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State Government announces new Ministers for Energy and Consumer Protection

The appointment of the Hon Alan Carpenter as Premier in January 2006 has resulted in some changes to State Cabinet.

Hon Francis Logan BA (Hons) MLA

The Hon Francis Logan was appointed Minister for Energy. Minister Logan will also be responsible for the revamped Science and Innovation portfolio.

The Hon John Bowler was appointed as Minister for Employment Protection. Minister Bowler also takes on the Goldfields-Esperance and Great Southern portfolio and will be the Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development.

Hon John Bowler JP MLA

Energy*Safety* currently has a dual reporting role, reporting to the Minister for Energy on statutory matters and to the Minister for Employment Protection (via the Director General of DOCEP, as appropriate) on administrative matters (such as budgets).

Energy*Safety* provides advice and support to the Minister for Energy, as the energy legislation dealing with technical and safety matters that it administers is part of the portfolio of the Minister for Energy. Energy*Safety* also provides advice and support to the Minister for Employment Protection, since the Department of Consumer & Employment Protection (DOCEP) to which Energy*Safety* belongs is responsible to this Minister.

This arrangement is expected to be simplified after the passing of a Bill presently awaiting debate in the Legislative Council. Once passed, that Bill will allow, among other things, the sections of the energy legislation that Energy*Safety* administers will be able to be transferred to the portfolio of the Minister for Employment Protection. This is anticipated to happen later in 2006. The Minister for Employment Protection will then have complete responsibility for Energy*Safety* and technical and safety regulation of the State's energy industry.

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New code for network quality and reliability of supply

Readers will be aware of previous articles regarding concerns about the quality and reliability of electricity supplies throughout the State.

Electricity supply standards have been under review for some time and have now been expanded into a new network quality and reliability of supply code.

The new "Electricity Industry (Network Quality and Reliability of Supply) Code 2005" came into operation on 1 January 2006, under the authority of the *Electricity Industry Act 2005,* the legislation that determines how electricity companies must deal with each other and their customers.

The new Code creates rules pertaining to the quality and reliability of electricity supply, setting out standards for:

- allowable voltage fluctuations, harmonics and other parameters;
- the interruption of supply to individual customers; and
- the duration of interruption of supply in particular areas.

The Code also includes:

- new minimum service standards;
- the Customer Reliability Payment Scheme as announced by the Minister in March 2005; and
- requirements for public reporting that will make electricity suppliers more accountable.

The network quality and reliability of supply parts of the *Electricity (Supply Standards and System Safety) Regulations 2001* have been repealed.

The Code will be administered by the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) and Ombudsman with the technical assistance of Energy*Safety*.

Consumer complaints regarding quality and reliability of electricity supplies should now be referred to the Electricity Ombudsman.

Further information about the new Code, including an explanatory guide and fact sheet, is available from the Office of Energy's [**not** Energy*Safety*'s] website at www.energy.wa.gov.au.

Western Power to separate into four new independent energy businesses

As part of the State government's program to reform the way that electricity is generated, distributed and retailed in Western Australia, electricity supplier Western Power will be disaggregated into four new stand-alone energy businesses, effective from April 2006.

Instead of one large entity overseeing a wide range of business operations, each corporation will now have its core business as its sole focus.

The four new separate businesses are:

Verve Energy – responsible for power generation within the South-West interconnected system (SWIS), the area bounded by Kalbarri in the north, Kalgoorlie in the east and Albany in the south. Verve Energy will compete against other energy companies in the wholesale electricity market to provide electricity to customers in the SWIS.

Western Power – this name will be retained by the existing Networks business. Western Power will be responsible for the 'poles and wires' that comprise the distribution network and the transport of electricity within the SWIS from power generators to customers. It also restores power and repairs, maintains and upgrades the network.

Synergy – a retail corporation responsible for the sale of electricity within the SWIS as well as sending electricity accounts, organising connections and helping SWIS customers manage their energy requirements. Electricity will be 'transported' to customers using the existing electricity networks managed by the new independent networks business, Western Power. The retail business will be the main point of contact for customers.

