



Office of **Energy**

Office of **ENERGY WA**

Gas FOCUS

The Inspection of Consumers' Gas Installations

Gas Pipeline Licensees, Gas Network Operators and LPG Suppliers have a common obligation: to ensure the safety, by compliance with regulations, of consumers' gas installations to which they supply gas.

When SECWA was the principal gas pipeline operator, as well as sole distributor of natural gas in the State and the regulator for this form of energy, inspections focussed largely on natural gas installations.

Installations supplied by SECWA were subject to detailed scrutiny but other gas installations, including automotive, caravan and marine, were generally less thoroughly monitored. Little effort was made to oversee the LPG industry and ensure that the inspection of LPG installations at consumers' premises, usually at country locations, was being conducted as required by the Gas Standards Act 1972.

Now that the regulatory agency is the Office of Energy, the question of gas suppliers' inspection obligations has been brought into focus by the publishing of two papers in 1995:

- An issues paper "Future Consumer Installation Inspection Obligations for Natural Gas and LPG Suppliers"; and
- A position paper "Gas Installation Inspections and The Approval of Industrial Gas Appliances".

The latter defined the processes necessary for gas suppliers to discharge their inspection responsibilities under the Act.

These processes were subsequently outlined at a seminar for Western Australian gas suppliers in September 1996, presented by the Office of Energy.

At this seminar, particular emphasis was placed upon the practical need for all gas

suppliers who have a direct consumer interface (LPG suppliers, pipeline licensees and network operators) to have in place clear policies for the inspection of consumers' installations, supported by approved plans for the execution of such inspections.

All of the established industry players have to date responded to this call. The Office of Energy is currently assisting in refining a number of plans to ensure that industry players achieve the necessary safety outcomes. Further details of these inspection plans will be published in the future.

Type B Gas Appliances

Issues relating to industrial gas appliance approval have been subject to considerable industry discussion and consultation, which has enabled development of approvals processes, in consultation with industry stakeholders. These have been reported in previous issues of the Energy Bulletin.

The question of "type" approval of these Type B appliances which can be identified as being of a common design is often raised by industrial appliance manufacturers and we are aware of the desirability of such arrangements.

However, in order that the safety of consumers and the public is assured and that regulatory requirements are met, there must be a commitment by industry stakeholders to meaningful evaluation and monitoring processes.

In order to progress this issue, the Office of Energy has asked the Chamber of Commerce and Industry to consult with its relevant members to establish such an industry position which may well lead to acceptable arrangements being put in place.

Type B Gas Appliance Inspectors

The Gas Standards Regulations 1983 require Type B gas appliances to be approved for installation and subsequently certified as approved before being left permanently connected to the gas supply.

Gas suppliers may provide this service through their own Inspectors (that are suitably designated), however the Director of Energy Safety has designated the following as independent Gas Inspectors with powers to approve Type B gas appliances. These Gas Inspectors can be contracted by Type B gas appliance users on a fee-for-service basis.

Christopher Brewell

Trading as:
Norgas Services
15 Andrews Court
PADBURY WA 6025

Telephone: 08 9401 7352
Mobile: 015 997 681

Martin Ritchie

Trading as:
BMS Oil & Gas Services
39 Coolabah Way
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

Phone/Fax: 08 9359 2643
Mobile: 041 491 8597

Norman Hodgkinson

As an employee of:
Sinclair Knight Merz
263 Adelaide Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Telephone: 08 9268 4400
Facsimile: 08 9268 4444

Although each Inspector has specific conditions attached to their designation, these can be generally summarised as dealing with issues such as the maximum size (consumption) of the appliance, the need to be invited by the operator of the gas installation to carry out the inspection work, and the need to

be independent of the appliance vendor and installer, and to have no conflict of interest.

Review of Gas Standards Regulations 1983

Some months ago, the gas industry was advised that the Office of Energy would review the content of Schedule 5 of these Regulations, which deals with the requirements for consumers' gas installations. The objective is:

- to use the AGA Gas Installation Code AG 601 as the primary reference to minimum standards; and
- to delete much of the existing Schedule.

