 3 year renewals are due. Details will be forwarded individually.

Current gasfitters registered with the Plumbers & Gasfitters Registration Board who wish to undertake the TAFE skills upgrade and obtain the appropriate natural gas certification can obtain information from our web site under Licensing - Gasfitters.

A system for mutual recognition of interstate registered gasfitters already exists. Details may be obtained from GSS.

Gas Act 2000 and Gas (Safety) Regulations 2002

Legislative requirements for natural gas distribution networks, consumer installations and gas appliances are contained in the requirements of the Gas Act 2000 and the Gas (Safety) Regulations 2002.

The legislation has introduced, regulatory changes for gasfitters, please refer to Div 4 of the Act and Part 7 of the Regulations.

The Gas Act 2000 regulates the distribution and retailing of gas, to provide for safety and technical standards for gas installations, gas appliances and for related purposes.

Copies of the legislation may be obtained and downloaded from <http://www.thelaw.tas.gov.au> or via links on our website under Legislation.

Gas Fitting Notices

The gasfitter must always complete documentation to certify the gas installation is safe for gas to be made available to the consumer.

The document used is a **Gas Fitting Notice**, which is issued by the gasfitter as either a *certificate of compliance* or a *statement of compliance*.

Please refer to [table 1](#) for brief details of when to *apply for acceptance* of a gas installation or type "B" gas appliance and when to issue certificates or statements of compliance.

Table 1:

Appliance/ Installation	Applic for acceptance	Commission approval	Cert	Statement
standard			√NG	
prescribed	√ LPG NG	√ LPG NG		√
complex	√ LPG NG	√ LPG NG		√
Type B	√LPG NG	√ LPG NG		√

Purchase of Gas Fitting Notice Books

Gasfitters undertaking natural gas, gas fitting work, will need to purchase a Gas Fitting Notice book from any office of Workplace Standards Tasmania (WST). We can also arrange for delivery. See office locations and Helpline details below.

Cost of the Gas Fitting Notice Book is \$28.00. An additional fee of \$5.00 is applicable if mailing.

A sample gas fitting notice and information on how to complete one is available on our website under Gas Installations – Gas fitting notice.



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Gas Installations

Gas installations are classified as either a;

- Standard gas installation (<50m & < 500MJ/h),
- Prescribed standard gas installation, or a
- Complex gas installation.

Technical classification requirements may be obtained from our website under Gas Installations or on request to GSS.

An application to obtain an *acceptance* from the Director of Gas Safety for proposed work on a complex or a prescribed standards gas installation is required prior to commissioning the gas installation.

Application forms and detailed information on installations and building classes is available from our website under Gas installations or on request from GSS.

Gas Appliances - Certification

All **type A** gas appliances must comply with the appliance certification standards of the *Australian Gas Association (AGA)*, or relevant standards of Australian Standards.

Any gas appliance without the appropriate AGA approval "may" be suitable to obtain Individual Appliance Certification through the AGA. Please contact Gas Standards and Safety for details.

All **type B** gas appliances

(Definition: *An appliances, with gas consumption in excess of 10MJ/h, for which a certification scheme does not exist*), must be accepted by the Director of Gas Safety prior to installation and commissioning.

Once accepted, installed and commissioned the type B gasfitter must complete a commissioning checklist and submit a "Statement of Compliance" in the form of the **Gas Fitting Notice** to the;

- Director of Gas Safety (to be issued with a compliance plate and Number)
- The Gas Distributor (Powerco) and
- The Consumer

Details of the acceptance process and the applicable forms may be obtained from our website under Gas Installations - Complex gas installations.

Gas Appliance - Conversions

A **type A** gas appliance being converted from one fuel gas to another, (eg. LP gas to natural gas) must be converted by a licensed or certified gasfitter in accordance with the manufacturers conversion instructions and conversion kit for the particular appliance.

Type A appliances for which there is no manufacturers conversion kit or instructions must be converted to relevant standards determined by the Director of Gas Safety. Gasfitters intending to undertake these types of conversions should contact the gas retailer or Gas Standards and Safety for additional information.

Gas Distribution Mains and Services

A person must not without authority-

Attach a gas installation, or make any connection to a distribution system.

Disconnect or interfere with a supply of gas from a distribution system.

Damage or interfere with gas infrastructure or a gas installation in any other way.

Gas distribution mains are identified by field markers every 100 metres or street curb side markers every 50 metres.

Dial Before You Dig (DBYD) assists you in locating underground pipelines in the area you are planning to dig. Enquiries should be directed to ph.1100 at least two working days prior to excavation.

In the event of damage to gas distribution mains Emergency 24hr / 7days, ph. 180 2111(Powerco) will connect to emergency operators.

INDUSTRY TRAINING SEMINARS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN REGIONAL AREAS DURING 2005 catering for gasfitters, building designers and combustion industry consultants.

Workplace Standards Tasmania -Gas Standards and Safety Contact details

In Tasmania 1300 366 322
Outside Tasmania (03) 6233 7657

Hobart 30 Gordons Hill Rd, PO Box 56
Rosny Park 7018

Launceston Henty House 1 Civic Sq,
Launceston 7250

Burnie Reece House, 46 Mount St, PO Box 287,
Burnie 7320

Website www.wst.tas.gov.au/gas

Infrastructure Quality Assurance Officers are available at regional offices to assist you to interpret legislation and accept submissions.