



Office of **Energy**

Office of **ENERGY WA**

Gas FOCUS

Decorative Gas Log Fires

Last (heater) season, the industry experienced a number of faulty gas log fire installations.

In some instances the installation of gas log fires had taken place without due regard to the requirements of Regulation 604 of the *Gas Standards Regulations 1983*.

Here are some important points to be aware of:

1. If the chimney of an existing fire place is being used to flue the new gas log fire, ensure that the chimney has been swept clear of soot and debris from previous solid fuel fires.
2. The chimney must be sealed and in good condition otherwise the gas log fire will not draw.
3. The top of the chimney must exit above the roof and not inside the ceiling. The top of the chimney must be sealed and have the correct sized flue cowl fitted.
4. Ensure that there is permanent ventilation of at least 40,000 mm² in the room where the gas log fire is installed.

Approval conditions require manufacturers of gas appliances to include adequate installation and operating instructions with each appliance being offered for sale. These instructions are found in the packing box. It appears to be common practice to ignore these instructions until a difficulty arises. Usually it may be too late to correct and the installation is left faulty.

The old adage: If in doubt, ask! If you do not receive a suitable answer from the retailer or local agent, ask the gas suppliers' inspectors if they can help.

Upon completion of installation and before leaving the installation, make sure the gas log

fire is up to it's operating temperature to ensure the correct operation of the flue.

Any spillage back into the room must be corrected otherwise there is a risk of asphyxiation to the occupants of the residence. Such an incident occurred in August 1997.

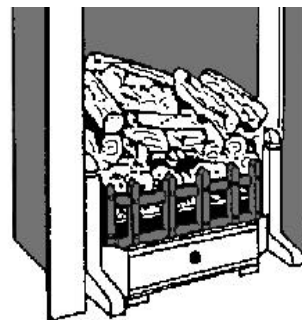
One new log fire released in 1997 had a condensing flue and could be installed with a number of flue configurations. The flue sets are ordered for each installation. Being a condensing flue the flue temperatures are low enough to enable a PVC flue.

The gas fitter experienced difficulty with the installation of the flue as there was no locating spigot on the rear of the heater.

Being a condensing flue a condensate drain must be installed. Again difficulty was experienced on installations where the house had a concrete slab floor.

In another instance, the gas fitter did not allow for this and the condensate from the flue was allowed to seep into the nearby carpet. (The owner of the house then used an icecream container to collect the condensate and set about emptying this container every second day!)

A decorative log fire may be the focus point of any home. Do not detract from this with a poor gas installation.



Autogas - Check the LPG Fuel Container

LPG fuel containers have a test date stamped on them, indicating testing of the container has been carried out and it is safe to fill with LPG.

It is in contravention of AS 2337.2 "LP gas fuel vessels for automotive use" to fill a damaged LPG fuel container or a fuel container with an expired test date.

When servicing a motor vehicle fitted with LPG, it is important that the fuel container is checked for damage and test date. If out of test date, the client should be informed.

A person commits an offence if they fill a damaged or out of test date fuel container. More importantly, they place themselves and others at risk.

Tests are valid for ten years. For example, if the test date is marked 1/92 or 01 T 1992 then the container may be filled (if undamaged) as required until 1 February 2002. After this date, the container will require to be retested by a Standards of Australia Approved LPG Cylinder Test Station. If the container passes the testing procedure, it will be restamped for a further ten years of service.

Always check the test date. Safeguard not only your customers but your industry.



Are You About to Move?

Holders of certificates of competencies, permits or authorisations and employers of persons who carry out gasfitting work have an obligation to notify the Office of Energy of changes of address pursuant to Regulations 16, 17 and 18 of the *Gas Standards Regulations 1983*.

Late in 1997, during the course of following up a complaint, Gas Inspectors visited a plumbing company seeking information to assist with their enquiries. The Inspectors were required to view the company's register of gas fitters. The company did not have a register and claimed ignorance of the Regulations.

This highlighted two important points.

1. The company did not maintain a register of employees. Any person who employs another person for the purpose of gasfitting is required by Regulation 18 of *the Gas Standards Regulations 1983* to maintain a register. The register must contain the following details of each employee:
 - name and address;
 - type of authorisation held eg. certificate of competency, permit or authorisation;
 - gas fitter's number.
2. The company did not notify a previous change of address. Important regulatory information is routinely circulated in our Energy Bulletins. If the Bulletin had been received, and, if the responsible persons had actually read the Bulletins, they would have been quite aware of these requirements.

On a different but related matter, we often receive complaints from gas fitters relating to matters which may have previously been addressed in articles in the Energy Bulletin. Either the Energy Bulletin is not received or it is not read.

We know that businesses are inundated with sales literature and the like and most of it is thrown in the bin. We have no control over this, however to see the number of envelopes marked "unknown at this address" or "return to sender" is very disappointing.

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We understand there are circumstances where gas fitters may be deceased. Usually a polite reply is received and that person is removed from the mailing list.

If you are about to move, please notify the new address details to Office of Energy. Or, if one of your colleagues is about to move, please check that he or she is aware of the requirement and importance of notifying the change of address.

Energy Bulletins and other information that is received "return to sender" will result in the person being dropped from the mailing list. This also means licence renewals cannot be sent and a person may no longer be able to do gasfitting work.

Copies of the Gas Standards Regulations 1983 are available from the Office of Energy, telephone 08 9422 5282 or facsimile 08 9422 5222. Cost is \$10.00 per copy, including postage.

Do you Employ Gas Fitters?