It is pleasing to report that this work is well under way. The revisions to the regulations are still being fine-tuned at present and a copy of the amendments should be available for industry comment in June/July 1997.

Compliance With the Gas Standards Act and Regulations

The Office of Energy is receiving reports from gas suppliers which indicate a reluctance on the part of some gas fitters to comply with the Gas Standards Act 1972 and the Gas Standards Regulations 1983.

In some cases, not only are installations being left incomplete (due to lack of ventilation for example), but the responsible gas fitters are not acting upon Notices of Defects issued by inspectors. These are specific contraventions of the regulations and will not be tolerated.

Prosecution has in the past, and will in the future, be necessary in such cases. However, prosecution is only one of the options.

The Director of Energy Safety has the power under the Gas Standards Act to suspend or cancel a gas fitting authorisation where it appears to him that the holder is guilty of an offence against the Act or of misconduct in relation to safety requirements.

The Gas Standards Act and Regulations provide for the safety of gas users. Any gas fitter who puts safety at risk by not complying with the Act or Regulations may be subject to disciplinary action which can result in loss of authorisation as a gas fitter.

Gas Industry Presentations

Staff from the Office of Energy's Gas Inspection and Technical Services Branches conducted Gas Industry Presentations at Bunbury and Kalgoorlie in October and November 1996. Gas fitters, plumbers and others associated with the gas industry attended.

During these presentations, Office of Energy staff outlined the changes that have occurred and further proposed changes which may

affect gas industry operatives. Issues that were addressed included:

- The role of the Technical & Safety Division of the Office of Energy;
- Licensing matters;
- Training issues including refresher training and recognition of prior learning;
- Gas inspection issues; and
- Regulations and planned proposals to adopt AG 601.

These presentations were conducted in conjunction with Robert Bosch, the Plumbing and Painting Industry Skills and Technology Centre and Boral Energy. Good attendances indicated a substantial level of industry interest.

A Gas Industry Presentation is planned for Geraldton later this year. Details will be advised when known.



Gas Regulatory Officer David Hartley talking about licensing and training issues to industry operatives in Bunbury

Awards for Excellence

At the Master Plumbers Association's 1996 Awards for Excellence and WorkSkill Australia competition held at the Radisson Observation City, the Office of Energy had the opportunity to participate in the Awards, in the gas fitting category.

The Office of Energy was proud to sponsor this award which was presented to the winner Beau Ferris of Majestic Plumbing, by Albert Koenig, Director of Energy Safety.

Beau also won the Mechanical Services, Water and Mature Age Sections and collected a trophy and \$100 prize for each category that he won.

The Master Plumbers' Association Award for Excellence and WorkSkill Australia competition winner Rhys Edwards, of Andy Poklepovich Plumbing and Gas, received a prize of \$1000 and an information tour to the Eastern States and New Zealand.

Adam Loukes from the Plumbing and Painting Training Company was named runner up.

Apprentices play an important role within all industries and the gas industry is no exception. The provision of these awards encourages apprentices to aspire to high standards in all aspects of their work and recognises the high standards achieved by them. Striving for excellence is the key to being successful within a particular trade.

Gas fitting is now widely recognised as a specialist skill within the plumbing industry and is a significant component of their business. As the energy market continues to grow, it is reasonable to expect that there will be many opportunities in the future for these highly skilled craftsmen. Well done Beau, Rhys and Adam!



Director of Energy Safety Albert Koenig presents the gas fitting award to Beau Ferris of Majestic Plumbing



Rhys Edwards, winner of the Master Plumbers' Association Award for Excellence and WorkSkill Australia competition at the Plumbing & Painting Industry Skills and Technology Centre, Maylands

**PROSECUTIONS FOR BREACHES OF
THE GAS STANDARDS ACT (1972) AND GAS STANDARDS REGULATIONS (1983)
1 November 1996 to 31 March 1997**

