

gas focus

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Important Changes to the Gasfitting Compliance Badge

Over a period of time, Energy Safety has received requests to consider changes to the current [paper] compliance label, to address gas suppliers' and industry's concerns.

In particular, the information recorded on the labels has not been easy to read (the details have faded over time) and the labels have been peeling off appliances. It has also been a problem on LP Gas installations, where the labels have been fixed in areas exposed to the weather.

After consulting with industry and obtaining the endorsement of all gas suppliers, Energy Safety will replace the paper compliance label with a metal compliance badge, similar to the metal compliance badge that is currently available from Energy Safety.

Energy Safety WA		
Gas Standards Act 1972 - Compliance Badge		
Gasfitting Work: New <input type="checkbox"/> Additional <input type="checkbox"/>	NOC Number:	Installation Date:
Installation Details: (Address or if Mobile Installation, Identification/Licence No)		
I confirm that this gasfitting work complies with the Gas Standards Act 1972 and its regulations. Registered Gas Fitter's Name:		Gas Fitter No:
Special Conditions: (Details of Exemption / Variation) Exemption No:		

The new metal compliance badge

The Director of Energy Safety notifies that, as from 1 August 2003, only the new metal compliance badges will be acceptable – paper compliance labels will no longer be approved for use. However, the existing metal badges may still be used until stocks have been depleted.

The new metal compliance badges may be purchased from retail outlets throughout the State. The recommended retail price for the new metal badges is \$2.80 plus GST.

The retail outlets include:

- Galvins Plumbing stores
- Kleenheat Gas stores
- Reece Plumbing centres
- Tradelink stores.

A full list of all stores is on the back page of this Gas Focus. Energy Safety will have a small quantity of badges available for purchase and for posting out to gas fitters in remote locations of the State.

Preliminary Notice/Notice of Completion books have been amended to reflect this change. There is information in the books to show how these metal badges are to be fixed, which is much the same as for the paper compliance labels.

Energy Safety will continue to provide books of Notice free of charge.

The new badges have a self-adhesive backing for attaching to flat surfaces (eg. gas meter boxes, LP Gas regulator hoods). The badges also have two holes to allow fixing to piping etc, using cable ties.

Gas fitters may use a ballpoint pen to complete the details required on the badge. It is the gas fitter's responsibility to print clearly and legibly on the badge.

Water Heater Exemptions

If a gas installation/gas appliance is subject to a special condition approved by the Director of Energy Safety, there is a section at the bottom of the new metal compliance badges that needs to be completed.

The exemption/variation number must be stated in that section of the badge. If the exemption/variation number is not provided, a gas supplier's auditing inspector may issue the gas fitter with a Notice of Defect.

Where a water heater has been replaced under the *Policy Statement – Replacement of Gas Heaters*, the gas fitter must state the exemption number on the compliance badge. The exemption number **under this policy statement only** is **2003-251**.

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Energy Safety



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This number must not be used for any other types of exemptions.

The *Policy Statement – Replacement of Gas Water Heaters* has been republished in this Gas Focus so gas fitters can familiarise themselves with the exemption policy.

Any queries regarding the implementation of metal compliance badges should be referred to Energy Safety's Gas Inspection Branch by telephoning 9422 5297.

Policy Statement – Replacement of Gas Water Heaters

This policy applies where the existing installation complies with previously applicable standards or was given a dispensation or special approval for installation of that appliance.

Where an existing gas water heating system is replaced, provided the installation meets the following criteria, it is acceptable for the replacement water heater to be installed in the original location even if the installation then does not comply with current regulations or codes, subject to the following conditions, all of which must be met:

- There is no practical alternative location available for the installation of the water heater;
- The replacement water heater has a similar capacity (not to exceed +10% of existing gas consumption capacity), the same operating pressure, is a similar type of unit (instantaneous for instantaneous) and has a similar physical size; and
- There is reasonable evidence the installation complied with previously applicable standards or was given a dispensation or special approval for that part of that installation.

This policy does not apply if a known safety concern has been identified or should reasonably be able to be identified in relation to that part of the installation.

It is the gas fitter's responsibility to ensure that the appliance manufacturer's installation instructions are satisfied and that the warranty is valid for appliances installed under this policy.

Where replacement of an existing water heater involves a significant increase in gas consumption capacity (greater than +10%) of the unit, the proposed installation will be considered as an upgrade. In this case the modified part of the installation will have to comply with the latest requirements of the codes and standards. In such cases, where compliance with some requirements of the code is not possible, the gas fitter must apply in writing to the Director of Energy Safety for an exemption or variation to prescribed requirements prior to any gasfitting being carried out. Such applications must only be made if the gas fitter is satisfied that the proposed exemption or variation will not negatively affect the safe performance of the installation.

The correct fittings as per AS 5601 – 2002 must be used in all installations.



Typical water heater installation that will require an exemption

RCDS (Safety Switches) – Where are they required to be installed?

Gas fitters are often asked by their clients about the requirements for RCDS ("residual current devices" or safety switches).

The requirements to install RCDS in specific situations are contained in the regulations of the *Electricity Act 1945* (for domestic situations) and the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984* (for work places).

