

energy

Bulletin

ISSN 1323-8957

• In this issue...

• Power pole audit reveals problems	1
• Western Power's Distribution System Wood Pole Management – Audit Findings	2
• Western Power fined for shoddy and unsafe work	3
Electrical Focus	4
• Retro-Fitting RCDs New Regulations come into Force on 9 August 2009	4
• Electrical Licensing Board concerned about forum shopping for a licence	5
• Submitting "Notices"	5
• Reporting electrical accidents and shocks	6
• Inclusion of EC Number in Advertisements	6
• Electrical Safety Certificates (Certificates of Compliance)	6
• Prosecutions for breaches of electricity legislation 1 February 2009 – 31 March 2009	7
Gas Focus	8
• Changes to Gas Fitter Training	8
• Class G gasfitting	8
• Training to obtain a Class G permit	8
• Restricted Class G Permits	8
• Overseas Gas Fitters	8
• Gas Fitting Qualifications Prior to 2008	8
• Training Providers	8
• Non Genuine Ball Valves	9
• Autogas Installations	9
• Have your say	10
• Road Safety Promotion in Bunbury	10
• Industrial Gas Training	11
• Fighting Fires	11
• Kwinana Power Station Visit	11
• Gas Appliance Servicing Information Sessions for Gas Fitters	12
• Prosecutions for breaches of gas legislation 30 January 2009 to 30 April 2009	12

Power pole audit reveals problems

An EnergySafety audit review in 2008 found serious deficiencies in Western Power's management of its 620,000 wood poles. The report was released on 10 June 2009.

EnergySafety had launched an earlier 2006 audit because of concerns about the unacceptably high number of unassisted pole failures in Western Power's electricity distribution network.

The 2008 audit review was conducted to assess corrective actions taken by Western Power during the ensuing two years. Some improvements that had been made are:

- Un-assisted pole failures had dropped from 350 in 1999-2000 to 134 in 2007-2008, but this number remained far too high and compared poorly with Australian best practice.
- Encouraging improvements had been made in pole structural design standards and extending service life by installing steel reinforcing stakes, but the audit identified a need for further improvement in these areas.

The 2008 audit revealed gaps in design, procurement and pole replacement management. It also demonstrated that the accuracy and relevance of Western Power's pole data were not sufficient to support proper management of the wood pole network.

In particular, EnergySafety was not satisfied with Western Power's progress in addressing three critical safety issues identified in the 2006 audit:

1. There were serious deficiencies in pole inspection practices and the ability to compare pole strength with actual loads.
2. Many installed poles are far too old and no longer have the necessary strength, particularly in rural areas. Old, high-risk, unsupported jarrah poles in rural areas need to be identified and replaced urgently.
3. Western Power should be replacing some 15,000 poles a year. It was not clear how many replacements were actually occurring at the time of the audit because reliable data were not available, but the figure has been as low as 2,000-3,000 per year.

EnergySafety will take immediate enforcement action to require Western Power to remedy the three critical safety issues, which will include regular reviews of actual progress made with each.

Further details appear in the next article. The audit report can be viewed and downloaded at www.energysafety.wa.gov.au.



KEN BOWRON
DIRECTOR OF ENERGY SAFETY

EnergySafety



Government of Western Australia
Department of Commerce

EnergySafety
303 Sevenoaks Street
Cannington
Western Australia 6107

Telephone: (08) 9422 5200
Fax: (08) 9422 5244
Email: energysafety@commerce.wa.gov.au
Internet: www.energysafety.wa.gov.au

Western Power's Distribution System Wood Pole Management – Audit Findings

Concerns about the number of wood poles failing structurally in Western Power's distribution system prompted EnergySafety in 2005/06 to undertake an assessment of the degree to which Western Power's wood pole management systems comply with the *Electricity (Supply Standards and Systems Safety) Regulations 2001* and applicable Australian electricity industry standards. The report was issued to Western Power in November 2006.

EnergySafety monitored Western Power's responses to the issues identified, resolved to conduct a 2008 Audit Review and decided to make public the ensuing report [www.energysafety.wa.gov.au].

