



Gas Bulletin

No. 3 - October 2006

Update - Natural Gas Rollout

Stage 2A of the natural gas rollout is continuing in Burnie [Romaine, Upper Burnie, Brooklyn, Downlands], Devonport [west, east and city], Hobart [Glenorchy, Sandy Bay, Moonah, Mt Stuart, West Hobart], and Launceston [Prospect, West Launceston and city].

Gas Standards and Safety website

A comprehensive and up-to-date website devoted entirely to the Tasmanian gas industries technical standards and safety requirements is available at www.wst.tas.gov.au/gas

The website is undergoing redevelopment in line with Workplace Standards Tasmania's move to the Department of Justice.

Gas Distribution Mains and Services

Gas distribution mains are identified by field markers or kerb side markers every 50 metres.

Contractors and infrastructure owners can enhance excavation planning by early contact with *Dial Before You Dig* service by calling 1100. All trenching in the 5 metre zone from gas mains must have prior authority from Powerco.

Cases of unauthorised open trenching and directional boring by civil contractors within the 5 metre exclusion zone have been detected. Penalties up to \$2500 may be incurred.

New Publications

Installation approvals and gas fitting notice requirements is available for download from our website (DOC006).

Information Sheets

Information sheets for common installation issues are available for download from our website:

IS003	Fire Resistant Materials
IS010	Concealed Piping in High Rise Buildings
IS014	Is the wall behind that commercial catering equipment non-combustible?
IS015	Gas shut-off when automatic fire equipment operates
IS016	Ventilation for gas appliances and equipment
IS017	Connection of Commercial Catering Equipment
IS019	Construction and approval standards for 'Stand By' gas systems
IS020	Type A Appliances and Components AS References
IS 021	Hot tapping Guidelines (new)
IS 022	ViEGA pressfit systems (new)
IS 023	Conversion of appliances (new)

Gasfitter Licensing

Development of the Occupational Licensing Regulations has commenced. Draft regulations for prescribed gasfitting work and certification / notification requirements has commenced. Industry stakeholders will be consulted.

National uniformity of gas fitter licensing and qualification has commenced through the Council of Australian Government.

LP gas fitters must apply for natural gas certificates of competency. NG work by unlicensed gas fitters will be disconnected from the NG distribution system.

Gas Act 2000 and Gas (Safety) Regulations 2002

Gas Fitting Notices

Please ensure that all future gas fitting notices are completed in full. Notes on completion are contained inside the front cover of Gas Fitting Notice books.

Data has revealed that approximately 5% of gasfitters notifications are not being received by the Directors office. Maximum penalty for non-compliance is \$2000 for an individual, and \$5000 for a corporation.

The address for lodging notifications is at the foot of page 2 of this bulletin.

All requested information is to be completed in full and in a legible manner, including correct information regarding Gasfitter details. Individual's license number for LPG installation or certificate of competency for NG installation is to be provided.

The gasfitter must always complete documentation to certify the gas installation is safe for gas to be made available to the consumer. This is to include appliances installed, modified or converted, certification details.

Purchase of Gas Fitting Notice Books

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

Cost of the Gas Fitting Notice Book is \$28. An additional fee is applicable if mailing costs are incurred.

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

Commissioning a NG Distributors Meter

A gasfitter must not connect gas unless they contact the gas distributor, Powerco. Once Powerco is satisfied and approvals are in place, they will issue a Metering Installation Registration Number (MRN). Approvals include acceptances issued by the Director of Gas Safety.

The gasfitter must include the MRN on the completed certificate or statement of compliance.

WST and Powerco will discuss the acceptance and connection process at the upcoming regional training sessions.



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Gas Appliances – Certification

Type A gas appliance installed into consumer gas installations must be approved/certified.

Approved external authorities able to certify gas appliance as compliant to *declared* relevant standards are Australian Gas Association, SAI Global, interstate gas regulators and the Director of Gas Safety.

Details of the Tasmanian second-hand appliance approval scheme are available from the office of the Director of Gas Safety. Approval of type A appliance by the Director will be restricted to the specific site and limited to 5 years. Extension for a further 5 years may be available.

The Director has available compliance scheme details for approval of restricted external authorities enabling certification of appliances complying to AS 4563 *Commercial catering gas equipment*.

The AGA August product certification directory is available from www.aga.asn.au/product directory.

Gas Appliance – Conversions

Approved / certified gas appliances may be converted to another fuel in accordance with the manufacturers' specification. A guide on the conversion of approved appliances is available from Gas Standards and Safety.

Conversion – Old Town Gas flueless heaters

If you don't have the equipment, don't do it!

WST was recently advised that a room heater with Town Gas tiles was converted to Natural Gas. Gas fitters are reminded that:

- Conversions should only be performed by competent persons
- The appliance must be certified or approved for use on the gas type
- A manufacturers' conversion kit or procedure is available
- The converted appliance is tested to ensure safe operation.

Equipment such as combustion analysers, manometers and number drills are essential for converting and testing gas appliances. Digital manometers and combustion analysers must have a current calibration certificate.

If in you are in any doubt contact the appliance manufacturer or your local Authorised Officer.

Gas Appliance - Modification

Non-approved/certified gas appliances requiring modification require approval by the Director pursuant to section 75 of the *Gas Act 2000*.

Gas - Components and Fittings

Rinnai external water heaters – AGA Cert No 5511 and 6339 sideways flue diverters have been accepted for use in

Tasmania as optional accessories for use with Rinnai external water heaters.

Viega pressfit system and Iplex Future K1 pipe- Iplex pipelines Australia Pty Ltd have been accepted by the Director for use in Tasmania and will be included in table 3.1 of AS 5601 *Gas Installations* in the next edition. Refer to attached safety alerts.

LPG Issues

Conversion and cylinder disconnection

Gas cylinder disconnection and storage is to be in accordance with AS 1596 *The storage and handling of LP Gas*, where consumer conversion to natural gas has occurred. The consumer is to be advised to store cylinders in a secure and upright position to prevent damage and leakage and notify their LPG supplier for collection.

Australian Standards AS 4041 Pressure Piping

The above standard has been revised.

High-pressure gas piping (above 1050kPa) will require design to this standard. AS 5601 requires the welding of galvanized and black steel class 2 piping to be carried out to AS 4041.

Gas Training / Information Sessions

Upcoming compliance regional training/information in the gas industry:

- Gas Fitter information sessions for compliance with individual appliance certification schemes
- Gas installation connections, certification and notification compliance.

Workplace Standards Tasmania's Office of 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.

If you would like to subscribe to the Gas Bulletin please email Nerelle.French@justice.tas.gov.au or phone (03) 6336 2554