Horizon Power – the regional electricity business responsible for the generation, transport and sale of electricity in all areas of the State outside of the SWIS, that is, regional customers in the Kimberley, Pilbara, parts of the Mid-West and southern Goldfields regions.

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

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

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The four new businesses will be fully owned by the State Government. Each will have a Board of Directors that will report to the Minister for Energy.

Western Power customers will notice a change to their bills from April 2006. Synergy will send out electricity accounts and organise new connections for customers in the SWIS. Regional customers outside the SWIS will receive their electricity accounts from the new regional business, Horizon Power.

More information about the State Government's reform program is on the Electricity Reform Implementation Unit's website at www.eriu.energy.wa.gov.au.

Alinta awards new contracts for gas turbines

In November 2005, Alinta announced it had awarded a $110 million contract to Alstom Australia Limited for the supply of two 162 MW gas turbines for the first stage of a major cogeneration facility at Alcoa's Wagerup refinery in Western Australia.

Wagerup Stage 1 involves the installation of these two gas turbines – operating in open-cycle mode – to provide reserve capacity to the new wholesale electricity market in Western Australia.

Wagerup Stage 2 will involve the addition of heat recovery steam generators to the Stage 1 plant, enabling operation as a base load power station providing both steam and electricity.

The awarding of this gas turbine contract to Alstom is an important step in bringing Wagerup Stage 1 to fruition. The Alstom turbines are each capable of operating at 162 MW base load and 175 MW peak load.

Construction of the Stage 1 project is scheduled to commence in the third quarter of 2006, with completion by October 2007.

Delays in issuing licences – How you can help

Energy*Safety* is experiencing unprecedented delays in the processing of electrical and gas licence applications, restorations of expired licences and re-applications for gas fitting permits.

This delay has been caused by an ongoing increase in the number of applications being received by the Licensing Office, probably as a result of the sustained high level of industry activity in the State.

Applications are generally processed in order of date of receipt. To reduce the backlog, Licensing Office staff have been working overtime and extra staff have been employed.

The standard process for renewing an electrical contractor's licence is for the registration renewal notice to be mailed to the electrical contractor one month prior to the expiry date. If payment has not been received one month after the expiry date, the licence is cancelled and the licence holder is notified of the cancellation by mail.

Several cases have occurred where Energy*Safety* has been notified of a change of address for an electrical worker's licence, but not for an associated electrical contractor's licence. The licence holders have incorrectly assumed that a change of address for one licence would automatically cause the other address to be changed. However, this is not the case, as the two addresses are often different. When licence holders later realise that their electrical contractor's licence has been cancelled, the more expensive and time-consuming process of restoring a cancelled licence has to be actioned. This adds to the delays that are already being experienced.

Electrical and gas operatives can assist in reducing the impact of these types of delays by paying their renewal fees on time and by advising the Licensing Office of changes of address for each type of licence.

Electrical contractors should remember to regularly check the currency of their Certificate of Registration which, in accordance with regulation 45 of *the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991,* must be conspicuously displayed at the principal place of business. When checking the currency of a Certificate of Registration, electrical contractors should also ensure that the register of nominees is up to date.

Licensing Office staff, pictured from left to right, are Nia Frazer, Angela Parkinson, Samantha Hudson, Steve Isbister (Coordinator Licensing Office), Ingunn Jensen and Karena Goodhill. Absent is Lionel Goodall

Student engineers working at Energy*Safety*

Energy*Safety* employed two student engineers, Matthew Lee and Ridwan Sani, during their 2005–06 summer vacation period.

This opportunity provided both students with their first 'hands on' exposure to work in their respective fields of study.

Matthew has so far completed three years of study at Curtin University in Electrical Power Engineering. During his short stay at Energy*Safety*, Matthew assisted in a study and analysis of electrical accidents and shocks that have occurred during the past ten years. He also assisted in audits and inspections of network operator assets.

