

Energy

BULLETIN

Office of **ENERGY WA**

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Energy Bulletin

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New Gas Standards Regulations

Dear Reader

The Office of Energy is pleased to provide you with this Special Edition of the Energy Bulletin.

Its purpose is to inform you about the new regulations covering gas fitting on consumers' gas installations. The regulations come into force on 1 May 1999.

The review of the old *Gas Standards Regulations 1983* has been a major project for the Office of Energy and has now resulted in completely new regulations.

This Bulletin provides an outline of the changes and overall content of the regulations. It also details a series of information sessions in Perth and regional centres, aimed specifically at gas fitters.

I hope you can attend one of the sessions.



ALBERT KOENIG
DIRECTOR OF ENERGY SAFETY

New Gas Regulations

The *Gas Standards Regulations 1983* are expected to be replaced on 1 May 1999 by the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting & Consumers' Gas Installations) Regulations 1999* and the *Gas Standards (Natural Gas) Regulations 1999*.

The Natural Gas Regulations have deliberately been separated out as separate regulations.

The regulations of interest to gas fitters, the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting & Consumers' Gas Installations) Regulations 1999* (the new regulations) are now specifically focused upon issues which relate to gasfitting and gas fitters.

They have been thoroughly updated to:

- call up relevant national industry standards (primarily Australian Gas Association Gas Installation Code, AG601-1998);
- provide more clarity and certainty for gas fitters and other industry stakeholders;
- better define the roles and responsibilities of industry participants; and
- identify classes of gasfitting which reflect the needs of industry and the relevant areas of activity, i.e. general (domestic/commercial), industrial and high pressure, automotive and vehicle refuelling.

The new regulations have been developed by the Office of Energy, in full consultation with industry players, including gas suppliers, industry associations, major users and gas fitters (through Energy Bulletins and presentations throughout the State).

The Office of Energy feels that what has now been achieved is regulations which are:

- in plain English;
- easier to read;
- focussed on industry's needs;
- suitably flexible

and which:

- clearly identify roles and responsibilities of industry participants;
- enable appropriate industry outcomes (for example, with Type B appliances); and
- call up industry standards.

Significant changes affecting gas fitters include:

- Notices of Completion replace Notices of Compliance. Note that the old Notices will still be valid for a reasonable period (see "Preliminary and Compliance Notices" on page 3).
- Gas suppliers must not commence gas supply until they receive a Notice of Completion (special arrangements may be made subject to the supplier's approved Inspection Plan).
- Users of Type B gas appliances must not use newly installed gas fired plant until an inspector has certificated it as acceptable.
- Reporting of gas related incidents and accidents is now mandatory.
- At time of re-issue (renewal), gas fitters' permits will be issued according to competence in a particular area of work in one or more of the following Classes:

Class G	All gasfitting work except gasfitting work classed as Class I, E or P.
Class I	Gasfitting work – a) on a consumer's gas installation associated with a Type B appliance; or b) on piping that has an operating pressure of more than 200 kPa, not being gasfitting work referred to in paragraph (a) or classified as Class E or P.
Class E	Gasfitting work associated with a mobile engine.
Class P	Gasfitting work on a gas installation associated with the storage and dispensing of gas for the refuelling of a motor vehicle as defined in section 5 of the <i>Road Traffic Act 1974</i> .

- Provision has been made for gas fitters to be able to appeal Notices of Defects issued by inspectors.
- The term mobile engines has been defined to include portable engines where the fuel supply is attached to the engine carrier.

Technical Standards for Consumers' Installations

In relation to technical standards for consumers' installations, industry codes and standards are now directly called up as current editions. They are:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| • Gas Installation Code | AG 601—1998 |
| • Code for industrial and commercial gas-fired appliances | AS 3814—1998/AG 501—1998 |
| • Storage and handling of LP Gas | AS/NZS 1596:1997 |
| • LP Gas fuel systems for vehicle engines | AS/NZS 1425:1999 |
| • Natural gas fuel systems for vehicle engines | AS 2739—1992 |
| • Code of Practice for NGV Refuelling Stations | AG 901—1996 |
| • SAA Gas Pipeline Code | AS 1697—1981 |
| • Pipelines – Gas and liquid petroleum
Part 1: Design and construction | AS 2885.1—1997 |
| • Pipelines – Gas and liquid petroleum
Part 2: Welding | AS 2885.2—1995 |

Also, the requirements for gas pipework have been specified as:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| • Up to 200 kPa pressure | AG 601—1998 |
| • Greater than 200 kPa pressure | AS 4041—1992 |

Preliminary and Compliance Notices

Gas fitters have a responsibility to comply with the *Gas Standards Act 1972* and its regulations and to submit notices in accordance with the regulations. Only Notices approved for use by the Director of Energy Safety are valid for use.

