

# gas focus

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## Compliance badges

Regulation 28(2) of the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999* requires a gas fitter to attach an approved badge (metal) in an approved location relative to the part of that gas installation on which gasfitting work is carried out. This applies to both new installations and extensions to existing installations.

Information on Compliance Badges and approved locations is available inside the cover of books of Preliminary Notices/Notices of Completion.

Gas suppliers' Inspectors are reporting that some badges installed by gas fitters are difficult to read. If information inscribed on the badge is not legible

or is incorrect, an Inspector may issue a Notice of Defect.

The Compliance Badge is made of aluminium and can be inscribed using a hard-ball ballpoint pen.

Energy Safety WA		
Gas Standards Act 1972 - Compliance Badge		
Gasfitting Work: New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional <input type="checkbox"/>	ROC Number: 777708	Installation Date: 23/7/2004
Installation Details: (Address or if Mobile Installation, Identification/Licence No) 20 Southport St. W. Leederville		
I confirm that the gasfitting work complies with the Gas Standards Act 1972 and its regulations. Registered Gas Fitter's Name: A Gasfitter		Gas Fitter No: 000114
Special Conditions: (Details of Exemption / Variation) Exemption No: VIE 04/11		

A Compliance badge correctly filled in

## Common areas of non-compliance in LP Gas installations

LP Gas suppliers have been carrying out rigorous inspections of gas installations and are discovering many instances of non-compliance.

The most common areas of non-compliance are:

- Not fitting gas isolation valves to the inlets of gas water heaters.
- Not adequately pressure testing completed gas installations.
- Not providing adequate permanent ventilation vents for unflued space heaters.
- Not fixing metal compliance badges to completed gas installations.

Gas fitters carrying out work on LP Gas installations should ensure the above areas are correctly addressed.

LP Gas gasfitting work must only be carried out by a gas fitter who holds the appropriate permit or certificate of competency. Closer scrutiny is being applied to these registration requirements. If unregistered gas fitters are found to have carried out gasfitting work, action will be taken which may end up in a prosecution.

Some gas fitters have already been found and prosecuted. Don't be next.

# Energy Safety



## Master Plumber's & Gasfitter's Awards for Excellence

Energy Safety is a proud supporter of the Master Plumber's & Gasfitter's Awards for Excellence. The 2004 awards were held at the Sheraton Hotel, Perth, and attracted a record number of attendees to acknowledge industry participants and especially plumbing and gasfitting apprentices.

The winner of the apprentice Gasfitting Award 2004 was Sean Richardson.

The occasion was marked by a new award presented by the Gas Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA). Dr John Bromly was awarded the inaugural Meritorious Award in recognition of his long and dedicated and distinguished service to the gas industry.

## Australian Standard AS 5601 amended

Standards Australia has released AS 5601-2004: *Gas Installations* superseding AS 5601-2002 (AG 601-2002).

This Standard sets out requirements for consumer piping, flueing, ventilation and appliance installations associated with the use or intended use of fuel gases such as town gas, natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas in the vapour phase, tempered liquefied petroleum gas, simulated natural gas or any similar substance.

This new edition incorporates:

- new approved materials with details on their application and limitations;
- changes to requirements for specific appliance installations;
- changes to fan assisted flue terminals; and
- changes to definitions.

AS 5601-2004 is available in printed form [A5 book] and CD format.



*Pictured with Sean Richardson, winner of the Gasfitting Award 2004 (on the right) are, from the left, Ross Baker of Vinidex and Jillian Reynolds of Energy Safety*

Gas fitters are reminded of their obligation to comply with the regulations and relevant codes and standards.

Energy Safety intends to call up the latest edition of the Standard in the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999*, with a 6-month transition period until AS 5601-2004 becomes mandatory. This "call up" action is expected to take place by mid 2005.

## Energy Safety is NOT "Office of Energy"

Technical and safety regulator "Energy Safety" was transferred from the Office of Energy to the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection on 1 July 2002.

However, some licence holders are still mistakenly telephoning the Office of Energy for answers to electrical or gas licensing/standards/inspection enquiries. Staff at the Office of Energy are unable to assist with these types of calls.