2008 Audit Review – Unsatisfactory Progress

Matters of concern, identified in the 2006 Audit, had not progressed and needed specific attention to achieve acceptable wood pole safety performance were as follows:

1. The "good wood" serviceability criteria was an inadequate guide to pole strength.
2. Pole and stay procurement was not based on current technical specifications and the supply chain lacked adequate audits and inspection of the components supplied.

3. Pole replacements were not at levels sufficient to deliver acceptable long-term wood pole safety.
4. Continuous review to improve wood pole management, from design through to network performance, was not in place.
5. The accuracy and relevance of current data was not sufficient to provide the information needed to manage the wood pole and other network assets.
6. The historical changes in permitted design strengths, coupled with continued use of poles well beyond their useful services life, lead to the risk of under-strength poles remaining in service, particularly in rural networks,
7. The risks of failures in reinforced poles had not been addressed and were imperfectly understood.

The audit revealed a lack of diligence and rigour in the investigation and analysis of matters related to wood pole safety.

Three critical issues had not been effectively addressed over the previous 24 months:

1. Effective management of the sound-dig-and-drill pole inspection activities in the field and the adoption of clear serviceability criteria to ensure unserviceable poles were identified.

2. A pole replacement plan, to achieve around 15,000 poles a year.
3. Replacement of high risk, unsupported poles in the rural distribution network.

Best Practice

Other Australian network operators were achieving much better wood pole safety performance with a sound-dig-and-drill inspection practice using rigorous factor of safety serviceability criteria and diligent below-ground inspection. EnergySafety believed the greatest improvement in this element of Western Power's wood pole management would be achieved by adopting the best Australian pole inspection practices and serviceability criteria.

Improvements

Unassisted pole failures had decreased from over 350 in 1999-2000 to 134 in 2007-08. While this improvement in part may reflect data cleansing in the previous 12 months, some will also be the consequence of increased attention to wood pole management. While the reduction was encouraging, the results remained poor compared with leading Australian practice.

Western Power had adopted "Poles'n'Wires" software to consolidate its distribution design process, which already used other well-proven electrical design software and systems.

Continued over page

© Department of Commerce 2009
ISSN 1323-8957

The Energy Bulletin is published by EnergySafety, a Division of the Department of Commerce. It is distributed free of charge to licensed electrical contractors, in-house electrical installers, electrical inspectors, gas certificate holders, gas authorisation holders, gas permit holders and gas inspectors.

The Energy Bulletin may be downloaded free of charge from EnergySafety's website.

Articles in this publication may be reproduced, provided they are reproduced in full and show acknowledgement to EnergySafety.

Alternative formats of this publication may be available to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

For enquiries:

Editor: Candace Beilby

Phone: 08 9422 5208

Fax: 08 9422 5244

Email: candace.beilby@commerce.wa.gov.au

Internet: www.energysafety.wa.gov.au

Continued from previous page

Western Power's decision to use treated radiata and marine pine poles will enhance the future safety performance of its networks.

A contract to provide an integrated pole base reinforcement service had substantially addressed EnergySafety's concerns in 2005-06 with Western Power's pole base reinforcement activities.

Outsourcing the pole ground line inspection field activity had lifted the pole inspection rates to appropriate levels. This change was eliminating the backlog of poles not inspected to the four-year cycle.

Enforcement Action

EnergySafety will be taking enforcement action to require Western Power to improve its wood pole asset management systems and work practices to achieve an acceptable safety outcome.



Western Power fined for shoddy and unsafe work

In April 2007 a Western Power contractor, Tenix Alliance Pty Ltd, replaced a low/high voltage intermediate pole in Gossage Road, Oldbury. The contractor installed the low voltage distribution system with the blue phase and neutral conductors crossed over either side of the new pole. As a consequence the blue phase and neutral conductors clashed causing a short circuit. This short circuit caused the voltage between the neutral conductor and the other two phases (red and white) to rise causing severe damage to customers' equipment connected to Western Power's low voltage distribution system.

This action by Western Power's contractor indicates that no suitable testing or commissioning was carried out, by either the contractor or Western Power, prior to the distribution system being placed back in service following the pole replacement.

A simple visual inspection would have easily detected the faulty work and inadequate phase to neutral clearances.

Following investigation Western Power was prosecuted by EnergySafety for a breach of Regulation 10 of the *Electricity (Supply Standards and System Safety) Regulations 2001*.

