

# energy

## Bulletin

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## LP Gas cylinder safety in bushfire prone areas

EnergySafety has produced a guideline for the storage of LP Gas cylinders on properties in bushfire prone areas.

The report into the February 2011 Perth Hills Bushfire – A Shared Responsibility, prepared by M J Keelty AO APM, considered the impact of gas cylinders installed, or located within close proximity to houses. EnergySafety testing found gas cylinders could rupture if they fell over during a fire creating a risk for Emergency Services personnel and bystanders.

The guideline advises residents in bushfire prone areas to ensure their gas cylinders are supported or secured so they remained upright at all times.

Although EnergySafety has recommended changes to the Australian Standard to make support or tethering of LP Gas cylinders mandatory, this is a lengthy process and would only apply to new installations.

The guideline – *LP Gas cylinder safety in bushfire-prone areas* – aims to help residents reduce the risks associated with LPG cylinders should a fire approach by providing information on where and how to position gas cylinders and safety valves, install support structures, actions to take during a bushfire and gas cylinder maintenance.

To obtain a copy of the guideline, consumers may visit their local council, or the EnergySafety website at [www.energysafety.wa.gov.au](http://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](mailto:energysafety@commerce.wa.gov.au)  
Internet: [www.energysafety.wa.gov.au](http://www.energysafety.wa.gov.au)

## EnergySafety helps to weather the storm

The destructive winds and wild weather that hit Perth on Sunday, 12 June 2012 resulted in widespread damage across the southern part of the state with Western Power reporting at its peak there were 170,000 homes and businesses without power.

EnergySafety electrical and gas inspectors and electrical engineers teamed up to assist Western Power in the field as 'wire watchers' to report on damage and increase public awareness around safety hazards.

The six teams focused on;

- locating & reporting hazards/faults,
- advising on the extent of the damage, and
- erecting barriers to divert pedestrians through hazardous areas.

The assistance of these teams supported Western Power to prioritise workloads to keep the public safe and restore power as quickly as possible.

## Revised Code of Practice

EnergySafety's revised Code of Practice for vegetation control workers near powerlines was published in the Government Gazette and officially launched by the Hon. Simon O'Brien, Minister for Finance; Commerce; Small Business at a Tree Guild WA Inc. function on 18 July 2012.

The Minister also launched the Tree Guild's new Code of Practice and Code of Conduct at the same function.

EnergySafety's new Code is now in force for new entrants to the vegetation control industry for work inside the danger zone as defined in Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996 (Reg 3.64). Existing workers have six months to complete EnergySafety's online assessment of their knowledge of the new Code of Practice and demonstrate they have worked for the required times as a Safety Observer, LV Worker or HV Worker to continue working at those levels.

The Code mandates competencies drawn from the Australian Qualifications Framework for each level of worker.

The Government Gazette notice also announced that only a Registered Training Organisation approved to deliver the units of competency specified in the Code of Practice for Personnel Electrical Safety for Vegetation Control Work Near Live Powerlines, is approved for the purposes of training and assessing the competency of workers.

Members of the WA Local Government Association, who provide the majority of work covered by this Code will be specifying compliance with the Code of Practice for all future contracts.

The Electricity Regulations 1947 provide penalties for failure to meet the Code of Practice.

A copy of the revised Code of Practice for Personnel Electrical Safety for Vegetation Control Work Near Live Powerlines is available from our website at **[www.energysafety.wa.gov.au](http://www.energysafety.wa.gov.au)**.

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### For enquiries:

Editor: Cathy Gildersleeve

Phone: 08 9422 5208

Fax: 08 9422 5244

Email: [cgildersleeve@commerce.wa.gov.au](mailto:cgildersleeve@commerce.wa.gov.au)

Internet: [www.energysafety.wa.gov.au](http://www.energysafety.wa.gov.au)

# electrical

## focus

### Q and As

**Q:** *Where can I find a copy of the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991?*

**A:** The latest version of the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991 can be downloaded from the State Law Publisher website at [www.slp.wa.gov.au](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au).

**Q:** *What is notifiable work?*

**A:** The Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991 defines notifiable work. In summary, all electrical work is notifiable, except:

- Maintenance work, with the exception if the work requires the disconnection and reconnection of the supply to the installation or the replacement of service apparatus.
- The alteration of a final sub-circuit; or
- The addition of a single final sub-circuit.

All 'notifiable work' requires Preliminary Notices and Notices of Completion. An Electrical Safety Certificate is required for all electrical work, notifiable and non-notifiable.

**Q:** *Can an electrician from interstate or New Zealand apply for a Western Australian electrician's licence?*

**A:** Yes. To obtain an Electrician's Licence or an Electrical Fitting Permit, an 'Application for an Electrician's Licence or Electrician's Licence endorsed Electrical Fitting

Work Only (Interstate/New Zealand Reciprocal Recognition)' from EnergySafety's Licensing Office or website [www.commerce.wa.gov.au/EnergySafety/Content/Publications/FormsElectrical.html](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/EnergySafety/Content/Publications/FormsElectrical.html)

This application must be accompanied by:

- An application fee of \$40.
- The licence registration fee of \$355, which is valid for five (5) years.
- Proof of identification.
- A clear copy of both sides of their current electrical licence registration from Australia or New Zealand.

**Q:** *How do I subscribe to receive copies of the "Energy Bulletin"?*

**A:** Receive free "Energy Bulletins" through EnergySafety's website

[www.commerce.wa.gov.au/EnergySafety/PDF/EnergyBulletins](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/EnergySafety/PDF/EnergyBulletins)

**Q:** *Where can I find previous editions of the "Energy Bulletin"?*

**A:** Download all previous "Energy Bulletin" editions at EnergySafety's website [www.commerce.wa.gov.au/EnergySafety/PDF/EnergyBulletins](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/EnergySafety/PDF/EnergyBulletins)

### EnergySafety restructure

A recent restructure has seen the formation of two new Directorates: Electricity Compliance and Policy and Electrical Engineering and several new positions.