Ridwan has so far completed three years of study in Mechanical Engineering at Curtin University. He assisted in field inspections of hydrogen fuel cell buses, steam turbines and engines and CNG and LNG vehicles. Ridwan also gained knowledge of gasfitting work, gas installations and industrial and commercial appliances.

Student engineers Matthew Lee (at left) and Ridwan Sani, at work at EnergySafety

Matthew and Ridwan considered that their experiences at Energy*Safety* will benefit them in their final year of study and prepare them for their careers as professional engineers.

The Director of Energy Safety and staff at Energy*Safety* wish Matthew and Ridwan well in their further studies and respective careers.

Energy*Safety* is deliberately providing work experience for student engineers as it has become evident that many currently find it difficult to obtain work experience in industry or government.

Recording incidences of exploding light globes

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of incidences of exploding light globes (tungsten filament type lamps) reported by the Australian general public.

However the number of reported incidents is well below 1% of the total number of lamps sold in Australia each year.

Lamps are a mass produced, low cost, delicate glass item. Simple issues such as incorrect packaging and handling may adversely affect lamp life and the resultant failure mode.

A national database to record lamp failures has been established and is being administered by the Office of Electricity Standards and Safety [Tasmania]. The purpose of collating such information is to identify any trends with a view to considering developing an Australia wide strategy to deal with the issue.

There is an Australian Standard for tungsten filament lamps for general service (ie. those commonly used in households). However, it is not mandatory for manufacturers to adhere to the Standard. Accordingly, lamps of this type do not require approval prior to sale.

However, the Director of Energy Safety may prohibit the sale or use of unsafe or dangerous electrical apparatus (including lamps) pursuant to the *Electricity Act 1945*.

Reporting exploding lamps

In the event of a lamp exploding, the purchaser is encouraged to:

1. report the matter to the supplier/ retailer of the product, providing where possible the required evidence such as packaging of other unused lamps that may have been purchased at the same time; and
2. assist with providing technical information for the Australian database by reporting the failure to the Western Power Call Centre by telephoning 13 13 51, providing all relevant information such as date and place of purchase, manufacturer, type and rated voltage, wattage etc.

Lamps that prematurely fail or fail in a safe manner need not be reported. However, if the person making the complaint is concerned, then it is recommended that the purchaser inform the supplier/retailer.

Electrical safety warning – Undersized TPS cable

The Office of Electricity Standards and Safety [Tasmania] has advised of a batch of TPS cable manufactured by Arlec that has a smaller conductor size than that marked on the cable drum.

The cable is sold and labelled as 1.0 mm^2 TPS twin and earth cable. However, the actual conductor size is between 0.5 mm^2 and 0.8 mm^2.

Arlec became aware of this matter in July 2005 and has advised that cable from the affected batch has been supplied to some distributors and hardware stores in WA.

The effected cable can be identified as follows:

- the cable is marked with Arlec catalogue number 8010;
- the construction of the cable is a single strand active/neutral with a multi strand earth; and
- the cable drums are marked with "V570 Arlec Power 8010 Electric Cable 450/750V V90 2005".

Electrical contractors and electricians are advised to return any cable that is marked as above and where the conductor size is actually less than 1.0 mm^2, to their supplier.

Electrical safety warning – Commercial lighting ballasts

Recent investigations have found that the wiring methods of some commercial lighting ballasts may result in the installation being unsafe.

The digital dimmable ballast showing the 2-core switching cable

A close up of the ballast contents

The problem is associated with digital dimmable ballasts that have a facility for an external switching arrangement and are supplied with a 3-pin plug. These digital dimmable ballasts are sold premounted in a metal enclosure with a 3-core flexible cable connected to a 3-pin flat pin plug. The device also has a 2-core cable, which is intended for connection via a terminal block to a remote switch.

The switching arrangement requires an active source when multiple units are interconnected. This switching interconnection can result in the active pin of the 3-pin plug top remaining "live" and unsafe when the plug has been removed from the socket-outlet.