Western Power pleaded guilty to the breach of the regulations and was convicted and fined \$12,000 with costs of \$571 in May 2009 at the Rockingham Magistrates Court.

In convicting Western Power the Magistrate took into account the early guilty plea and remedial action taken by Western Power since the incident.

electrical

focus

Retro-Fitting RCDs New Regulations come into Force on 9 August 2009

The Electricity Act Amendment Regulations (No. 3) 2007 were published in the Gazette on 8 May 2009. The amended Regulations provide for a three-month notice period and will come into force on 9 August 2009.

The new Regulations require owners to fit at least two RCDs before residential and other premises are sold. Landlords must have at least two RCDs installed before a new tenant takes up residence and, in any case, by not later than 9 August 2011.

The new Regulations mainly will affect premises constructed before 2001, when it became compulsory to fit at least two RCDs in all newly constructed dwellings. Contractors attending such premises may take the opportunity to draw their client's attention to the requirement and to suggest they install the RCDs, even if they have no immediate intention to sell or re-let.

A letter from the Director of Energy Safety explaining the importance of RCDs is enclosed as an insert with this edition of Energy Bulletin. Electrical Contractors may hand this to their clients where appropriate.

Further information on the new regulations is available at www.energysafety.wa.gov.au.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Commerce**
Energy Safety

Enquiries: Electrical Inspection
Telephone: 9422 5261

To the Householder or Premises Owner

Dear Sir or Madam

RCDs (Safety Switches)

I write to draw your attention to the importance of installing RCDs (also known as safety switches) in your home, rental property or business. I am very keen to see every Western Australian home and business equipped with these vital safety devices.

You will be familiar with the usual circuit breakers and fuses in your switchboard. They protect against overloading and short circuits. They will not protect you against electrocution.

The amount of current needed to kill you is far too little to cause a fuse to blow or a circuit breaker to operate.

The only device able to protect you from electrocution is an RCD.

To protect your home or business you need:

- circuit breakers or fuses to interrupt the current flow if you connect too many appliances to a circuit or a short circuit occurs; and
- at least two RCDs to prevent electrocution. You need two to avoid sudden total darkness in your home or business if an RCD operates.

RCDs also protect against fires which can start from small leakages of current from wires with damaged or perished insulation.

Any licensed electrical contractor can supply and fit the RCDs in the main switchboard of your house or business. They will be happy to give you a no-obligation price quotation.

These devices save lives and prevent fires. They are a must in any home or business.

Yours sincerely

Ken Bowron
Director of Energy Safety

April 2009

Electrical Licensing Board concerned about forum shopping for a licence

Recently the Electrical Licensing Board became aware that persons were “shopping” for licences around Australia. The purpose of “shopping” around was to find a state regulator who would issue an Electrician’s Licence after they attended a short bridging course. These persons then applied for a WA Electricians Licence under the Mutual Recognition Act. Under this Act the WA Electrical Licensing Board is obliged to issue an unrestricted Electrician’s Licence.

In most such cases, the applicant is from overseas and presents initially with an Australian Recognised Trade Certificate issued by Trade Recognition Australia stating they are qualified as an electrical fitter only. Clearly such applicants will not have the required twelve months practical installing

experience required to gain a full WA licence.

The Electrical Licensing Board is not satisfied that such licence holders will have the level of competence required for a WA Electrician’s Licence. Accordingly, in all such cases the Board will require the licence holder to undertake a competency assessment. If the person fails the assessment, his or her licence will be suspended forthwith and remain suspended until adequate competency can be demonstrated. Usually this will require gaining the required twelve months of on-the-job experience and successfully completing the Electrical Trades Licensing (ETL) Course at a Registered Training Organisation.

The recommended approach for such applicants is to complete the 80-hour ETL Course at a Registered Training Organisation. The Licensing Office will then issue the applicant a three-year Electrical Worker’s Permit. This allows the applicant to perform electrical fitting work unsupervised and should enable him or her to accumulate twelve months of appropriate electrical installing experience under supervision on the job, while gaining immediate employment. After completing the experience requirement they will then be required to complete the ETL Course again if they took longer than two years to accumulate the required installing experience.