<i>Breach</i>	<i>Name (and Suburb of Residence at Time of Offence)</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Fine \$</i>	<i>Costs \$</i>	<i>Note</i>
<i>Carried out gasfitting work without a certificate of competency, permit or authorisation Section 13A Gas Standards Act 1972</i>	<i>B Berkshire (Huntingdale)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>500.00</i>	<i>95.00</i>	<i>*</i>
	<i>G Williams (Mandurah)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>500.00</i>	<i>193.00</i>	<i>**</i>
	<i>T McLaurin (Scarborough)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>400.00</i>	<i>166.00</i>	
<i>Use of oxygen to pressurise gasfitting lines to locate a gas leak Regulation 26(2) Gas Standards Regulations 1983</i>	<i>B Berkshire (Huntingdale)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>200.00</i>	<i>95.00</i>	<i>*</i>
<i>Failing to comply with the requirements of a Notice of Defect Regulation 22 Gas Standards Regulations 1983</i>	<i>G Ghedina (Bayswater)</i>	<i>GF002651</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>400.00</i>	
	<i>G Underwood (Bunbury)</i>	<i>GF001193</i>	<i>250.00</i>	<i>92.00</i>	
	<i>G Bordas (Woodvale)</i>	<i>GF002487</i>	<i>150.00</i>	<i>114.00</i>	
<i>Interference with service apparatus Regulation 35 Gas Standards Regulations 1983</i>	<i>E Homan (Cloverdale)</i>	<i>GF005462</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>358.00</i>	
<i>Failing to submit a Preliminary Notice and a Notice of Compliance for gasfitting work Regulations 20 & 21 Gas Standards Regulations 1983</i>	<i>M Leisk (Shenton Park)</i>	<i>GF006916</i>	<i>400.00</i>	<i>116.00</i>	
<i>Defective gasfitting work Regulation 19 Gas Standards Regulations 1983</i>	<i>G Underwood (Bunbury)</i>	<i>GF001193</i>	<i>250.00</i>	<i>95.00</i>	
	<i>M Leisk (Shenton Park)</i>	<i>GF006916</i>	<i>200.00</i>	<i>58.00</i>	
	<i>G Bordas (Woodvale)</i>	<i>GF002487</i>	<i>150.00</i>	<i>114.00</i>	
<i>Modification of a gas appliance without approval & failing to attach a notice to an appliance following servicing work Regulations 28(4) & 28(5) Gas Standards Regulations 1983</i>	<i>R Watt (North Beach)</i>	<i>GF001491</i>	<i>400.00</i>	<i>364.00</i>	
<i>On behalf of another person wrongfully represented himself as another person Section 13(A)(10)(c) Gas Standards Act 1972</i>	<i>R Pomersbach (Gosnells)</i>	<i>GF004420</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>232.00</i>	<i>***</i>
	<i>M Dodd (Scarborough)</i>	<i>GF002142</i>	<i>400.00</i>	<i>274.00</i>	
<i>Making a false statement in a Notice of Compliance Section 13A(10)(e) Gas Standards Act 1972</i>	<i>L Boccardo (Hamilton Hill)</i>	<i>GF004108</i>	<i>300.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>	
<i>Failure to maintain a register of gasfitters Regulation 18 Gas Standards Regulations 1983</i>	<i>R Pomersbach (Gosnells)</i>	<i>GF004420</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>116.00</i>	<i>***</i>
	<i>L Boccardo (Hamilton Hill)</i>	<i>GF004108</i>	<i>300.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>	

NLH - No Licence Held

* Subsequently Obtained Permit

** Multiple Offences

*** Put on \$250.00 Good Behaviour Bond

Gas Publications

A limited number of Gas Publications are available at the Office of Energy:

<u>No.</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
-	Gas Standards Regulations 1983	\$10.00
AG 501	Code for Industrial and Commercial Gas Fired Appliances	\$30.00
AG 601	Gas Installation Code	\$30.00
AS 1425	SAA Automotive LP Gas Code	\$24.00
AS 2739	Natural Gas Fuel Systems for Vehicle Engines	\$26.00
AGA	Certified Appliances and Components	\$12.00

These publications will be available from June 1997

The following safety pamphlets are also available at the Office of Energy, free of charge:

- LP Gas Safety
- Using Gas Safely in Caravans and Tents
- Using Gas Safely in Marine Craft
- Auto LP Gas Safety
- Electric Shock Survival