

# gas | s | focus

## Gasfitting Award 2002

Energy Safety sponsors the Gasfitting Award for the most outstanding apprentice in gasfitting. This award is held in conjunction with the annual Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association's Plumbing Industry awards.

Although gasfitting is part of the energy industry, the MP&GA awards also recognise gas fitters, apprentices, contractors and gasfitting businesses.

Energy Safety's Principal Engineer Gas Installations & Appliances Jillian Reynolds presented this year's award at the Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association 2002 Plumbing Industry Gala Dinner held at the Sheraton Hotel, Perth on 5 October 2002.

The winner of the Gasfitting Award was Ben Allen. Ben also won a number of plumbing awards.

In presenting the award to Ben, Jillian spoke briefly about the gas industry and acknowledged the support that the MP&GA provides to Energy Safety during the year. Jillian also highlighted the importance of compliance and accountability and that the gas industry in WA is maturing. "Training is developing here to support the industry as it grows," she concluded.

The Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection Hon. John Kobelke addressed the three hundred strong gathering and reinforced the importance of industry associations such as the MP&GA and the contribution they make for a safe and workable industry.



*Energy Safety's Principal Engineer Gas Installations & Appliances Jillian Reynolds addressing the Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association's 2002 Plumbing Industry Gala Dinner*

## Safety Alerts

### Arona Linea Freestanding Cooker

The Australian Gas Association has alerted Energy Safety to an uncertified gas appliance that carries an unauthorised AGA approval badge and certificate number. The details of the appliance are:

Brand name: LINEA

Model Designation: Arona WH/BK/GN 61 (WH-white, BK-black, GN-green)

Model Type: Dual-fuel freestanding cooker (gas hotplate with electric oven and grill) available for use with NG and LPG

Manufacturer: Elba S.p.A (Italy)  
Australian Distributor: Plumbtec Australia P/L

AGA Certificate No. 5883

It is believed that Plumbtec Australia P/L distributed approximately 250 units over the last 18 months in the belief that the appliance was fully approved for sale in Australia. AGA Certification No. 5883 is registered in the name of

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# Energy Safety



Elba S.p.A and covers dual-fuel freestanding cookers branded "Delonghi" and "Kleenmaid". The AGA certification does not cover the "Linea" branded model. It is understood that although the Linea has similar technical specifications to the Delonghi branded model, there are visual differences.

If you have installed any of these cookers or are aware of any that have been installed, please advise the appliance and installation details to our Gas Inspection Branch by telephoning 9422 5297.

**Primus Seivert Hose Assemblies**

AGA has been made aware of a significant number of field failures relating to the above-mentioned product. Observed failure modes include deformation of the hose outer cover and complete separation of the coupling from the hose assembly.

AGA further advises that inspection of 15 faulty samples of the hose assembly revealed similar failure modes in each sample. AGA has stated that failures of this nature present a serious threat to consumer safety. Further testing of these hoses will be conducted by AGA.

Gas fitters who come across any faulty hose assemblies as described above should report the details to Energy Safety immediately by telephoning 9422 5297.

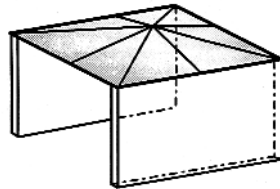
**Use of Barbecues in Outdoor Areas**

Barbecues that are designed and approved for outdoor use must not be installed indoors. The installation and operation of outdoor barbecues must comply with AS 5601/AG 601 and the manufacturer's instructions.

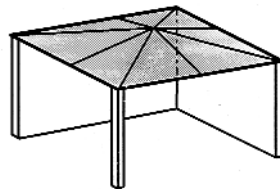
What constitutes an outdoor area or outdoor space? Whilst "outdoor space" is not defined in AS 5601/AG 601, one of the following configurations is

considered to meet the definition of 'outdoor space':

- An area with walls on all sides, but with no overhead cover; or
- Within a partial enclosure that includes an overhead cover and no more than two side walls. These side walls may be parallel or at right angles to each other; or



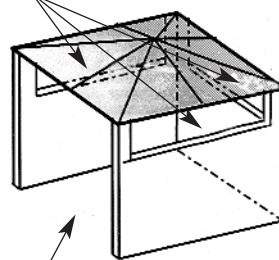
Parallel Walls



Right Angle Walls

- Within a partial enclosure that includes an overhead cover and three side walls, and as long as the open side has a minimum area of 25% of the total wall area and the remaining wall area has 30% or more unrestricted opening.