Kevan McGill
CHAIRMAN
ELECTRICAL LICENSING BOARD

Submitting “Notices”

EnergySafety has been receiving an increasingly large number of Preliminary Notices/Notices of Completion (“Notices”) that should have instead been delivered to one of the network operators.

The following information is provided to help clarify when Notices should be sent to EnergySafety.

It is a requirement of the *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991* that Notices be delivered to the **relevant** network operator.

The relevant network operator, in this context, will, in all but an isolated number of instances, be one of the following:

Network Operator	Area
Western Power	SWIS* – i.e. North to Kalbarri, East to Kalgoorlie and the South West of the State
Horizon Power	Regional towns not connected to SWIS*
Rio Tinto Iron Ore	Dampier, Wickham, Pannawonica, Tom Price, Paraburdoo
BHP Billiton Limited	Leinster
BHP Billiton Limited	Newman

* South West Interconnected System

If the work subject of a Notice is **not** to be connected to the electricity supply of one of the above network operators (such as Rottnest Island, mine sites, road houses or remote homesteads with private generators etc), then the Notice should be delivered to EnergySafety.

Note that in areas supplied by Western Power, Synergy and Alinta Pty Ltd operate as retailers of electricity. Notices **should not** be sent to these or any other retailers.

It is the responsibility of the electrical contractor carrying out the notifiable electrical work and submitting the Notice to identify the **relevant** network operator and deliver the Notice appropriately.

Failure to have Notices delivered to the **relevant** network operator means that the Notices have not been delivered in accordance with the Regulations, which is a breach of Regulations 51 and 52.

Reporting electrical accidents and shocks

An electrical accident is defined in the *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991* as an accident that results from a sudden discharge of electricity or that is likely to be of 'electrical origin' AND causes (or is likely to cause) danger to life, a shock or injury to a person or loss of, or damage to, property.

The Regulations are very clear that immediately after a person becomes aware of an electrical accident occurring, and this includes electric shocks and damage to property, that person must report the occurrence to the relevant network operator, or, where there is no network operator or the network operator cannot be identified, to EnergySafety.

The Regulations also include specific reporting responsibilities for employers and employees.

Most electrical accidents have the potential of resulting in an electrocution (electrical fatality) and must therefore be treated seriously.

Apart from being a regulatory requirement, it is imperative that all electrical accidents are reported so that reoccurrences can be prevented.

There have been instances where electrical contractors and electricians have not reported an electrical accident and prosecutions have ensued. From a regulator's perspective, EnergySafety would much prefer that

the correct reporting procedures be followed, thereby avoiding the need for regulatory action and subsequent financial impost on the offender.

Electric Shock/Accident Report Forms are not available from EnergySafety's website. It is expected that electricians and members of the general public report electrical accidents to the relevant network operator. The report form is then filled in by the network operator's appointed officer investigating the occurrence.

EnergySafety contributes annual electrical accident statistics to national statistics. Electrical accident and fatality statistics for WA are available from EnergySafety's website.

Contact phone numbers to report accidents and shocks:

Network Operator	Phone Contact
BHP Billiton Ltd (Leinster)	0439 974 387
BHP Billiton Ltd (Newman)	9175 3303/0418 372 407
Horizon Power	13 23 51, Select Option 2
Rio Tinto Iron Ore	1800 992 777
Western Power	13 13 51, Select Option 2
EnergySafety	1800 678 198 – All hours (select electricity)

Inclusion of EC Number in Advertisements

Please ensure your EC number is included in all advertisements including, but not limited to, the following:

- Signage, including buildings and vehicles
- Yellow pages advertisements, including print and online
- Websites

Your EC number must be conspicuously displayed.

Electrical Safety Certificates (Certificates of Compliance)

Reminder that when completing electrical installing work, excluding maintenance, an electrical safety certificate needs to be delivered to the person for whom the work was carried out i.e. the owner, within 28 days.