The most important of the Notices is the copy given to the gas supplier or the Office of Energy to confirm compliance.

The new Notices will be available for use by gas fitters in May 1999.

Under the new regulations, the Notice of Compliance will now be a **NOTICE OF COMPLETION**.

The **Notice of Completion** will still include a statement of compliance, together with a declaration that the gas fitter is currently registered to carry out the work. Gas fitters who are unsure of their status should refer to their Permit, Authorization or Certificate of Competency, making sure (where applicable):

- it hasn't expired;
- their registered address is correct; and
- they are registered for the class/es of gasfitting they are doing.

If you are unsure of your present status, contact the Office of Energy Licensing Office. You should also do this directly (in writing) if

you change your address; sending in a new address on a **Notice of Completion** does not satisfy this obligation.

Labels/Plates/Badges/Stickers

Labels, plates, badges and stickers and their use have also been reviewed. In the past, separate labels and plates have been available for fixed installations (domestic, commercial, industrial) and mobile installations (automotive, caravan, campervan and marine craft).

New labels in the front of the books of **Notices of Completion** are for general use, e.g. fixed installation, mobile installation (caravan, campervans, marine craft). Mobile engines will require a different label, which is produced as a metal plate.

These new labels and plates will meet the requirements of the new *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumers' Gas Installations) Regulations 1999*. The new automotive plate will also meet the requirements of the new AS/NZS 1425—1999. Those companies that produce their own plates will need to seek the approval of the Chief Gas Inspector - Office of Energy, if they wish to continue this practice.

Duly Completed Notices

These Notices and labels are required by regulation and therefore when completed, must be complete and accurate. To make a false statement or deliberately give false information may be considered an offence for which appropriate action may be taken.

Use of Old Books of Preliminary Notices/ Notices of Compliance

If you have a book of Notices with an issue date of June 1997 (refer to top left hand corner of Notice), the Director of Energy Safety has determined that these notices will be acceptable as **Notices of Completion** until sufficient new books become available. Notices with a date prior to June 1997 are not acceptable and must be discarded.

Gas Fitter Licensing Administration

With the introduction of the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer's Gas Installations) Regulations 1999*, the Gas Licensing System will change.

A new licensing structure has been implemented to licence gas fitters in a more meaningful way. This has been done with the gas fitter, community and industry in mind. It will also be a much easier system for the Licensing Office at the Office of Energy to administer.

This has been achieved through simplifying the class types and changing the way that authorizations will apply for large industrial sites. Also, Certificates of Competency will no longer be issued, although the existing ones continue to have effect.

The New Gas Licensing System

The new gas licensing system consists of four class types G, I, E & P (see earlier table for a description of these class types). These class types will replace the A, B, C, D, E & F classes used in the current system.

This means that permits will no longer be issued using the ABCDEF method of licensing. Existing permit holders will be transferred to the equivalent class type under

the new licensing system at time of renewal during the next 12 months. Class G operatives will be issued with a plastic permit that is similar in size to a credit card or driver's licence. Other operatives will continue to receive an A4 sized permit on paper.

Persons applying for a gasfitting permit for the first time will be issued with a plastic card or document.

However, the conditions for existing Certificate of Competency holders have not changed. Holders can continue to hold their certificate as it is currently endorsed.

Interim Competency Requirements for Class I Gasfitting

The regulations require an applicant for a gasfitting licence to satisfy the Director that he/she:

- a) has adequate theoretical and practical knowledge and adequate skills, to carry out the gasfitting;
- b) has an adequate knowledge of the Act and regulations; and
- c) is otherwise a fit and proper person to carry out the gasfitting.

In relation to Class I, the normal gasfitting activities can be generally identified as:

- Installing a Type B gas appliance of a given size (eg. 1GJ, 5GJ, 20GJ). Appropriate differentiations in size are given in AS 3814/AG 501.
- Installing part of a Type B installation (gas carrying component, field device, flue, burner management etc).
- Commissioning of a Type B gas appliance or part of a Type B installation.
- Modifying a Type B gas appliance or part of an installation.
- Installing pipe work above 200 kPa operating pressure.

As the currently available accredited training courses (Gas 1, Gas 2 and Gas Servicing) do not realistically address industrial gasfitting, the Office of Energy issues the following guidance to gas fitters who need to apply under the new regime (when their current permit expires) for Class I endorsement.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate adequate theoretical and practical skills and knowledge. As there is generally no specific course of training currently available, this will normally be based upon previous experience.