This method of installation does not meet the requirements of AS/NZS 3000 "Wiring Rules".

To overcome the above safety concerns, the units can either be connected to the fixed wiring by direct wiring without a 3-pin plug or fitted with a 4-core flex and 4-pin flat pin plug. The switching conductor and connection is therefore achieved via the 4-pin plug. This has been a common wiring method for commercial ballasts for some time.

Electricians are therefore being alerted to the fact that if they disconnect one of these units, the 3-pin plug may still be alive. Extreme care should be taken to ensure contact with the live pins is avoided until the wiring is altered. The defective installation should also be reported in accordance with the *Electrical (Licensing) Regulations 1991*.

Validity period of certification of electrical equipment for hazardous areas

Electrical regulators and Standards Australia often receive enquiries regarding the validity dates of certificates issued for certified electrical equipment for hazardous areas.

The reference to commonly acceptable certification is provided in Clause 2.6 of AS/NZS 2381.1:2005 (amdt 1). In part, this clause requires:

> 'Equipment certified under the IECEx Scheme and registered

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on the IECEx database of the ANZEx scheme and registered on the SAI Global EPEE database meets these criteria and no further consideration is necessary. Equipment certified under the AUSEx scheme is acceptable'.

Equipment certified under the AUSEx scheme includes a validity date on the certificate whereas equipment certified under the IECEx or ANZEx schemes do not.

Standards Australia sub committee EL14/7 has advised electrical regulators of the following interpretation for this clause including consideration of the validity date marked on relevant certificates.

AUSEx Scheme

Equipment manufactured under the AUSEx scheme does not include manufacturer's quality systems as part of the equipment approvals. These certificates include an end validity date as a means of controlling manufacturing quality. Revalidation of the certificates reconfirms the equipment continues to be manufactured meeting originally approved product quality and performance. The validity date is therefore relevant only to the date of manufacture of the equipment.

As this date is relevant only to the date of manufacture of the equipment, it does not indicate equipment is unsuitable for:

- installation past the validity date; or
- repair or replacement past the validity date.

The only requirement for purchasers and installers is that they confirm the equipment was manufactured before the expiry date of the certificate.

IECEx and ANZEx Schemes

Equipment manufactured under these schemes includes ongoing quality surveillance as part of the approval certificate. Ongoing product quality is confirmed by surveillance and certificates can be suspended or withdrawn at any time if a manufacturer fails a quality audit.

The certificates are not provided with a validity date as quality systems are used as a means of continued revalidation and the certificate could be suspended or withdrawn at any time.

Purchasers and installers may need to confirm equipment was manufactured during a period when the certificate is active. Equipment manufactured during a period of suspension or after withdrawal of the certificate is not acceptable.

As for the AUSEx scheme, any certificate dates relate to the manufacture of equipment and not to installation or replacement.

Further information regarding this issue is available in Appendix 1 of AS/NZS 2381.1.

Connection of mains powered smoke alarms

In Western Australia, hard-wired mains powered smoke alarms became mandatory in all new residential dwellings after the adoption of the Building Code of Australia 1996 in 1997.

The question is often raised "Are smoke alarms required by the Building Code for domestic purposes considered to be emergency systems?". That is, do smoke alarms need to be connected to the supply side of the general electrical installation main switch?

This matter has been dealt with by Wiring Rules Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) No. 026/2001 3000:2000 – Clause 7.10.2 Emergency Systems which advises:

"No. Therefore they do not need to be connected to the supply side of

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the general electrical installation main switch."

On this basis, in domestic premises, mains powered smoke alarms may be connected to a supply that is controlled by a circuit protective device. That is, the smoke alarms may be supplied from (say) a lighting circuit that has protection at the main switchboard.

On a related matter, mains powered smoke alarms have now been fitted into all Government owned HomesWest dwellings. FESA (the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of WA) is currently considering the introduction of a requirement that all dwellings offered for sale or rental should be fitted with mains powered smoke alarms.