Prosecutions for breaches of electricity legislation 1 February 2009 – 31 March 2009

Name (and suburb of residence at time of offence)	Licence No.	Legislation and Breach	Offence	Date of Offence	Fine (\$)	Court Costs (\$)
Timothy Moncrieff (South Perth)	NLH	E(L)R Regulation 19(1) (One breach)	Carried out electrical work whilst not authorised by licence or permit	Between 01/01/07 and 17/01/07	2,250.00	571.70
Robin Johnson Engineering Pty Ltd (Somerton Park)	EC007793	E(L)R Regulation 33(1) (One breach)	Carried on business as an electrical contractor whilst not authorised by a WA EC licence	Between 01/12/06 and 31/03/07	2,000.00	1,665.56
Deano Serraino (Nollamara)	EW130293	E(L)R Regulation 49(1) (Two (2) breaches)	Carried out substandard electrical work	03/08/07	1,000.00	571.70
Shane Willis (Cable Beach)	EW106649	E(L)R Regulation 49(1) One breach	Carried out substandard electrical work	05/02/07	*	*
G & T Holdings (WA) Pty Ltd T/As Dianella Electrics (Bunbury)	EC000661	E(L)R Regulation 51(1) (One breach)	Failed to submit a Preliminary Notice to the Network Operator	Between 01/03/07 and 31/03/07	1,000.00 *	571.70 *
		E(L)R Regulation 52(1) (One breach)	Failed to submit a Notice of Completion to the Network Operator on completion of the electrical installing work			
Stephen John Parr (Singleton)	EC001142	E(L)R Regulation 52(1) (Six (6) breaches)	Failed to submit a Notice of Completion to the Network Operator on completion of the electrical installing work	Between 01/01/06 and 07/10/07	1,500.00	571.70
Shane Willis Electrical (Cable Beach)	EC005101	E(L)R Regulation 52(3) (One breach)	Submitted a Notice of Completion to the relevant Network Operator when the electrical installing work was not complete	05/02/07	1,000.00 *	571.70 *
Foundas Electrical Service (Innaloo)	EC000883	E(L)R Regulation 52(3) (One breach)	Submitted a Notice of Completion to the relevant Network Operator when the electrical installing work was not complete	03/08/07	1,000.00	571.70

Legend NLH No Licence Held
 E(L)R Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991
 * Global Fine or costs Issued

gas focus

Changes to Gas Fitter Training

Class G gasfitting

In the previous Energy Bulletin under Gas focus an article was raised on the requirement for Plumbing and Gasfitting apprentices to obtain a gasfitting permit to work under supervision while they are completing their training and apprenticeship. The apprentice will need to hold a restricted permit, to work under supervision, for a minimum of two years. This allows the apprentice to obtain the necessary workplace experience required to obtain a permit to work without supervision upon becoming a tradesperson.

At the end of the gasfitting training and apprenticeship, the apprentice will be issued with a **'Training/Assessment Statement Class G Gasfitting Plumbing and Gasfitting Apprentice Final Assessment'** by the training provider. On the document there is provision for the restricted permit number to be inserted. To obtain a permit, the applicant will need to submit the **Training/Assessment Statement**, a trade certificate, Certificate III Plumbing and Gasfitting and pay the application fee at the licensing office.

Training to obtain a Class G permit

The training requirements and qualifications to obtain a Class G permit have changed. From January 2009 the qualifications to obtain a Class G permit is as follows:

- **WA trained Plumber and Gas Fitter tradesperson**

At the conclusion of the apprenticeship, apply to become a Class G gas fitter, restricted to the installation of natural gas and LP Gas.

- **Non WA Plumber and Gas Fitter tradesperson**

The requirements are as follows:

- Certificate III in Gasfitting, plus
- Competency unit 'Plan, size and layout consumer gas installations'; and
- Be assessed as competent in the workplace

EnergySafety does not issue service only permits. To obtain an unrestricted permit, (installation and service), the applicant is required to be qualified for a Class G installation permit and obtain the National Competency unit:

- Service Type A gas appliances

Restricted Class G Permits

A restricted gasfitting permit may be issued to a person who enrolls in training to become a Class G gasfitter and has completed or has been assessed as competent in the following competency units:

- Work effectively in the plumbing and services sector, (incorporating WA Gas Standards Legislation).
- Carry out OH&S requirements, (incorporating Gas Safety, Basic Combustion and Flueing and Exhaust Principles).
- Use plumbing hand and power tools.
- Weld using oxy-acetylene equipment.