This experience must be fully documented and include:

- *locations of installations worked on;*
- *nature of work (installation, servicing, fault finding, general assembly);*
- *range or specific size (MJ rating) of appliance(s) worked on;*
- *relevant Notices of Compliance/Completion;*
- *endorsement by employer(s) and/or Office of Energy designated Type B inspector of ability to perform the gasfitting task(s).*

At this stage (until there is adequate formal training available), Class I permits will generally be issued with conditions and/or restrictions and may well carry endorsements which limit a gas fitter's activities e.g. to work on certain appliances (boilers, furnaces etc) or to give Notices of Completion to obtain gas supply.

The Office of Energy is working with industry to develop the necessary training and accreditation mechanisms and will report on progress through Energy Bulletins, industry associations and training providers.

Guidelines for Locations for Fixing Compliance Badges and Labels

Regulation 28(2) requires that a gas fitter, on completion of his/her work (i.e. work that the gas fitter has been contracted to carry out or check), must fix an approved badge or label in an approved position relevant to the installation. This guideline is provided to assist gas fitters to comply with this requirement.

For the purposes of this guideline:

- Nominated locations may be considered as approved places.
- Approved means approved by the Director of Energy Safety of the Office of Energy.

Only badges and labels identified as being approved are to be used.

The labels supplied in the Notices of Completion books and metal badges supplied at an extra cost by the Office of Energy may be used and should be fixed in locations indicated in this guide.

Only approved automotive badges and labels may be used for automotive installations.

Nominated Locations

Fixed Installations—Domestic, Commercial and Small Industrial Installations

Where a metal gas meter box (either master or sub meter) is in use, fix the label inside the meter box (this can be a master or sub-meter box). It must be possible to read the label when the meter is installed.

Where there is an LP Gas exchange cylinder location fitted with a hood, fix the label under the hood so that the information can be seen when standing in front of the hood.

Where a metal gas meter box or exchange cylinder hood **is not** fitted, the badge or label shall be made weather proof and fixed to:

- a) the meter outlet pipe, adjacent to the meter; or
- b) the pigtail pipe (LP Gas installations); or
- c) the building structure in a clearly visible position adjacent to the gas meter or cylinder/s.

The method of fixing to the pipe work shall be a non-corrosive material e.g. cable tie.

Note: Do not stick a badge or label to a gas meter, cylinder or pipe work.

Fixed Installations—Large Industrial (where a meter set is installed)

A badge or label must be fixed to industrial gasfitting work on a type B appliance:

- a) at a location authorized by the approving inspector; or
- b) on the appliance the work is associated with at a point where gas is supplied to the appliance; or
- c) alongside the appliance data plate or inspector's certification badge.

For pipework, a badge or label shall be attached:

- a) at a location authorised by the approving inspector; or
- b) at the start of the new pipe work closest to the gas supply point.

OFFICE OF ENERGY (WA)			
Gas Standards Act 1972 Compliance Label			
Details of Work:			
Name	Appliance	Appliance's	
Additional	Installation of Appliance	Appliance Conversion	
	Conversion	Other	
Installation Details: (Address or other identification / License Number)			
Installation Date	Number of Completion Number	Type of Gas	Operating Pressure (kPa)
I confirm that this gasfitting work complies with the Gas Standards Act 1972 and its regulations.			
Engineer Gas Fitter's Name	Gas Fitter's Number		

Compliance Label (paper or metal)

Automotive /Mobile Engines

Only approved metal badges or labels (plates) are to be used.

The plate shall be securely attached to the vehicle bodywork in the engine bay in a clearly visible location.

Where there is no engine bay, the plate shall be securely attached to the mobile engine assembly in a clearly visible location.

Caravans/Campervans/Marine Craft

Where a stick-on compliance label is used, it shall be located in a position so that all of the information on the label can be clearly seen.

The label shall be located:

- a) adjacent to the main access door of the caravan/campervan/marine craft; or
- b) in a cylinder compartment adjacent to the cylinder.

Where a compliance label is to be fixed externally, a metal label must be used, in a position where it can be clearly seen:

- a) adjacent to the cylinder; or
- b) secured to the gas pipework adjacent to the cylinder regulator. The method of fixing to the pipe work shall be a non-corrosive material e.g. cable tie.

OFFICE OF ENERGY (WA)	
Gas Standards Act 1972 Compliance Plate	
THE AUTO GAS INSTALLATION TO WHICH THIS LABEL IS APPLIED COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF AUSTRALIAN/NEW ZEALAND STANDARDS ASSESS 1488	
REGULATOR DATE	GAS TYPE LP Gas
NOTICE OF COMPLETION NUMBER	
INSTALLED BY:	
NAME	EMPLOYER'S BUSINESS
WORKSHEET NUMBER	
VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER (VRC)	
CUSTOMER REFERENCE NUMBER	
CUSTOMER NEXT VISITATION STAMP DATE	
TCE 02/01/03	

Automotive (metal only)

How will the new licensing system affect existing permit holders?