On a related issue, some gas fitters are still incorrectly mailing Notices of Completion to the Office of Energy (this could be due in part to the fact that their old stock of Notices still have Office of Energy printed on them).

Electrical and gas operatives are reminded that if they are required to submit Notices to Energy Safety, then they need to be sent to:

Energy Safety  
20 Southport Street  
West Leederville WA 6007

and NOT to the Office of Energy.

Enquiries to Energy Safety should be directed to:

For licensing matters:

Telephone: 9422 5282  
Fax: 9422 5222

For general matters:

Telephone: 9422 5200  
Fax: 9422 5244

For enquiries about electricity or gas supply matters:

Contact the relevant network operator

**Electricity Notices of Completion** should be directed to the relevant network operator (unless the network operator is not known, in which case the Notices should be delivered to Energy Safety)

**Gas Notices of Completion** should be directed to the relevant network operator (except for Notices related to mobile installations or where the network operator is not known, in which case the Notices should be delivered to Energy Safety)

**Email contact** with Energy Safety should be directed to:

For licensing matters:  
energylicensing@docep.wa.gov.au

For general matters:  
energysafety@docep.wa.gov.au

All other contact details for Energy Safety are available from Energy Safety's website.

## Product safety alert – retaining brackets on stoves

Electrolux Home Products Pty Ltd is conducting a safety awareness campaign in relation to a range of Simpson gas and electric upright stoves manufactured between 1992 and 2000 and Westinghouse gas and electric stoves manufactured between 1983 and 2000. The purpose of the safety campaign is to make owners aware that restraining brackets must be fitted and the stove pushed back so that they are engaged. Additionally, Electrolux has advised that, on request, a warning label will be provided to remind users that excessive loads should not be placed on the open oven door or that children should not be allowed to climb onto the stove.

Excessive movement of the stove or climbing onto an open oven door may create a potentially dangerous situation.

Upright stoves must be installed in accordance with manufacturers' instructions including the fitting of retaining brackets or other devices or methods as supplied or specified.

If you as an installer are aware of stoves incorrectly installed, you should encourage users to have the installation rectified. You are also required to note the defective installation in Section 8 of the Notice of Completion.



*The product safety alert that has been appearing in recent press*

If you are in a dwelling for other reasons, take a few moments to discuss the issue with the owner. If the brackets are lost, new ones can be obtained at no charge by telephoning Electrolux at 1800 063 009.

Other brands or models of stoves use a variety of anti-tipping methods, but the same principles apply as above.

## Consumer piping in the ground

A gas supplier's inspector recently issued a Notice of Defect to a gas fitter for installing UPVC gas consumer piping under the ground of an underground car park located under a building. The piping was designed to operate in excess of 7 kPa.

The installation did not meet the requirements of Clause 4.11.19 of AS 5601– 2002 *Gas installations* which requires consumer piping installed in the ground beneath a building to be copper tube with brazed joints.

The consumer's piping had to be replaced with copper tube at considerable additional cost.

Where consumer piping is intended to be operated at a pressure exceeding 7 kPa, or 140 kPa for LP Gas, it is in the interest of the gas fitter to obtain approval from the gas supplier as to the piping location, material and operating pressure, by submitting plans and specifications to the gas supplier. The plans should be submitted well in advance of commencing work on the installation.

## Gas service pipe fires

There have been a number of incidents over the last few years where plumbers have set fire to the gas service when repairing a water service close to a PVC or polyethylene gas service.

In the most recent incident, a plumber used a spade to shield a plastic gas service from the flame of his oxy torch. Unfortunately the steel spade did not provide adequate protection and the plastic gas service melted and caught fire.

Protection of plastic gas service pipes must include the use of appropriate materials of sufficient size to provide effective shielding and insulation of the gas service pipe. This may include the use of a fire blanket.

Gas fitters should note that future incidents of this nature will be referred to WorkSafe to determine if a dangerous work practice has occurred and to take appropriate action under occupational health and safety regulations.