Recall of safety switches

In December 2005, Schneider Electric (Australia) Pty Ltd commenced a national recall of some models of residual current operated circuit breakers (RCBOs).

The recall affects Merlin Gerin and Square D single pole 10kA RCBOs manufactured since December 2003.

The circuit breakers may fail to open as designed when an earth leakage fault is detected. However, the overcurrent protection function of these devices is not affected. Also, the earth leakage test button may still function normally.

Consumers are being advised to check if they have Merlin Gerin or Square D safety switches that were installed since December 2003. If so, they should immediately telephone Schneider Electric on 1300 733 907 or check Schneider's website at www.schneider-electric.com.au/rcbo

Electrical contractors who become aware of RCBOs affected by this recall should advise the installation owner to contact Schneider Electric.

Prosecutions for breaches of electricity legislation 1 October 2005 to 31 December 2005

Name (and suburb of residence at time of offence)	***Licence No.***	***Legislation and Breach***	***Offence***	***Fine ($)***	***Court Costs ($)***
Luckylink Furniture (Welshpool)	*NA*	*EA Section 33B(2) (9 breaches)*	*Offered for sale electrical appliances that were not approved*	*1,000.00*	*320.70*
Western Power Corporation T/As Western Power (Jandakot)	*NA*	*ER Regulation 242 (1)(a)*	*Connected the electricity supply without ensuring that the service apparatus was installed and maintained in a safe manner*	*10,000.00*	*550.70*
Mark Ball (Padbury)	*EW 143577*	*E(L)R Regulation 19(1)*	*Carried out electrical work without holding an electrical worker's licence*	*500.00*	*325.70*
Donald Brady (Eaton)	*NA*	*E(L)R Regulation 19(1)*	*Carried out electrical work without holding an electrical worker's licence*	*500.00*	*325.70*
Daniel O'Neil (Geraldton)	*NA*	*E(L)R Regulation 19(1)*	*Carried out electrical work without holding an electrical worker's licence*	*750.00*	*368.45*
David Powell (Kewdale)	*EW 117790*	*E(L)R Regulation 19(1)*	*Carried out electrical work without holding an electrical worker's licence*	*600.00*	*525.70*

Prosecutions for breaches of electricity legislation 1 October 2005 to 31 December 2005

Name (and suburb of residence at time of offence)	Licence No.	Legislation and Breach	Offence	Fine ($)	Court Costs ($)
Leon Best (Viveash)	EW 126068	E(L)R Regulation 33(1) (3 breaches)	Carried on business as an electrical contractor without a licence	1,500.00	Nil
David Powell (Kewdale)	EW 117790	E(L)R Regulation 33(1)	Carried on business as an electrical contractor without a licence	600.00	*
Darren MacLeod (Doubleview)	EW 123897	E(L)R Regulation 52 (1)	Failed to submit a Notice of Completion for completed electrical work	500.00	325.70
Mick May Electrical Maintenance Service (Yokine)	EC 005697	E(L)R Regulation 52(3)	Submitted a Notice of Completion to the relevant supply authority in respect of electrical installing work not completed	*	*
Kosta Electrical Contractors (Beechboro)	EC 006890	E(L)R Regulation 52(3)	Submitted a Notice of Completion to the relevant supply authority in respect of electrical installing work not completed	750.00	325.70
Western Power Corporation T/As Western Power (Tenterden)	NA	E(SS&SS)R Regulation 10 (2 breaches)	Failed to ensure that the maintenance of its distribution network (22kV power line) was, so far as reasonable and practicable, carried out in such a way as to provide for the safety of persons or avoid or minimise any damage to property or other detriment	17,500.00	757.70

Legend:

*	Global penalty – more than one offence
NA	Not applicable – no licence held
EA	Electricity Act 1945
ER	Electricity Regulations 1947
E(L)R	Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991
E(EE&SS)R	Electricity (Supply Standards and System Safety) Regulations 2001

Energy*Safety* to target gas fitters who fail to submit Notices of Completion

Despite gas suppliers' and Energy*Safety*'s best efforts to educate and encourage gas fitters to 'do the right thing', some still persist in failing to complete and submit Notices of Completion (NOCs).