Persons that hold a current permit endorsed with any combination of classes ABCDE or F will be issued with a new gasfitting permit with the equivalent status. This will be done during the next 12 months at time of renewal. The most common transition types are shown below:

Existing Class	New Class	Conditions Required to be Endorsed on Permit
ABCD	G	None
AC	G	Installing NG and LPG
BD	G	Servicing NG and LPG
EF	E	None
E	E	Installing LPG only
F	F	Servicing LPG only
EFCD	E	None
EF (Forklifts Only)	E	Forklifts Only

The above is for typical cases only. It is not an exhaustive list of permit holders that require transition to the new licensing system. Persons with a single class for A,B,C or D will also be accommodated under the new system e.g. Class A will translate to Class G with a condition that says restricted to installing NG (Natural Gas) only.

When completing Notices, gas fitters should continue to quote the class of gasfitting on their current permits, until they receive a new permit stating the new class.

Will the cost of permits and authorizations be increased?

Yes. The fees will be:

- Permits: \$16
- Authorizations: \$200

Permit fees are expected to be increased in steps over the next four years to reflect full cost recovery for the licensing services provided. The same principle is applied to electrical licences.

Certificate holders will not be affected as they currently pay no fees, but this will be reviewed in the future when the *Gas Standards Act 1972* is overhauled.

It is regretted that licence fees have to increase but they are unrealistically low and bear no relationship to costs of administration and services. The fees have not been increased for a long time.

The Office of Energy is of the view, based on industry comment over the years, that most occupational licence holders value the

electrical/gas licensing regime and recognise it needs to be appropriately funded if it is to be maintained.

Can certificate of competency holders obtain a permit with the equivalent class types?

Yes. However, you will be required to hand in your certificate. There will be no charge for that in year one but normal fees apply after that.

Can my certificate of competency have the new classes added to it?

No. If you wish to have recognition for training that you have recently and successfully completed, you will have to apply for a separate permit.

For example, if you currently hold a certificate for classes AC and you wish to add servicing, you will need to apply for the new relevant permit. This means you will hold:

- a certificate for classes AC; and
- the new permit for class G endorsed servicing NG & LPG only.

Information Rollout Program

A number of free information presentations about the new regulations will be conducted throughout the State for gas fitters and interested parties. The presentations will give an outline of the new regulations including:

- the industry codes and standards with which consumers' gas installations and gasfitting must comply;
- the compliance requirements for gas installations, before the commencement of gas supply;
- the type of work that certain persons are authorized to carry out and, where relevant, the need for supervision;
- safety and technical compliance issues.

The information presentations will be held as follows:

Albany	Tuesday 01 June
Bunbury	Wednesday 02 June
Geraldton	Wednesday 09 June
Kalgoorlie	Tuesday 15 June
Perth (City West)	Thursday 17 June
Joondalup	Tuesday 22 June
Mandurah	Thursday 24 June
Midland	Wednesday 30 June
Perth (City West)	Wednesday 07 July
Karratha	Monday 12 July
Port Hedland	Tuesday 13 July
Broome	Thursday 15 July
Margaret River	Thursday 22 July
Kununurra	Wednesday 28 July

You are invited to attend one of these presentations introducing the new regulations. Please refer to the details in the brochure

enclosed with this edition of the Bulletin and respond by mail if you wish to attend.

Where can you obtain copies of the new regulations?

From 1 May 1999, copies of the regulations —

- *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumers' Gas Installations) Regulations 1999*
- *Gas Standards (Natural Gas) Regulations 1999*

will be available for purchase from:

- State Law Publisher, Ground Floor, 10 William Street, Perth WA 6000. (Postal Address: PO Box 8448, Perth Business Centre WA 6849) - Telephone: 9426 0010 or;
- Licensing Office, Office of Energy, 20 Southport Street, West Leederville WA 6007,

The regulations may also be accessed via the internet at <http://www.slp.wa.gov.au>.

The information in this Bulletin is no substitute for the actual regulations. It is recommended that gas fitters obtain a set plus a copy of the Australian Gas Association code, AG 601—1998 as well as any other Standards/Codes relevant to their work (e.g. industrial gas appliances).

Copies of the regulations and relevant AGA Codes/Standards may be purchased at the Licensing Office. These documents will also be available for order at the presentations.

Alternative formats of the Energy Bulletin may be available to meet the needs of people with disabilities

To make a booking to attend one of the Information Presentations:

- complete and return the self-addressed slip in the attached information; or
- telephone 1 300 360 289.

Information provided by the Office of Energy is available on the Office's website at www.energy.wa.gov.au