

# gas focus

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## Appointment of independent Type A gas appliance inspectors

Energy Safety recently launched a new independent scheme for certifying Type A (Domestic and Commercial) Gas Appliances in Western Australia.

The scheme was developed to replace the “second tier” certification service previously provided by Alinta. (Alinta has ceased providing a Type A appliance certification service and supports this new inspection regime.)

“Second tier” certification means an appliance is tested against a checklist which is based upon the relevant clauses of the appropriate Approval Requirements of the Australian Gas Association.

The certification scheme will cover the following category of Type A gas appliances:

- individual appliances imported by their owners;
- individual appliances imported by a manufacturer or agent for evaluation;
- custom-built or rarely manufactured appliances; and
- individual appliances for which market potential is to be ascertained.

The Director of Energy Safety invited expressions of interest for the roles of Inspector (Gas) Type A Certification in The West Australian newspaper on 12 July 2003. After assessment by examination and interview, the Director designated five inspectors to certify new Type A appliances. These inspectors will be providing second tier certifications that does not replace the Australian Gas Association (AGA) approval system recognised by the Director.

Details of the newly designated Type A inspectors are available on Energy Safety’s website.

Further information about this scheme may be directed to Energy Safety’s Gas Inspection Branch by telephoning 9422 5297.

Type A appliances approved under the Australian Gas Association’s General Approval scheme will continue to be recognised by the Director of Energy Safety.

## Expressions of interest – Type B Gas appliance inspectors for regional WA

The Director of Energy Safety is inviting expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced people who are based in regional areas and who wish to be designated as a Type B gas appliance inspector.



The Director of Energy Safety designates Type B gas appliance inspectors as independent certifiers of industrial gas fired equipment for use in Western Australia.

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# Energy Safety



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Of particular interest to the Director are people experienced in small industrial Type B appliances (up to 5Gj/Hr gas consumption) who are interested in providing a certification service to their own local country area.

Interested people should contact Jillian Reynolds, Principal Engineer Gas Installations & Appliances by telephoning 08 9422 5287 to initially discuss or to arrange for the submission of an application.

### Illegal use of Notices

While passing through a country town, an Energy Safety Inspector noticed a recently completed gas installation that did not have a compliance badge or label fitted.

Enquiries at the local Shire Offices revealed the name of the person responsible for this work. Upon questioning this person, it was established that he did not hold a West Australian gasfitting permit and one of his mates had submitted a Completion Notice to obtain the gas cylinders.

The work that this person had undertaken was in breach of the *Gas Standards Act 1972* and its regulations. This matter was dealt with in the courts recently and the unregistered gas fitter was prosecuted.

Gas fitters must not condone illegal gasfitting work by providing Notices for the use of unregistered gas fitters. They may themselves be prosecuted.

### Gas market reforms pass through Parliament

Energy Minister Eric Ripper announced on 25 September 2003 that the Government's reform package to deliver consumer choice in the gas

market had passed through State Parliament.

The reform means that Western Australia's 430,000 householders and small business gas users would soon be able to choose their own gas supplier.

"The legislation effectively ends the AlintaGas monopoly and will introduce more competition into the gas market in May next year," Mr Ripper said.

The Minister said the reform was part of the Government's plan to create a stronger economy with more jobs and opportunities.

"The privatisation of AlintaGas by the previous Government simply transferred a public monopoly into private hands with a captive market," he said.

"The deregulation of the gas retail market, however, puts power into the hands of the consumers, who can take their business where they get the best service and value for money.

"It's the Government's view that competition will put downward pressure on prices, maximise efficiency and improve service delivery" Mr Ripper said.

### Gas related incidents associated with underground gas services

Energy Safety is becoming increasingly concerned about gas related safety incidents caused in many cases by a lack of knowledge and understanding of the location of gas services in the ground and the precautions to be taken when working in close proximity to a gas service.

The main area of concern rests with plumbers using oxy acetylene equipment to carry out repairs or alterations to underground water services in the vicinity of gas services.

The gas service is usually run in yellow PVC/PE or, in some installations, in black polyethylene identified with yellow striping.

In one recent incident, a plumber carrying out repairs to a water service inadvertently set the gas service on fire. In this instance, the plumber was fortunate in that he received only superficial burns. The outcome could have been much worse.

Energy Safety is discussing this problem with relevant organisations and associations.

Gas fitters who become aware of trades persons working in the vicinity of gas services should either provide some guidance about safe work practices and assistance, or report the matter to the relevant gas supplier.

It is important that plumbers and other trades persons take all reasonable care to establish the location of nearby services, especially the gas service.

If they are in any doubt, they should contact the gas supplier for advice and/or assistance.

