

Amendments to the *Gas (Safety) Regulations 2002*

The *Gas Act 2000* and the *Gas Pipelines Act 2000* are administered by the Office of Energy Planning and Conservation (OEPC) in the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources. However, the safety-related provisions in both Acts are administered by Workplace Standards Tasmania (WST) in the Department of Justice.

The former *Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations 1998*, administered by WST, amongst other provisions, regulated the automotive gasfitting industry and contained some provisions regulating the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) industry. These regulations were rescinded on 1 July 2009, following the commencement of the *Dangerous Substances (Safe Handling) Regulations 2009*. Advice from Parliamentary Counsel at that time was that it was not appropriate to include the LPG and automotive gasfitting provisions in the *Dangerous Substances (Safe Handling) Regulations 2009*.

Following a meeting between WST and OEPC officers, it was agreed to amend the *Gas (Safety) Regulations 2002* to regulate these outstanding matters. To ensure a level playing field for both the LPG industry and the natural gas industry, other identified provisions, and editorial amendments, were also agreed.

The Stage I amendments to the *Gas (Safety) Regulations 2002* –

- contain new or amended definitions;
- cover LPG, CNG and LNG gases, as well as natural gas;
- reference amended and additional standards;
- contain requirements for commissioning gasfitting work, attaching compliance plates, and signing statements/certificates of compliance;
- require the keeping of records for a minimum of ten years;
- regulate LPG gasfitting work on caravans, boats and vehicles (ex *Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations 1998*);
- prohibit the sale of vehicles etc. without a compliance plate attached (ex *Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations 1998*);
- regulate automotive gasfitting work (ex *Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations 1998*); and
- include other minor editorial amendments.

The new provisions commenced on **3 October 2009**.

A Stage 2 program of amendments to the *Gas (Safety) Regulations 2002*, was also agreed between OEPC and WST, with work expected to commence late 2009/early 2010, in conjunction with finalisation of the draft Occupational Licensing (Gasfitting Work) Regulations.

If you would like to be consulted during the development of the Stage 2 amendments to the *Gas (Safety) Regulations 2002*, and the Occupational Licensing (Gasfitting Work) Regulations, contact Workplace Standards on 1300 366 322 or email wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au