



Gas Focus 2

Approval of New Domestic / Commercial Gas Appliances (Type A)

To protect people from gas appliances that are unsafe or illegal to install, it is an offence in Western Australia to sell hire or advertise an appliance that is not approved by the Office of Energy's (OOE) Director of Energy Safety and marked accordingly.

The Australian Gas Association (AGA) is recognised by the Director as a competent body for the certification of gas appliances. Consequently appliances currently certified under the AGA's appliance safety certification scheme are accepted for installation in this State unless the certification is revoked by publication in the Government Gazette. Appliances not carrying such certification must be specifically approved by an Inspector and have an approval badge attached. The latter approval is at the discretion of the Director and is granted only for an interim period pending AGA certification.

Normally in this State AGA certification is granted on the basis of successful testing by the Gas Appliance Testing Laboratory operated by AlintaGas.

Applications for testing and approval of the following:

- individual appliances imported by their owners,
- individual appliances imported by a manufacturer or agent for evaluation,
- custom-built or rarely manufactured appliances,
- individual appliances for which market potential is to be ascertained,
- limited numbers of locally produced appliances where full AGA approval is pending,
- should be directed to the:

- **Utilisation & Approvals Coordinator**
AlintaGas
5 de Laeter Way
BENTLEY WA 6102

Telephone(09) 470 8503

Advice from the Chief Gas Inspector

Two gasfitters got more than they bargained for after working on separate gas installations recently.

They proceeded to "blow-up" the gas meter on each installation and received a bill from the Gas Supplier. How did this happen, you may well ask? What did they do wrong?

In both instances they were using oxy-acetylene on the gas installation with the meter connected.

Certainly, by regulation 35 of the Gas Standards Regulations 1983, you are prohibited from interfering with the gas suppliers service apparatus.

However gasfitters are permitted to isolate the meter from the gas installation by removing the meter outlet bend prior to commencing any alterations, repairs or extensions to the consumer piping.

In another incident some years ago a gasfitter suffered a perforated eardrum and had to have shrapnel from the gas meter removed from his stomach after he was welding adjacent to an open pipe and it flashed back to the meter.

It is imperative that gasfitters apply and follow safe working practices.

- Before commencing any work on consumer piping that contains or has contained gas, the piping must be purged with air or an inert gas.
- Purging must be carried out to avoid the possibility of an explosive air/gas mixture existing or forming in the consumer piping, appliances or confined spaces:

-in the case of new installations, purging is the displacement of air, or an inert gas with a fuel gas; and

-in the case of existing installations, purging is the displacement of a fuel gas by air, or an inert gas.

Nitrogen is the preferred inert gas. However carbon dioxide is an acceptable alternative.

Before commencing purging ensure the purge area has been defined, made safe and cleared of all ignition sources, eg naked flames, pilot lights, electrical switchgear etc. As well do not allow smoking in or near the purge area.