Issuing paperwork may not be perceived as a direct safety issue by some gas fitters. These individuals are missing the point however that they may be leaving a trail of unsafe installations that render the public vulnerable. As such, they are creating an indirect safety issue.

The excuses given by gas fitters for failing to complete the NOC is becoming a worn out record. There are no valid excuses. All gas fitters are aware of their obligations under Regulation 28 of the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999*. Failure to comply with this regulation is a breach of the *Gas Standards Act 1972*.

The Notice of Completion form must be filled out legibly and correctly, one copy to be handed to the owner and the other copy to be sent to the gas supplier or network operator within 48 hours.

Energy*Safety* will no longer accept excuses and will treat every failure to complete NOCs as a deliberate attempt by the gas fitter concerned to avoid having the gasfitting work inspected for compliance with the regulations.

The entire Gas Inspectorate [comprising 89 Gas Inspectors] is conducting a blitz and all errant gas fitters will be identified and prosecuted. Energy*Safety* is adopting a 'zero tolerance' approach.

Gas fitters need to ask themselves whether failing to complete and distribute a little piece of paper is worth the risk of all the ensuing inconvenience and subsequent financial penalty.

A reminder to fit a metal compliance badge

Energy*Safety* is still finding that there are gas fitters who fail to fix a metal compliance badge on completion of gasfitting work.

The same situation as outlined in the above article "Energy*Safety* to target gas fitters who fail to submit Notices of Completion" also applies to the fixing of metal compliance badges.

Once again, Regulation 28 of the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999* clearly and concisely dictates the obligations on the gas fitter. Failure to comply with the regulation is a breach of the *Gas Standards Act 1972*.

There are no valid excuses for not fixing a compliance badge. Gas fitters only have to refer to the first two pages of their Notice of Completion pads for explicit instructions as to the approved location for fixing the badges and details of the approved badge required.

Badges may be purchased from Energy*Safety*.

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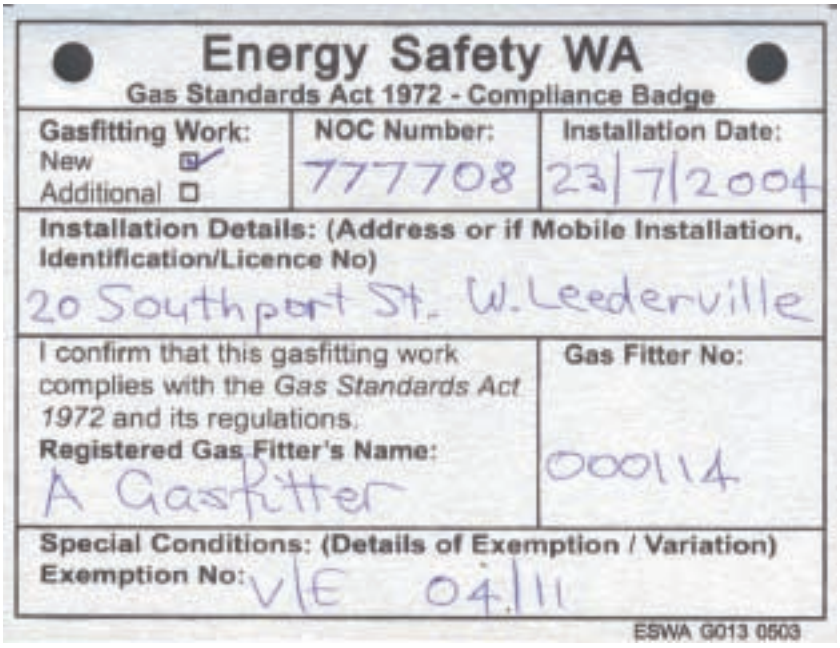
Energy Safety WA
Gas Standards Act 1972 - Compliance Badge
Gasfitting Work: New ☑ Additional ☐
NOC Number: 777708
Installation Date: 23/7/2004
Installation Details: (Address or if Mobile Installation, Identification/Licence No)
20 Southport St. W.Leederville
I confirm that this gasfitting work complies 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: V/E 04/11
ESWA G013 0503