Overseas Gas Fitters

A restricted gasfitting permit is issued for one year and can be re-issued, on application, for a second year. A person will need to complete their training and assessments within this two year period.

Gas Fitting Qualifications Prior to 2008

These qualification requirements also apply to overseas immigrant gas fitters and local or interstate gas fitters who do not meet our current licensing requirements.

Gasfitting qualifications recognised by EnergySafety to obtain a Class G permit prior to 2008 may still be acceptable. Contact our licensing office for further information.

Training Providers

Training providers recognised by EnergySafety to deliver training to obtain a Class G Permit are:

- Challenger TAFE Fremantle
Ph 9239 8309
- Swan TAFE Midland
Ph 9374 6355
- Swan TAFE Balga
Ph 9207 4336
- MPA Skills Maylands
Ph 9271 6600

Non Genuine Ball Valves

Under Gas Focus in the previous Energy Bulletin an article was raised in respect to the definition and function of a non genuine ball valve.

The ball valve shown in the article and in the picture (shown right) is a genuine ball valve. You may note that there was a clearly identified brand and size cast into the body of the valve. The data plate attached also included the class of valve, the Australian Gas Association certification number and the operational parameters of the valve.



Autogas Installations

Australian Design Rules (ADRs)

To meet the requirements of the ADRs vehicle certification, Australian Standard AS 1425 Appendix D calls for modified vehicles with gas conversions installed to comply. ADR 79/01 Emission Control for light vehicles, adopts the technical requirements of UN ECE regulation 83/05, which embodies the *Euro 3* and *Euro 4* Standards for light petrol and diesel vehicles.

Suppliers of aftermarket gas installation components have assembled kits that have been 'certified'. A certification process has been developed within the standard that is undertaken in a test facility. All tests on vehicles specified in the standard are conducted in a facility which is either NATA accredited for vehicle emissions testing, or registered with DOTARS under the Road Vehicle Certification Scheme for vehicle emissions testing, or is otherwise accepted by the Authority.

For an options list containing information on automotive LP Gas vehicle retrofit systems having gained a pass result in accordance with Appendix D requirements of

AS/NZS 1425:2007 go to www.lpgautogas.com.au

The responsible Authority in Western Australia for vehicle safety is the Department for Planning and Infrastructure.

Vehicle Testing

A number of gas component suppliers have produced certified under bonnet kits using the accredited testing facilities in the Eastern States. Until recently, Western Australia had only one facility meeting the above criteria, that being "Orbital Corporation Ltd" of Balcatta. The testing was limited to petrol and LP Gas fuelled vehicles up to an engine capacity of 3.0 Litre and a simulated driveability test such as the IM240 test was carried out.

The Orbital Corporation has upgraded their facilities to undertake gas emissions testing to comply with ADR 79/01 to *Euro 4* standards for the larger capacity engines fitted on light vehicles. This facility also undertakes emissions testing of light diesel vehicles fitted with LP Gas enhancement systems.

There is another company in the process of developing a similar

test facility that will ultimately offer IM240 emissions testing. Once approved by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure there will be two companies offering this testing service in Western Australia.

Installers wanting to produce under bonnet kits will be able to have these kits "certified" once the required pass is given by an accredited test facility. It would then be a case of registering the kit with LPG Australia so it can be added to the current "options listing". Should the installer have a one off conversion (i.e. vehicle not listed) the ability to build, install and test will then be achievable here in Western Australia.

Department for Planning and Infrastructure (DPI)

Now that test facilities are coming on line in Western Australia there will be a gradual phasing of the IM240 testing for petrol vehicles or DT 80 testing for diesel vehicles. This will apply to all vehicles with under bonnet engine modifications including modified exhaust systems. Evidence of an IM240 test will be necessary at

Continued over page

Continued from previous page

the time the vehicle is presented for inspection at licensing centres. In the case of gas vehicles (fitted with gas conversions) it may include accompanying certification paperwork which also will be applied to vehicles that are not fitted with a "certified" kit.

DPI is responsible for general vehicle safety and associated standards including the emissions testing in Western Australia. EnergySafety has recently reviewed its involvement in vehicle emissions aspects of LP Gas powered vehicles. This review determined that the emissions should be administered by DPI and DPI has agreed to take on this role.