30% or more in total of the remaining area is open and unrestricted



Open Side at least 25% of total wall area

**A Notice of Defect May Also Mean Demerit Points**

The Director of Energy Safety recently approved a new AlintaGas Inspection Plan and Policy Statement for the next two years.

Following discussions with Energy Safety, AlintaGas has now implemented a new strategy (approved by Energy Safety) whereby errant gas fitters who are issued with Notices of Defects also have demerit points recorded against them by AlintaGas. Some gas fitters may have already experienced this new demerit points system, which has been established to raise the standard of gasfitting work carried out by gas fitters who work on gas installations supplied by AlintaGas.

In short, once a gas fitter has had 12 demerit points recorded against him/her, AlintaGas will give Energy Safety a report identifying all breaches by the gas fitter. Energy Safety's Gas Licensing Committee will, on receipt of the breach report, review the gas fitter's performance and may recommend disciplinary action. This action may be in the form of a warning, refresher training or any other disciplinary action as deemed necessary to address the poor performance of the gas fitter.

Reports to Energy Safety about an errant gas fitter under the demerit points system will generally be handled separately from any Energy Safety prosecution proceedings for breaches of the regulations.

When a gas fitter signs a Notice of Completion and sends it to the gas supplier, he or she is certifying that the gasfitting work carried out complies with the regulations. The responsibility for getting the gasfitting work correct first time rests with the gas fitter - and no one else.

**Unapproved Spa Heater**

Some time ago, Energy Safety advised industry of serious concerns about using a domestic instantaneous gas water heater as a spa heater. Recent inspections by industry gas inspectors has shown that this practice is continuing.

This practice is contrary to the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999* and, apart from the safety implications of installing and using a domestic water heater as a spa heater, there are also two serious breaches that are evident:

1. The instantaneous water heater has been modified without the approval of an inspector - Regulation 20(4).
2. The instantaneous water heater has been installed for a purpose other than that for which it was approved - Clause 501.

Energy Safety's Gas Inspection Branch treats seriously any such breaches of the regulations. Not only may a gas fitter be prosecuted for carrying out such work, the gas fitter may also be asked to explain the actions to Energy Safety's Gas Licensing Committee. Disciplinary action may ensue.

Gas fitters are reminded that only gas appliances approved as a spa heater (AGA approved) may be installed for use. Instances of unapproved spa heater installations should be reported to the gas supplier or Energy Safety.

Note: The Australian Gas Association (AGA) publishes a list of approved spa heaters. A copy of this list is available by telephoning Gas Inspection Branch on 9422 5297.



## Notices of Completion

Over the past year, Energy Safety has taken action by way of prosecution or disciplinary action against gas fitters who failed to submit a Notice of Completion to the gas supplier or, in the case of a mobile installation, to Energy Safety.

We take very seriously, a gas fitter not providing this documentation to the gas supplier and customer. This is viewed as a deliberate attempt by the gas fitter to avoid having the gasfitting work inspected for compliance with the regulations.

It is the gas fitter's responsibility under regulation 28 of the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999* to provide the Notice of Completion within 48 hours of completion of the gasfitting work. This includes attaching an approved compliance label in an approved place, usually inside the gas meter box for natural gas installations or on the regulator hood for LP Gas installations.

Notices of Completion must be provided for new work, additions or extensions. Gas fitters who fail to comply with this regulation will in most cases be dealt with by way of prosecution.

## Gas Fitter Causes a "Near Miss"

Recent investigation by Western Power's Installations Inspectors revealed that a gas fitter had replaced an upright stove with another.

Sounds about right? Well, not quite!! The old stove the gas fitter replaced was electric. When he disconnected/cut the cable supplying the stove, he did not adequately insulate the disconnected conductors.

So why has this matter been raised?