As detailed in the previous article, any person who employs another person for the purpose of gasfitting is required by Regulation 18 of the *Gas Standards Regulations 1983* to maintain a register. The register must contain the following details of each employee:

- name and address;
- type of authorisation held eg. certificate of competency, permit or authorisation;
- gas fitter's number.

The penalty for non compliance is up to \$2 000.00.

A sample register is shown below.

Sample register

Blackrock Plumbers and Gas Fitters Est. 1979						
Gas Fitters Register						
Date Started	Name	Residential Address	Licence Number	Class/es	Type of Authorisation	Date Finished
7 Jan 84	John Green	96 Lamrock Rd East Perth 6004	GF 000560	ABCD	Certificate	
5 May 85	Natt Smith	10 Avona Circle Ellenbrook 6078	GF 006348	AB	Permit	
9 Aug 87	Ryan Moss	Lot 7 Weighlan Rd Maida Vale 6019	GF 005153	ABCDE	Permit	2 Jun 89
4 Sep 93	Ian Reynolds	156 Cullis Rd Rivervale 6107	GF 008391	AC	Permit	

AG 501 Published as an Australian Standard

AG 501 has been updated and published as an Australian Standard, AS 3814-1998/AG 501-1998 "Code for industrial and commercial gas-fired appliances". It is a valuable technical document.

The Standard is one of a number expected to be referenced in the revised *Gas Standards Regulations 1983* (see article on the first page).

Copies of the new Standard are available from the Office of Energy, telephone 08 9422 5255, facsimile 08 9422 5222.

Have You Submitted Notices for a Mobile Installation?

It is a requirement of Regulation 21 of the *Gas Standards Regulations 1983* that a gas fitter submits a Notice of Compliance (NOC) within 48 hours of completing gasfitting work. Gasfitting work includes work on mobile installations such as automotive, caravan and marine craft installations.

It is an offence not to submit NOCs.

Where the gas supplier cannot be identified, the gas supplier's copy must be sent to the Office of Energy. Where the owner of the

installation cannot be identified, the owner's copy can be given to the person on whose request the gas fitting work was performed.

Exemptions do not apply just because the gas supplier or owner of the installation cannot be identified.

Gas fitters risk prosecution.

Gas suppliers require NOCs to be submitted before the release of gas. If a NOC is not submitted for gasfitting work that has been carried out, the person responsible commits an offence.

PROSECUTIONS FOR BREACHES OF THE GAS STANDARDS ACT (1972) AND GAS STANDARDS REGULATIONS (1983) 1 November 1997 to 31 January 1998

<i>Breach</i>	<i>Name (and Suburb/Town of Residence at Time of Offence)</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Fine \$</i>	<i>Costs \$</i>
<i>Carried out gas fitting work without certificate of competency, permit or authorisation Section 13A</i>	<i>M Healy (Kallaroo)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>300.00</i>	<i>210.00</i>
	<i>L Naumcesvski (Westminster)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>200.00</i>	<i>189.00</i>
<i>Failed to complete and issue Notice of Compliance within 48 hours of completing gas fitting work Regulation 21(1)</i>	<i>S Loughhead (Marangaroo)</i>	<i>GF 003933</i>	<i>200.00</i>	<i>102.50</i>
<i>Failed to pressure test an installation to ensure the system was gas-tight Regulation 26(1)(a)</i>	<i>R Wilkerson (Byford)</i>	<i>GF 000830</i>	<i>150.00</i>	<i>82.50</i>
<i>Failed to install an appliance in a safe and workmanlike manner and failed to have full regard to manufacturer's installation instructions Regulation 27</i>	<i>R Wilkerson (Byford)</i>	<i>GF 000830</i>	<i>150.00</i>	<i>82.50</i>
	<i>S Loughhead (Marangaroo)</i>	<i>GF 003933</i>	<i>200.00</i>	<i>102.50</i>

NLH No Licence Held

Contact Telephone Numbers for Gas Suppliers' Gas Inspectors

GAS SUPPLIER	INSPECTOR	TELEPHONE No.
ALINTAGAS		
5 deLaeter Way Technology Park BENTLEY WA	James Staig	(08) 9470 8503
	David Brown	(08) 9470 8501
	Hugh Coyle	(08) 9470 8502
	Michael Newbold	(08) 9470 8506
7 Harvey Street VICTORIA PARK	Roy Carpenter	(08) 9486 2712
	John Alexander	(08) 9486 2772
	Roger Costa	(08) 9486 2768
ALBANY BUNBURY GERALDTON KALGOORLIE	Rod Connell	(08) 9841 0829
	Gary Deeble	(08) 9791 4679
	Graham Horwood	(08) 9964 5231
	Gordon Clemo	(08) 9021 6621
BOC GASES		
590 Hay Street SUBIACO (08) 9273 6700	Len Herdman	
	Stewart Muirhead	
	Eric Murphy	
	Keith Nicolson	
	Geoff Simons	
BORAL GASES		
Blast Furnace Road KWINANA (08) 9410 2688	Peter Coles	
	Dale Finn	
	Thomas Sika	
	Michael Vanderkolk	
ALBANY KALGOORLIE	Don Jones	(08) 9841 2414
	Tom Cole	(08) 9021 4185
KLEENHEAT GAS		
276 Leach Highway MYAREE (08) 9333 0333	Rod Jones	
	Ian Allison	
	Rob Anthony	
	Bill Feutrill	
	Adrian Jennings	
	Tony Smith	
	Ian Storrar	
	Robert Warmington	
ALBANY KARRATHA NORTHAM NARROGIN	Peter Cooksey	(08) 9841 4203
	Bruce Green	(08) 9144 2491
	William Hyde	(08) 9622 2495
	Peter McKenna	(08) 9881 1411