EnergySafety is responsible for the safety of the autogas installation and compliance of autogas installation to AS 1425 – *LP Gas fuel system for vehicle engines*.

Have your say

Positive feedback from gas fitters is always encouraged from articles written in the Energy Bulletin. On this occasion EnergySafety was

asked to provide further information relating to the last page of the Gas Focus relating to the list of prosecutions.

In the previous edition of the Energy Bulletin the lead article related to the successful prosecution of an unlicensed gas fitter. The unlicensed gas fitter conducted work and quoted another gasfitter's licence number in the Notice of Completion Form. The unlicensed gas fitter left a leak after removing a wall furnace in an installation. Further investigations uncovered similar scams, which lead to fines totalling \$24,000 plus court costs of \$971.70.

The majority of prosecutions mounted by EnergySafety's Gas Inspection Branch relate to the non-submission of notices and not holding a permit or Certificate of Competency to undertake gas fitting work. These are considered serious offences. Those of you that read the Energy Bulletin are keeping abreast of any changes to legislation and matters that are highlighted which are of a concern for all.

Unfortunately not all gas fitters receive the Energy Bulletin. This can occur when people move house and fail to notify EnergySafety's licensing office of their change of address. Certificate of Competency holders, unlike permit holders, do not receive a renewal notice each year.

Energy Bulletins are mailed to licensed gasfitters. Those that are returned and marked "person no longer at this address" are flagged as not current. It is also an offence under Regulation 8 of the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999* not to notify of a change of address.

We can also quote one gas fitter returning to the tools after working in another field as sending in a "Preliminary Notice". How long ago was there a requirement to submit a Preliminary Notice? The notice came from a book dated 1997. After further conversation with the gasfitter we discovered that he moved residence some time ago and had not been receiving the Energy Bulletin. As a result he was not up to date with the relevant requirements.

Road Safety Promotion in Bunbury

EnergySafety Inspectors, Barry Mountfield and Frank Chapman recently participated in a road safety campaign conducted on the weekend prior to the Easter Holidays.

The event is the brainchild of local radio station 621 am Southwest, local Auto traders and Regional Police traffic support branch.

The scheme encourages motorists to have their vehicles inspected for road safety prior to a public holiday weekend.

Autogas fitter, Mark Young and proprietor of City Auto Gas, Bunbury, invited EnergySafety to assist with the safety inspection

of vehicles fitted with auto gas for compliance.

This event took place 4 April 2009 on the Bunbury Foreshore.

Feedback received on the day indicates that the public thought very highly of the safety service being provided and were complimentary in the way that a number of agencies were able to combine their resources.

If you are intending to organise similar events within your local community or trade associations and believe EnergySafety can provide assistance, please forward the relevant information to the Chief Gas Inspector, for consideration.



Industrial Gas Training

EnergySafety gas inspectors, gas supplier representatives and gas industry operatives recently attended an industrial gas training course to improve their skills and knowledge.

National training qualification packages are becoming increasingly important as we move to a national licensing system. EnergySafety is encouraging all local trainers to incorporate in their gasfitter training courses a pathway to a nationally recognised qualification.

The industrial gas training course attended was the National Competency Unit, BCPGS4003A Install, Commission and Service Type B Gas Appliances. The course was run over a period of two months and, while challenging, was rewarding to participants. The training organisation provided flexibility so that participants were able to partake in training interspersed with work.

As the National Training Package is not available locally; an eastern states trainer, Gas Train, agreed to conduct the training in Perth. EnergySafety is currently working with local training organisations to make nationally recognised industrial gasfitting training available in Western Australia in the near future.

It is important for all gasfitters to keep their skills and knowledge up to date and to have an opportunity to obtain nationally recognised qualifications.

Fighting Fires

Spectacular prop fires were demonstrated at a recent test of fire fighting unit trailers at the Forrestfield Training Centre of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (FESA).

The four fire fighting unit trailers are to be used by FESA as a portable training aid for simulating and demonstrating LP Gas (Propane liquid and vapour) fires for the purpose of training fire fighting personnel with extinguishers and the like while using a variety of props throughout WA.