In the first instance, the gas fitter did not have an electrical worker's licence allowing him to carry out

such work.

And secondly, some time after the installation of the gas stove and directly as a result of the incorrect and dangerous manner in which the electric cable was left, a short/flashover occurred. Fortunately the flashover did not cause any injuries or result in a fire.

Such unskilled and illegal interference is potentially lethal and therefore taken very seriously by Energy Safety. The message here is obvious! Persons must not carry out any gasfitting or electrical work unless they possess the licence and have the knowledge and skills to do so.

## Bayonet Points in Bedrooms

What constitutes a bedroom when it comes to installing a gas bayonet point for a flueless gas space heater?

Some gas fitters are confused about this. There are instances where a bed is located in a room other than a normal bedroom. When installing a bayonet point for a gas appliance connection, especially a flueless space heater, the gas fitter must be reasonably satisfied that the room will not be used for sleeping purposes.

The definition of a bedroom can be found in Clause 1.4.15 of AS 5601 - 2000, which states:

### 1.4.15 Bedroom

A room used or intended to be used for sleeping.

If you require further advice or clarification of this or any other regulation, please contact the gas supplier.



## Disciplinary Action Taken by the Director of Energy Safety

From 1 June 2002 to 31 August 2002

The Director of Energy Safety dealt with four gas fitters from 1 June 2002 to 31 August 2002.

The performance of one gas fitter was subject to a formal enquiry:

**Mr Edward Fyfe**  
(GF 005115)

### Grounds for the Inquiry:

Mr Fyfe did not disconnect a gas meter or purge the gasfitting line before soldering a leak in the pipe work at a domestic residence in Kalgoorlie. Consequently, an explosion occurred and the gas meter was destroyed. Mr Fyfe did

not report the incident. He instead reported that the meter was missing/stolen.

### The Director of Energy Safety's Order:

Mr Fyfe's permit was suspended for one month from 25 August 2002.

## PROSECUTIONS FOR BREACHES OF THE GAS STANDARDS ACT 1972 AND GAS STANDARDS (GASFITTING AND CONSUMER GAS INSTALLATIONS) REGULATIONS 1999 1 June 2002 to 31 August 2002

Breach	Name (and suburb of residence at time of offence)	Licence No.	Fine \$	Costs \$
Carried out gasfitting work without holding the appropriate licence classification Section 13A(2) GSA	Mathew Thomas (Thornlie)	GF 006774	300.00	277.70
Carried out gasfitting work not completed to a trade finish Regulation 18(1)(B) GSR	James Hudson (Wangara)	GF 007692	600.00	317.70
Failed to ensure work not carried out in accordance with manufacturer's instructions Regulation 20(1)(b) GSR Did not seek approval of the Director to modify an appliance Regulation 20(4)(a) GSR 2 offences - Failed to submit a Notice of Completion as required Regulations 27 & 28 GSR	Ian Patterson (Dianella)	GF 004829	500.00	307.70
Failed to ensure work was to a trade finish Regulation 18.2(b) GSR Did not install high-level ventilation Cl. 504 GSR Sched. 6 Used a prohibited fitting Cl. 3.2.3 AG 601 Installed a water heater in an inaccessible position Cl. 5.3.3 AG 601 Did not fit gas regulator Cl. 5.7.1 AG 601	Michael Moshopoulos (Waterford)	GF 000531	1,000.00	277.70
Installed a water heater too close to eaves Regulation 20(1) GSR Failed to submit a Preliminary Notice to gas supplier Regulation 27 GSR Did not attach a badge or label to an installation Regulation 28(2) GSR Failed to submit a Notice of Completion to gas supplier 2 offences - Regulation 28(3a)(b) GSR Used a prohibited fitting Cl. 3.2.3 AG 601	Raymond Hindes (Safety Bay)	GF 002524	1,500.00	357.70
Did not rectify gasfitting work within 7 days of receiving a Notice of Defects Regulation 30 GSR	Jacobus Van Der Kooij (Redcliffe)	GF 001110	400.00	232.70

GSA Gas Standards Act 1972

GSR Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999

AG 601 Australian Standard AS 5601-2000 AG 601-2000 Gas Installations

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