



Gas Focus 1

The Office of Energy (OOE) has inherited from SECWA its role as the Gas Regulatory Authority for Western Australia.

The following questions and answers are intended to explain how we seek to fulfil that role.

Q.How will the OOE regulate the safety of consumers' gas installations?

A.By a system of occupational (gasfitter) licensing and appliance approvals.

Q.What is a gasfitter and what entitles him/her to a licence?

A.Anyone who carries out any gasfitting in a consumer's installation is classified a gasfitter; to be issued a licence they must demonstrate their competency to OOE; the licence will be endorsed to show the type of gasfitting its holder can do.

Q.How is competency demonstrated

A.By successfully completing a recognised course in gasfitting or, in some circumstances, demonstrating "prior learning" in particular competencies; course details are further detailed in this bulletin.

Q.How is this system controlled?

A.Gasfitters must by regulation submit notices for all installation work. For fixed installations the Gas Supplier, on the basis of the notices and by a system of inspection, ensures that consumers' installations are safe and can be connected.

For mobile installations (caravan, auto and marine) the OOE performs this function, although on the basis of self certification by the gasfitter. These installation can be used subject to the necessary Police checks.

Q.What is a gas appliance?

A.Anything that consumes gas for any purpose, normally classified Type A (domestic/commercial), Type B (larger commercial/industrial) and Type C (mobile engine).

Q.How are they approved?

A.Type A appliances must comply with appropriate Australian Gas Association (AGA) codes and carry a Gas Standards Act or AGA approval badge. Currently the AGA and AlintaGas can approve Type A appliances. Type C appliances (vehicles) are self-certified by the automotive gasfitter.

Lists of approved Type A appliances can be purchased from the AGA.

Q.What about Type B appliances?

A.These industrial/commercial appliances are more complex and require specific approval by either the Director of Energy Safety or a gas inspector and are covered in some detail on the following pages.

Industrial and Commercial (Type B) Gas Appliances must be Approved

Q.What is approval?

A.The OOE expects appliance equipment suppliers, design engineers, installers and operators to have the competence necessary to use and apply the correct standards for ensuring Type B gas appliances operate safely and efficiently.

The OOE's objective is to ensure acceptable levels of gas safety for workers, operators and the public and in this context requires that gas burning equipment is safe.

This is established through a process of "Approval".

Q.What has to be approved?

A.Gasfitting can only be carried out in WA by "licence" holders. The "licence" may be in the form of a gasfitter's certificate of competency or permit, temporary permit for specialist workers or an authorisation issued to a company.

Working under such a licence a person can self-certify compliance with prescribed requirements, ie those endorsed as acceptable by OOE, for the gas installation excluding any appliance(s).

Appliances are taken to include gas burning and flow control equipment

including control and management systems.

Although component parts may be pre-approved, by the Australian Gas Association or other approval body, an industrial or commercial (Type B) appliance will still have to be approved as a commissioned assembly.

Q.Who can approve Type B appliances?

A.They can only be approved:

a)generally by the Director of Energy Safety or a person authorised by him, or

b)individually by a gas inspector so authorised (normally an inspector working for or contracted to the gas supplier). AlintaGas and Kleenheat employ such inspectors.

Q.What is the process of approval?

A.It will normally involve:

1)a technical submission to the inspector (gas supplier) declaring the standard or code* with which compliance is claimed.

2)inclusion in the submission of adequate written information, hazard analyses, logic diagrams, valve train schematics, wiring diagrams etc to verify compliance with the code*.

3)in the case of programmable electronics sufficient details are required of system safeguards (watch dog timers, redundancy, input/output "loops" etc) to verify an acceptable level of safety*.

4)an analysis of hazardous interlocks and commissioning checks verifying their integrity.

5)checks by the gas inspector on the assembled appliance to allow commissioning gas.

6)witnessing by the gas inspector of checks on hazardous limits/interlocks.

*Approvals are normally based upon Australian Gas Association (AGA) Codes such as AG 501 and other specialist documents issued by the AGA. Alternative standards would require OOE approval.

Contact with the Gas Industry

Office of Energy (Gas)

- **Technical Services Branch (Gas)**
Ph: (09) 422 5200
Fax: (09) 422 5244

- **Regulatory Services Branch (Licensing)**

Ph: (09) 422 5282

Fax: (09) 422 5222

- **Gas Inspection Branch**

Ph: (09) 422 5290

Fax: (09) 422 5244

Gas Suppliers (Installation Inspectors)

- Location:
AlintaGas
5 De Laeter Way
Bentley WA 6102
Telephone:(09) 470 8555
- Location:
Kleenheat Gas *
276 Leach Highway
Myaree WA 6154
Telephone:(09) 333 0333

* Kleenheat Gas also supply reticulated LP gas in Leinster.

- Location:
Boral Gas
47 Lionel Street
Naval Base WA 6165
Telephone:(09) 410 2688
- Location:BOC Gases (CIG)
590 Hay Street
Subiaco WA 6008
Telephone:(09) 273 6700

Gasfitting Courses

Gas Installation One(B) (F) (G) (M)

Gas Installation Two(B) (F) (G) (M) (P)

Gas Servicing(B) (F) (G) (M) (P)

Automotive LPG Installation(C) (K)

Automotive LPG Servicing & Repairs(C) (K)

Contact the following training providers for further information:

(B) Balga TAFE Ph: (09) 344 9800

(F) Fremantle TAFE Ph: (09) 335 4633

(G) Geraldton TAFE Ph: (099) 21 4122

(M) Midland TAFE Ph: (09) 274 9333

(P) PPISTC Skills Centre Ph: (09) 271 3200

(C) Carlisle TAFE Ph: (09) 472 2444

(K) Kalgoorlie TAFE Ph: (090) 22 0814

Australian Gas Association

(for Codes, Approval Lists etc)

- Location:
Technical Department
1136 Nepean Highway
Highett VIC 3190
Telephone:(03) 532 2644