### Protect your good reputation

Consumers often complain to their gas supplier and/or to Energy Safety concerning the installation or performance of a newly purchased gas appliance. In some cases, the problem has arisen because the appliance has not been set up correctly (commissioned).

It is in these situations that unregistered gasfitting work can be discovered. Furthermore, the manufacturer's service agent may refuse to warrant any repairs necessary on an appliance – rightly so if the work is non-compliant.

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Gas fitters who become aware of non-compliant work should report the matter to the gas supplier or to Energy Safety. Those persons carrying out this type of work are invariably undermining licensed gas fitters and giving the industry a bad reputation.

It is up to gas fitters to protect their industry and consumers.

**Compliance badges**

Since 1 August 2003, it has been compulsory to attach the new compliance badges (see inset) to completed gasfitting work. These badges replaced the paper badges previously supplied with the Notice of Completion books.

Gas fitters must fit one of these badges to completed work. Ideally, the badge should be fitted in the gas meter box (in the case of natural gas installations) or under the hood or adjacent to the regulator (for LP Gas installations).



*New Compliance badge for gasfitting work*

The new badges can be attached using the adhesive backing. The badges are also provided with two holes so they can be attached using cable ties.

If using the self-adhesive backing, the badge should be attached on a clean surface.

The new badges are available from selected retail outlets throughout the State. The recommended retail price is \$2.80 plus GST. A list of retail outlets is on the back page of this Gas Focus.

**Disciplinary action taken by the Director of Energy Safety**

**1 May 2003 to 31 July 2003**

The Director of Energy Safety dealt with one gas fitter during this period.

The operative was the subject of a formal Inquiry.

**T Elari (GF 001692)**

Mr Elari used a prohibited medium (propane gas) for pressure testing a natural gas installation or for locating a leak in the consumer's gas installation. He also failed to attach an approved badge or label on a gas installation that he had completed and did not install the hot water system in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Mr Elari's Certificate of Competency was suspended immediately for a three-month period.

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## Stockists of Compliance Badges

The new metal compliance badges (see previous article in this edition of Gas Focus) may be purchased from the following retail outlets:

### Metropolitan Area

#### BALCATTA

Tradelink: 6 Bensten Pl

#### BASSEDEAN

Galvins: 121 Broadway

#### BELMONT

Reece: 44 Fairbrother St  
Tradelink: 94 Belgravia St

#### CANNINGTON

Reece: 24 William St

#### CLAREMONT

Reece: Unit3/251 Stirling Hwy

#### FREMANTLE

Reece: 229 Hampton Road

#### HAMILTON HILL

Tradelink: 1 Emplacement Cr

#### JOONDALUP

Reece: 3 Winton Rd  
Tradelink: Unit 3/15 Franklin Lane

#### KELMSCOTT

Galvins: 2 Brant Rd

#### KENWICK

Tradelink: Lot 2 Austin Ave

#### MIDVALE

Reece: 8 Elliot St  
Tradelink: 11 Farrall Rd

#### MORLEY

Reece: 30 Rudloc Rd  
Tradelink: 12 Boag Pl

#### MYAREE

Reece: 100 Norma Rd  
Tradelink: 62 Norma Rd

#### NEDLANDS

Galvins: 33 Carrington St

#### OSBORNE PARK

Galvins: 3-5 Sundercombe St  
Reece: Lot 62 O'Malley St  
Tradelink: 76 Hector St

#### PERTH

Galvins: 246 Pier St  
Reece: 199-203 Stirling St

#### ROCKINGHAM

Reece: 30 Compton Rd  
Tradelink: 79 Dixon Rd

#### SPEARWOOD

Galvins: 17 Quarimor

#### WANNEROO

Galvins: 55 Buckingham Dr

#### WILLETTON

Galvins: 12 Augusta St

### Non-Metropolitan Areas

#### ALBANY

Reece: 29 Prior St  
Tradelink: 137 Lockyer Ave

#### BROOME

18 Clementson St

#### BUNBURY

Reece: Unit 9/100 Strickland St  
Tradelink: Cnr Albert & Mervyn St

#### BUSSELTON

Galvins: 44 Cook St  
Reece: 11 Barlee St  
Tradelink: 1 Isaacs St

#### GERALDTON

Reece: 142 Flores Road  
Tradelink: Cnr Fourth St & NW Coast Hwy

#### KALGOORLIE

Reece: Forrest St  
Tradelink: 150 Boulder St

#### KARRATHA

Galvins: Lot 33 Mooligunn Rd  
Tradelink: 1010 Coolawanyah Rd

#### MANDURAH

Reece: Lot 52 Park Rd  
Tradelink: 87 Reserve Rd

#### PORT HEDLAND

Galvins: Lot 5844 Harwell Way,  
Wedgefield

Kleenheat Gas has also advised that metal badges will be available from most of their regional gas centres/houses.