WorkSafe has issued a Significant Incident Summary (SIS) 17/2003 which provides information on the precautions to be taken when working in the proximity of plastic gas pipes. For further details of the SIS 17/2004, please contact WorkSafe Construction, Plant and Primary Industries Branch by telephoning 9327 8800.

## Water in gas mains

An investigation conducted after a gas network operator received a recent “no gas” call revealed that water had entered a gas fitting line downstream of a gas meter. This blocked the flow of gas to the gas appliances in the home.

Further investigations revealed that the network operator had received some 54 “no gas” calls from the same area.

It was later discovered that a copper water pipe in contact with the gas fitting line had eroded the gas fitting line and water pipe (caused by the pipes rubbing against each other as they expanded and contracted). The resultant rush of water had filled the gas pipe, overcoming the pressure in the gas service and flowing into the gas main in the street.

This situation should not have happened.

The regulations require gasfitting lines to be separated from other services.

For pipes installed above the ground, this may be achieved by

providing adequate support (eg clipping) of the pipe in accordance with Clause 4.3 of AS 5601 – 2002.

For pipes installed below ground, especially in a common trench, Clause 4.11 of AS 5601 – 2002 requires the use of approved bedding materials, separation distances and depths. Clauses 4.11.7 and 4.11.8 state the requirements for separation and crossovers:

- For gas pipes with a diameter not exceeding 65 DN, a clearance of 100 mm is required from other services.
- For gas pipes with a diameter exceeding 65 DN, a clearance of 300 mm is required from other services.

Where existing installations do not meet these requirements, especially where gas and water pipes are touching, the gas supplier must be informed by notification in Section 8 of the Notice of Completion. Every effort needs to be made to separate or wrap the pipes to prevent corrosion occurring.

## Commencement of the State Administrative Tribunal

The newly formed State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) commenced on 1 January 2005.

The SAT is a one-stop tribunal system that either replaces, or assumes some of the functions of, nearly 50 industry and public sector boards and tribunals.

The SAT will assume some of the disciplinary functions of the Electrical Licensing Board regarding electrical workers and contractors, and the Director of Energy Safety in relation to gas fitters.

Matters that may result in loss or suspension of licences of electrical contractors, electricians, restricted electrical workers, gas fitters and holders of an authorisation will in future be dealt with by the SAT.

The Electrical Licensing Board and Director of Energy Safety (per the Gas Licensing Committee) will continue to deal with lesser disciplinary matters that will not result in a loss of licence. These are referred to as “summary discipline” matters.

### Prosecutions for breaches of Legislation 1 October 2004 to 31 December 2004

<b>Breach</b>	<b>Name (and suburb of residence at time of offence)</b>	<b>Licence No.</b>	<b>Fine (\$)</b>	<b>Court Costs (\$)</b>
<p><i>Carried out unauthorised gasfitting work Section 13A(2) of GSA</i></p> <p><i>Gave false and misleading information in regards to his gas licence status to his employer and Alinta, Section 20(3) of ECA</i></p> <p><i>Represented himself as an authorised gas fitter when he was not authorised and falsified documentation (Notices of Completion), knowing that he was not an authorised gas fitter Regulation 38(1) of GS(GCGI)R</i></p>	<p><i>Keith Child (Mindarie)</i></p>	<p><i>Permit was expired at time of offence</i></p>	<p>500.00</p>	<p>288.45</p>
<p><i>Carried out unauthorised gasfitting work Section 13A(2) of GSA</i></p>	<p><i>Clinton Koulouvi (North Perth)</i></p>	<p>GF 004498</p>	<p>1,500.00</p>	<p>444.00</p>
<p><i>Carried out an activity which resulted in damage to a live gas main Regulation 21(1)(B) of GS(GSSS)R</i></p>	<p><i>Allan Walton (Maddington)</i></p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>300.00</p>	<p>328.45</p>

Legend:

ECA	Energy Coordination Act 1994	GS(GSSS)R	Gas Standards (Gas Supply and System Safety) Regulations 2000
GSA	Gas Standards Act 1972	NA	Not applicable (no licence held)
GS(GCGI)R	Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999		

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