Fire fighter extinguishing flame in airplane prop



LP Gas cylinder manifold fire prop

The trailer package includes: a flame impingement shield, a vehicle fire, a tray and domestic LP Gas cylinder props; an LP Gas supply consisting of two refillable Propane liquid withdrawal cylinders and one refillable Propane vapour withdrawal cylinder secured in a holding frame of welded steel construction; an LP Gas hose reel and a compressed air cylinder providing pressurised air for the pneumatic controls.

When undertaking a demonstration on a site, the prop burners are remotely located from the trailer with the hose lengths permitting fire fighting trainees to safely use fire extinguishers and the like on the burner flame with the operators a safe distance from the burner flame and from the trainees discharging fire extinguishers.

Each of the four prop burners has an LP Gas consumption of 1.5GJ/h. Only one prop burner is used at any one time. When the fire fighting training unit trailer gas installation is in operation, it is permanently manned, monitored, controlled and supervised by a minimum of two trained operators with a third safety officer in attendance as recommended in the Operational Procedures.

On completion of the fire fighting exercise at a site and after either procedure, the LP Gas cylinders are isolated and a purge is conducted of the system using Nitrogen before rewinding the hose.

The trailers were recently tested and certified by the independent designated Type B gas inspector, Martin Ritchie of BMS Gas and Oil Services. The gasfitting work on the trailer was completed by Andy Machura of RCR Energy Services.



Kwinana Power Station Visit

EnergySafety staff visited the new Kwinana Power Station which commenced operation last November. The power station is jointly owned and managed by ERM Power. The power station is designed to meet Western Australia's growing demand in electricity.

The power station is a 320MW combined-cycle, gas-fired power plant, located at the Kwinana Industrial Estate and is the largest single unit in the State capable of

Continued over page

Continued from previous page

delivering approximately 10% of WA's electricity demand. The Gas Turbine Unit is an Alstom G313.

The base-load power station provides low-cost, environmentally friendly electricity to WA, utilising gas from the North-West shelf delivered down the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline. The power station provides the lowest source of additional base-load electricity for the South-West Interconnected System.

Incorporated in the power station's features is a blow-down filtration and recycling system that reduces water consumption by a third. This is a significant saving compared with a conventional plant.

Valued at \$400 million, the project has already brought an estimated \$100million in economic benefits to WA during its construction and more than \$1billion is expected to be brought over the total life of the project.



Gas turbine rotor

Gas Appliance Servicing Information Sessions for Gas Fitters

Regulation 21 of the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999* requires the gas fitter to commission the gas appliances when turning the gas on for the first time. This means as a gas fitter, you have to adjust the appliance for safe and correct operation and more importantly, if the consumer is present, show them how to operate the appliance. Don't forget to also leave the operating instructions for the gas appliance with the consumer.

As part of setting up the appliance remove the foam packaging and plastic covering from inside the oven. One gasfitter, when questioned, said that the gas appliance had been commissioned. On inspection by the consumer packaging was found to be still in the oven. Was this gas appliance commissioned? No it wasn't. It may seem like a tall story but this actually happened.

Stemming from the number of complaints it receives, EnergySafety is aware that there is an increasing

number of gas fitters lacking up-to-date servicing skills. To help alleviate this problem, Inspectors from the Gas Inspection Branch would like to hear from you. Either write to EnergySafety or email at www.energysafety.wa.gov.au

Should there be sufficient interest from gas fitters, EnergySafety will commit to sponsoring or facilitating the formation of regular gas appliance servicing information sessions.

Prosecutions for breaches of gas legislation 30 January 2009 to 30 April 2009

Name (and suburb of residence at time of offence)	Licence No.	Legislation and Breach	Offence	Fine (\$)	Court Costs (\$)
Hajir Mobin (Ridgewood)	NLH	GSA 13A(2) 38(1)	Carried out gasfitting work while not holding a certificate of competency, permit or authorisation allowing him to do so Advertised or represented that he was the holder of a certificate of competency, a permit or authorisation whilst not being the holder of certificate of competency, permit or authorisation	24,000	971.70
Robert Scott Fowler (Mindarie)	GF 009390	GSR Regulations 18(2)(a)(ii), 28(2),	Failed to ensure that every part of the gas installation on which the work was done or that is affected by the work is safe to use Failed to fit a compliance badge to the gas installation	800	571.70