Compliance Badge

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From now on, in an effort to reduce the incidence of gas fitters failing to fix badges, no second chances will be granted by Energy*Safety*. A Notice of Defect will be issued in all cases and gas fitters will be required to return to the job to fix the badge without delay. Failure to do so will result in prosecution. Gas fitters are reminded that such a breach attracts a maximum fine of $2,000.

This begs the question – is non-compliance really worth it? All of that inconvenience and expense – just for failing to attend to the simple act of fixing a compliance badge in the right place. It surely cannot take more than 10 seconds! Gas fitters need to just do it and avoid the stress – not to mention the penalties.

Gas fitter demerit system introduced

Energy*Safety* announced the development of a Gas Fitter Demerit System (GDS) in Gas Focus No 35 (April 2005).

The GDS has now been developed and commenced in January 2006.

The GDS allocates demerit points to all notice of defects that the gas supplier issues to gas fitters. The accumulation of points then allows Energy*Safety* to take appropriate action against errant gas fitters. This process is designed to generally improve the competency of gas fitters and to reduce the number of defects left on gas installations.

Under the system, gas suppliers/ network operators will report breaches to Energy*Safety* on a monthly basis. Energy*Safety* may then initiate investigation of a gas fitter where:

- two repetitions of the same breach (ie. an immediate safety issue) accrue in the reporting period; or
- twelve demerit points accrue over a one-year period.

The "one year period" commences from the date of the offending gas fitter's first breach reported by the gas supplier with an Inspection Plan and Policy Statement in place. Gas suppliers currently having these plans in place are Alinta Network Services, BOC Limited, Origin Energy and Wesfarmers Kleenheat Gas.

The breaches generally come from the issuing of a number of Notice of Defects to a gas fitter. The issuing of a Notice of Defect is generally a consequence of an inspection of the gas fitter's installations by a gas supplier inspector in accordance with the gas supplier's approved Inspection Plan and Policy Statement.

Examples of significant breaches that will attract three demerit points include the following:

- Appliance (AP)
  - AP08 – Flue is located such that minimum clearances are not met.
- Bayonet (BP)
  - BP02 – Installed in prohibited location.
- Flexible connection (FC)
  - FC01 – Appliance not approved for flexible connection.

Disciplinary actions that can result from an Energy*Safety* inspector's investigation include:

- censuring of the gas fitter;
- suspending the operation of a licence holder for up to three months, before referral to the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT);
- referral to the SAT for disqualification or cancellation of the licence; and
- referral to a Magistrate's Court for prosecution.

Where either disciplinary action has been taken or the annual reporting period has expired, Energy*Safety* will reinstate the original status of zero demerit points for a particular gas fitter. The GDS reporting period will then recommence for the next 12 month period, or lesser period if the gas fitter is subject to further disciplinary action.

A future proposal is to allow gas fitters to be able to view [online] the demerit points that they have accrued through Energy*Safety*'s website, via the Licensing Information System.

Restrictions on the installation of flue-less gas space heaters

The Director of Energy Safety will shortly publish an Order that no further flue-less gas space heaters are to be installed in a classroom, or other room occupied by children, in childcare centres, pre-primary centres, primary schools and high schools, whether public or private.

The Order will be published in the Government Gazette WA Notice under the provisions of section 13H of the *Gas Standards Act 1972*.

Installation of a flue-less gas appliance in a classroom or similar location after the date of the Order will be a breach of this order and may result in action being taken by Energy*Safety*.

