



g a s | f o c u s

Gas Inspection Plans

Section 13(2) of the *Gas Standards Act 1972* provides powers for the granting of an exemption by the Minister of Energy to a gas undertaker from the requirement to inspect all gas installations to ascertain their compliance with prescribed requirements before commencing gas supply.

This exemption is applied only if a gas undertaker has in place an approved Inspection Plan and Policy Statement at all times.

To assist the preparation and submission of new Inspection Plans and Policy Statements (typically valid for a two year period), the Director of Energy Safety issues Guidelines to AlintaGas, Kleenheat Gas, Origin Energy and BOC Gases. These Guidelines are updated from time to time to reflect experience gained during the prior two years and any changes to the regulatory framework, such as the recent introduction of the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999*.

AlintaGas's Inspection Plan and Policy Statement was formally submitted in October 1999 and represented a very positive outcome resulting from both AlintaGas and Office of Energy efforts to develop an efficient and effective inspection methodology, incorporating changes arising out of the new regulations. We are confident that implementation of the Plan will further improve the standard of gasfitting work and will benefit consumers generally.

The Office of Energy has also had positive outcomes with other gas suppliers on their revised Inspection

Plans and recently Kleenheat Gas, Origin Energy and BOC Gases had their plans approved.

What does this mean to the gas fitter?

In general terms, it means that, under the terms of the Inspection Plan, the gas supplier may not necessarily inspect every gas installation to which they connect gas. Although the gas supplier is required to carry out post-connection inspections, the supplier is not required to inspect every gas installation, but will inspect an agreed percentage to ensure that safety standards are being met and maintained. This audit inspection process applies to both new gas installations as well as existing gas installations where additional gasfitting work has been carried out.

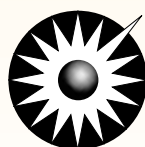
As the gas fitter, you may not know if the gasfitting work done by you has been audited for compliance or not. Obviously if you receive a Notice of Defects in the post, it will confirm that your work has been inspected and does not comply with the regulations. Normally, if a defect is detected, the gas supplier's inspector will scrutinise your work more closely, until he or she is satisfied with the standard of work being performed.

Remember, when you sign that Notice of Completion and send it to the gas supplier, you are certifying that the gasfitting work done by you complies with the regulations.

The responsibility for getting the job done correctly first time is yours and only yours.

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PROSECUTIONS FOR BREACHES OF THE GAS STANDARDS REGULATIONS 1983 1 March to 30 June 2000

<i>Breach</i>	<i>Name (and suburb of residence at time of offence)</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Fine \$</i>	<i>Costs \$</i>
<i>Failed to install high level permanent ventilation opening Regulation 19(1)</i>	<i>G Dumitrescu (Waikiki)</i>	<i>GF 003494</i>	<i>166.66</i>	<i>105.66</i>
<i>Failed to install high level permanent ventilation opening Regulation 19(1)</i>	<i>G Dumitrescu (Waikiki)</i>	<i>GF 003494</i>	<i>166.66</i>	<i>105.66</i>
<i>Failed to make the consumers gas installation comply within 7 days Regulation 22(1)</i>	<i>G Dumitrescu (Waikiki)</i>	<i>GF 003494</i>	<i>166.68</i>	<i>105.68</i>

Note: These offences were committed under the previous *Gas Standards Regulations 1983*.

Approval of Industrial Gas Appliances

The *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999* set out the requirements for the approval of these appliances and a brief summary is provided as follows:

Step 1

Approval for installation to be obtained [per Item 501(2) of Schedule 6 of the regulations].

This requires the manufacturer/installer to satisfy a Type B gas appliance inspector, through a technical submission, that the appliance will satisfy the technical standards required by the regulations [Regulation 32].

Step 2

Approval of the installed appliance is required from the Type B gas appliance inspector, through an on-site demonstration to the inspector that the appliance

as installed complies with all prescribed technical and safety regulatory requirements [Regulation 22].

The inspector then issues a Certificate of Compliance for that appliance.

Approval of Industrial Gas Appliances at Manufacturer's Premises

Where it can be demonstrated that the necessary safety outcomes can be assured, for example where:

- appliances are produced in numbers, to a specific design, are relatively small and merely require connection to a gas supply (similar to Type A appliances); and/or
- specific arrangements are in place for the manufacturer to install and commission to a demonstrated process or procedure;

the inspection necessary under Regulation 22(2) (and the necessary certification and badging) may, with the approval of the Director, be carried out at another place [Regulation 22(4)(b)].

If as an appliance manufacturer you are seeking to obtain "type approval" for an industrial gas appliance, an Office of Energy inspector will need to carry out the certification.

For individual gas appliances, an "independent" Type B gas appliance inspector can be engaged to carry out the full certification, including the issue of the Certificate of Compliance.

Site inspection approval by the "independent" Type B gas appliance inspector is still required unless authorised otherwise by the Director of Energy Safety [Regulation 22(4)(b)].