New Domestic and "Residential" Installations

Australian Standard AS/NZS 3000:2000 *Wiring Rules* (mandated by the *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1997*) specifies that RCDS must be installed to protect socket-outlet final sub-circuits in new domestic and "residential" installations (such as

hotels and boarding houses). In addition, lighting final sub-circuits in domestic installations shall also be provided with RCD protection.

The Energy Safety publication *WA Electrical Requirements* specifies that for domestic and "residential" installations, two or more RCDS shall be provided.

Existing Domestic and "Residential" Installations

When a new final sub-circuit is added in an existing domestic or "residential" installation to provide supply to new socket-outlets or lighting points, then only one RCD is required to protect the new final subcircuit.

Where new socket outlets and lighting points are installed and connected to **existing** final sub-circuits (no new final sub-circuits are added), then RCD protection is recommended, but is not compulsory.

Work Places and Construction and Demolition Sites

The *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996* specify that RCD protection must be provided at work places where electricity is supplied to portable equipment through fixed socket-outlets. The regulations also mandate AS/NZS 3012, which requires RCD protection to be provided on construction and demolition sites.

RCDS that are 'wired in' to an electrical installation may only be installed by a licensed electrical contractor. Portable-type RCDS are a convenient alternative for use with portable electrically operated tools and equipment.

"Dial Before You Dig"

Recent incidents highlight the need for vigilance in determining the location of services hidden underground. These services include electrical and communications cables and gas and water pipes.

Unfortunately, the dial-before-you-dig message is not being heeded by all contractors. When a gas mains is ruptured, there is an immediate threat of fire and an explosion and the loss of supply to gas customers. The consequences are obvious and can be catastrophic.

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It is vital that contractors obtain information on the location of all underground services in the vicinity of where they intend to work, before work commences.

Before commencing any excavation work, contractors should "Dial 1100" to obtain information on underground cables and pipes. This is a free enquiry referral service for information available **anywhere in Australia**. Phone calls should be made no less than two working days before the job is due to start.

A simple phone call can prevent damage, disruption and death.



Finding a Gas Leak With a Naked Light

Finding a gas leak using a naked light! How often has this been raised?

If a person suspects a gas appliance is leaking and the leak cannot be readily detected, no attempt should be made to light the appliance until the leak has been detected and repaired.

All too often, gas fitters make the mistake, either through hast or carelessness, of using a flame to trace a leak – and suffer the consequences.

In a recent interview, a gas fitter explained how, during pressure testing a new gas installation in a commercial kitchen, the manometer showed a pressure drop. A commercial range was found to be the culprit. The gas fitter set about trying to locate the leak using soapy water. This was not successful, so he then connected the gas and allowed gas to flow to the range (which comprised four open top burners and a solid grill plate). The grill plate burner did not have a peizo igniter so the gas fitter struck a match to try to light it.

Immediately there was a heated rush that enveloped his face. Unfortunately the gas fitter gasped a mouthful of gas which ignited simultaneously, causing internal burns to his throat. A person working nearby was able to quickly turn the isolation valve off, preventing any further damage.

It was later discovered that a 1/8 NPT plug under the burner rail had been removed to insert a test point. The test point had been used when two boiling burners were removed and the solid grill plate was substituted on the



top of the range. After a pressure test had been completed, the test point had been removed and for whatever reason, the sealing plug had not been re-inserted.

This incident could have been prevented had the gas fitter observed the following:

- If an appliance is suspected of being damaged or there is a leak identified on a new gas appliance, do not proceed any further until contacting the appliance agent or supplier.
- Use a reliable gas detector to locate a leak.
- When lighting an appliance where there is restricted viewing of the gas burner, use a mirror. NEVER place the face in the line of danger.

Disciplinary Action Taken by the Gas Licensing Committee and Director of Energy Safety

1 February 2003 to 30 April 2003

The performance of one Certificate of Competency holder was subject to a formal Inquiry.

Peter John Bacon (GF 001512)

Mr Bacon carried out gasfitting work at Bedford on approximately 17 March 2002. He failed to attach an approved badge or label and failed to submit a Preliminary Notice to the gas supplier or provide a Notice of Completion to the person for whom the gasfitting was carried out.

Mr Bacon was required to work under the supervision of an appropriately licensed gas fitter until he successfully completed the Gas Legislation Course.

PROSECUTIONS FOR BREACHES OF THE GAS STANDARDS (GASFITTING AND CONSUMER GAS INSTALLATIONS) REGULATIONS 1999 1 February 2003 to 30 April 2003

Breach	Name (and suburb of residence at time of offence)	Licence No.	Fine \$	Costs \$
Failed to ensure gasfitting work was carried out in a safe manner Regulation 18(1) GSR	Edward Fyfe (Boulder)	GF 005115	200.00	627.70
Removed service apparatus Regulation 37(1) GSR	Edward Fyfe (Boulder)	GF 005115	500.00	
Failed to report a gas incident to the gas supplier Regulation 42(1) GSR	Edward Fyfe (Boulder)	GF 005115	750.00	

GSR Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999

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

BALCATTÀ

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: Unit3/15 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.