'Flue-less gas space heater' means an appliance that discharges its flue gases directly into the room in which it is installed and is of a class or type (usually for residential or commercial use) specified in Schedule 1 of the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999*. These appliances must be tested and certified for use and must carry an Australian Gas Association (AGA) approved label or a gas inspectors' approval badge. The AGA's Directory of Certified Gas Appliances and Components

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provides a listing of certified gas appliances and can be viewed online at http://www.gas.asn.au .

Existing flue-less gas space heaters in schools are being phased out under voluntary replacement programs over the next three years. Until the heaters are replaced, they may continue to be used provided they are used prudently and operated and regularly serviced in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions and provided the room has the required ventilation requirements.

Restrictions on the use of Type A gas appliances

The Director of Energy Safety published an order in the Government Gazette WA Notice of 4 October 2005 under the provisions of section 13H of the *Gas Standards Act 1972*, stating that a Type A gas appliance is not to be used in a manner contrary to its certification.

The order is effective from 5 October 2005 and is designed to address the improper use of particular Type A gas appliances, specifically appliances designed for outdoor use, such as patio heaters and barbecues, which are certified and approved for outdoor use. The order was necessary to allow Gas Inspectors to address safety concerns associated with the increased popularity and use of these types of appliances in enclosed home alfresco areas.

These outdoor gas appliances need adequate ventilation to ensure that there is sufficient air for combustion and to dilute the products of combustion to safe levels. Gas outdoor patio heaters and barbecues are designed and tested for safe outdoor use only and must not be used indoors under any circumstances because:

- the products of combustion from operation of the appliances may create an unsafe and dangerous indoor environment; and
- there is potential to cause a fire or serious injury.

Improper use of a gas appliance by an owner or consumer is a breach of the order and may result in action being taken by a Gas Inspector.

A 'Type A appliance' is an appliance of a class or type (usually for residential or commercial use) specified in Schedule 1 of the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999*. These appliances must be tested and certified for use and must carry an Australian Gas Association (AGA) approved label or a Gas Inspector's approval badge.

The AGA's Directory of Certified Gas Appliances and Components provides a listing of certified gas appliances and can be viewed on-line at http://www.gas.asn.au.

Further information on the safe use of gas, particularly in regard to the use of outdoor gas appliances such as patio heaters and barbecues, is available from EnergySafety's website.

Type A gas appliance

Review of gas distribution standards

The following Australian Standards covering gas distribution networks are currently being revised:

- AS 4568-2005 Preparation of safety and operating plan for gas networks
- AS 4645-2005 Gas distribution network management
- AS 1697-2005 Installation and maintenance of steel pipe systems for gas
- AS 3723-1989 Installation and maintenance of plastic pipe systems for gas

As part of the revision process, the Standards will be developed into a 'suite' of gas distribution networks Standards.

The work is being carried out by Standards Australia Committee AG-008 "Gas Distribution" and its sub-committees. Energy*Safety* is represented on these committees and plays an active role.

Meetings of AG-008 are held approximately every 6 weeks and are rotated through each State. The March 2006 meeting is planned to be held in Perth.

If readers have any particular issues or concerns they would like to see addressed as part of this review, they are invited to email their proposal to Energy*Safety* at energysafety@docep.wa.gov.au under the subject "Gas Distribution Standards Review".

Prosecutions for breaches of gas legislation 1 October 2005 to 31 December 2005

Name (and suburb of residence at time of offence)	Licence No.	Legislation and Breach	Offence	Fine ($)	Court Costs ($)
Tyrone Harston (Willagee)	GF 011268	GSR Regulations 8, 28(2), 28(3)	Failed to notify change of address Failed to fit a compliance badge to the installation Failed to submit a Notice of Completion to the gas supplier	1,000.00	550.70
Steven Robcke (Currambine)	GF 004825	GSR Regulations 28(2), 28(3a)(b), 28(3a)(c)	Failed to fit a compliance badge to the installation Failed to submit a Notice of Completion to the gas supplier Failed to give a copy of the Notice of Completion to the customer	600.00	475.70

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