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Office of **Energy**

Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999 Amendment No. 2

Amendments to the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999* have been drafted and are being approved for gazettal. Industry was previously advised that the amendments (which include updating the regulations to recognise the latest version of AG 601) were expected to be published during October 2000. However, the task took longer than expected. A number of issues that were raised during drafting have been incorporated into the draft amendment. The amendments are expected to be gazetted in late December 2000.

Requirements for LPG Installations

Firm Base Required for Cylinders

A firm and level base is required to be provided for housing LPG cylinders. It is the gas fitter's responsibility to ensure this requirement of the regulations is met. A Notice of Defect may be



LPG cylinders correctly mounted on a firm base

issued to the gas fitter for non-compliance.

A delivery driver will not deliver cylinders onto a site if there is not an appropriate base provided to support the cylinders. This may include provisions to keep the cylinders clear of the ground.

**Office of
Energy WA**

Pressure Test Points

Gas supplier inspection audits have found that some gas fitters are either not fitting a pressure test point on a gas regulator or are not setting the correct operating pressure.

A pressure test point is required at the outlet of a gas regulator. Some regulator manufacturers are either providing the test point or have provision (1/8th tapping) in the body ready to accept the pressure test point.

Over Pressure Protection (OPP)

Gas fitters need to be aware of changes that have taken place recently with the design of gas regulators for LPG installations. The older type of single-stage regulator has been superseded by what is called in the trade a “twin-stage” regulator. The twin stage regulator is fitted with over pressure protection (OPP) to meet the requirements of the regulations.

Regulators fitted with OPP are identified as having a larger size vent cast into the bonnet. It is imperative that the vent faces downwards to prevent the ingress of dust and rain. Although some regulators have vented caps, it is essential to ensure that the regulator is installed under a protective cover. Always follow the manufacturer’s installation instructions provided with the regulator.

Mine Site Inspection Audits

The Office of Energy’s Gas Inspection Branch actively carries out audit inspections of gas installations in country areas. These “audits” are mainly to check the safety and compliance of older installations, as new installations are subject to inspection by the gas supplier.

This year, about 60 mine site gas installations, commercial

kitchens and accommodation facilities have been audited. These inspections have highlighted a number of safety concerns, which have resulted in Inspectors’ Orders being issued to some of the mine site operators for rectification work.

Examples of the types of defects encountered include:

- industrial gas appliances that have not been approved for use
- poorly serviced and maintained gas installations
- no over-pressure protection system fitted
- incorrect venting and fitting of regulators
- corroded and inadequate identification of gasfitting lines
- damaged gasfitting lines, fittings and components.

The response and cooperation of mine managers to the audits has been very positive. In the majority of cases, rectification work has been carried out almost immediately. The rectification work generally needs to be carried out by a person with an ‘I’ Class gas licence and experience in Type B appliance work.

It is envisaged that within six months, every “older” mine site gas installation in WA will have been audited.



View of twin stage regulator fitted with a pressure test point and protected by a weather shield

Grease Filters Trap Grease and Gas Fitters

Several instances have recently occurred where gas fitters have installed commercial catering equipment and not taken into account the distance to grease filters from the cooking surface (the cooking surface is defined as where cooking normally takes place eg. trivet height).

Clause 5.12.4.4 of AG 601 – 1998 states:

5.12.4.4 Clearances to a grease filter – *The clearance between a grease filter and the cooking surface of the appliances listed in Table 5.3 shall not be less than that given in that table.*

**TABLE 5.3
CLEARANCES TO
GREASE FILTERS**

Appliance	Minimum clearance mm
Solid grill plate, deep fryer (top of pan)	600
Open flame appliance (i.e. hotplate burner)	1050
Chinese cooking table, griddle, barbecue, char grill or open top flare grill	1350

NOTES:

1. The clearances detailed in Table 5.3 may be reduced where an exhaust system over the appliance has fire extinguishing provisions which satisfy the Local Health Authority.
2. For other commercial catering equipment, refer to the manufacturer’s instructions.



Pictured in front of Tradelink’s One Stop Gas Shop are, from left to right, David Hartley Gas Regulatory Officer, Office of Energy with Tradelink’s Kyla Gunnis Marketing & Retail Sales Manager and John Quinn General Manger WA

This Clause also applies when exchanging or installing appliances into an existing installation. Previous regulations (GSR 1983) only required a distance of one metre vertically between the uppermost burner of the appliance and combustible material. However, Clause 5.12.4.4 of AG 601 - 1998 refers specifically to clearances to a grease filter. What may have complied previously will not necessarily meet current standards.

Be aware - don’t be trapped.

Tradelink One Stop Gas Shop

AlintaGas Approved Installers can now access a wide range of information about the gas industry thanks to the new “One Stop Gas Shop” stands set up at each of the 19 Tradelink stores throughout the State.

The Tradelink stands also have faxing facilities available so that Approved Installers can easily fax Completion Notices to AlintaGas.

The Office of Energy has arranged for copies of Energy Bulletins to be made available from the Tradelink stands. Gas fitters who are unable to access Bulletins from our website may obtain copies from one of the stands.

The stands contain information and products, including:

- Gas spare parts catalogues
- Gas spare parts
- Copies of AS 5601 - AG 601
- Completion Notices
- Copies of Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999
- Gas conversion stickers
- Office of Energy compliance labels
- Natural gas stickers
- Mains pressure kits
- Gas hoses and several other gas products
- Monthly seasonal specials
- Energy Bulletins

**PROSECUTIONS FOR BREACHES OF THE GAS STANDARDS ACT 1972
AND GAS STANDARDS (GASFITTING AND CONSUMER GAS
INSTALLATIONS) REGULATIONS 1999**

1 July 2000 to 31 October 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>Carried out gasfitting work without a certificate of competency, permit or authorisation Section 13A GSA</i>	<i>S Pantell (Connolly)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>500.00</i>	<i>187.70</i>
	<i>J Priddy (Fremantle)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>750.00</i>	<i>193.85</i>
	<i>M Wallace (Innaloo)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>500.00</i>	<i>187.70</i>
	<i>S Wiggin¹ (Geraldton)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>750.00</i>	<i>253.85</i>
<i>Failed to ensure that gasfitting work on the whole or part of a gas installation was done in a safe manner Regulation 18(a) GSR</i>	<i>P Reid (Bullcreek)</i>	<i>GF 003160</i>	<i>250.00</i>	<i>351.70</i>
<i>Used (as a source for pressure testing) a medium other than prescribed Regulation 26(2)</i>	<i>J Wicks (Waikiki)</i>	<i>GF 009707</i>	<i>700.00</i>	<i>237.70</i>
<i>Interfered with gas service apparatus without authorisation Regulation 37</i>	<i>J Priddy (Fremantle)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>750.00</i>	<i>193.85</i>
	<i>S Wiggin¹ (Geraldton)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>750.00</i>	<i>253.85</i>

NLH No Licence Held

¹ S Wiggin was convicted in absence at an ex parte hearing.
S Wiggin failed to enter a plea and failed to attend court
(convicted under section 136AA of Justices Act)