Congratulations to the following staff on their new appointments:

- Don Saunders – Director of Policy and Electrical Engineering
- Michael Bunko – Director Electricity Compliance
- Peter Wright – Chief Electrical Inspector Supply
- Peter Johnston – Chief Electrical Inspector Utilisation
- Harold Hills – Chief Electrical Inspector Compliance
- Todd Bell – Manager Electrical Inspection (Supply)
- Gary Scott – Manager Electrical Inspection (Utilisation)
- Graham Sorensen – Senior Electrical Inspector

### New Fax Number for Horizon Power

The fax numbers for electrical notices and network service requests/network applications forms have changed. Please update your records with the new numbers.

All **Electrical Notices** should be sent to fax number **6310 1044**.

The email address remains the same: [electricalnotices@horizonpower.com.au](mailto:electricalnotices@horizonpower.com.au)

All **Network Service Request** and **Network Applications** should be sent to fax number **6310 1041**.

The email address remains the same: [worksadmin@horizonpower.com.au](mailto:worksadmin@horizonpower.com.au)

## Western Power fined \$240,000 for transpositions

Network operator Western Power has been fined \$240,000 for four separate incidents where they did not maintain their service apparatus at residential properties in a safe and fit condition for supplying electricity.

In the first incident, at a residential property in Australind, Western Power's contractor Thiess Services Pty Ltd replaced the overhead service mains cable with a new XLPE type cable under Western Power's Overhead Customer Services Connection Project (OCSC) and transposed the active and neutral conductors of the single phase 240 volts ac overhead service mains at the mains connection box (MCB).

The transposition was discovered as a result of the property owner's six year old son receiving an electric shock when he touched an outside water tap at the house and could not let go. The property owner had also previously received electric shocks from the wall oven and the house metering/main switchboards metallic enclosure.

A Western Power Senior Technical Officer investigated the shocks and measured 249 volts ac between an independent earth and the water tap and the house main switchboard enclosure. He found the transposition of the active and neutral connection of the service mains cable at the MCB.

In the second similar incident, Western Power's contractor Transfield Services replaced the overhead service mains at a duplex in Bullcreek as part of the OCSC project and transposed the active neutral conductors of the single-phase 240 volt ac overhead service mains at the MCB.

This transposition was discovered when the property owner and his wife both received electric shocks from the water taps in the shower.

A Western Power Network Officer and a Western Power faultman investigated the electric shocks and discovered 27 volts between the shower taps and earth, 226 volts between the neutral conductor and earth at the house main switchboard and found the active and neutral conductors at the service mains to be transposed.

In the third incident, Western Power's contractor Netspark Electrical, replaced the overhead service mains cable with a new XLPE under the OCSC project and transposed the active and neutral conductors of the single phase 240 volt ac service mains cable at the MCB located at the top of the consumer's pole in the front of the house.

This transposition was discovered when the property owner received an electric shock from the laundry water taps and kitchen taps and his son received an electric shock while in the shower.

Another person, who lived a few houses away, also received an electric shock as a result of the transposition.

The Network Officer who investigated the electric shocks measured 150 volts between the metallic meter enclosure and an independent earth and 240 volts between the line neutral and an independent earth.

Western Power pleaded guilty to the charges and the Magistrate convicted and fined the network operator \$60,000 for each plus court costs.

In a fourth separate incident, Western Power contractor West Coast Energy replaced the 240 volts ac overhead single-phase service main at a property in

Joondanna as part of the OCSC project and transposed the active and neutral conductors of the service mains at the MCB at the residence.

The transposition was discovered when the property owner, his son and his mother-in-law received electric shocks from the shower and kitchen water taps.

The Network Officer who investigated the incident measured 23 volts between the metallic meter/main switchboard enclosure and earth. He then requested a Western Power faultman to visit the site to check the service main cable. Together they found the active and neutral conductors of the service mains cable were transposed at the MCB.

Western Power pleaded guilty and the Magistrate convicted and fined the network operator \$60,000 with court costs.

## Recent changes to the regulations

The following changes came into effect on 13 April 2012 "Western Australian Government Gazette" No.60).

### Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991

#### Work on an electric motor vehicle propulsion system

The definition of electrical work has been amended to clarify that work on the electrical components of a motor vehicle (as defined in the *Road Traffic Act 1974*, Section 5(1)) that operate on direct current, is not deemed to be electrical work.

Therefore, an electrical worker's licence is not required for this work, however, all work (including electrical work) on motor vehicles is subject to the licensing requirements of the *Motor Vehicle Repairers Act 2003*.

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### Notices of Completion

Regulation 52 has been amended to clarify that electrical work must be verified that it meets the relevant standards (i.e. checked and tested) and safe to use before the Notice of Completion is signed by the electrical contractor. It is not sufficient just to form an opinion that the work is complete and then deliver the Notice of Completion to the network operator.

### **Electricity Regulations 1947**

#### RCDs

Regulation 13 has been amended to clarify that the requirement to have at least two RCDs installed before the property is made available for rent or hire applies even if only a single room is to be rented.

#### Interference with an Electrical Installation

New Regulation 19 makes it an offence to interfere with an electrical installation that results in any part of the installation becoming unsafe. Interference includes the installation of thermal insulation or the disturbance of thermal insulation that restricts the escape of heat generated by electrical equipment, in particular downlights and associated transformers fitted in ceilings.

#### Neutral Voltage Line

New Regulation 243 sets an upper limit of 6 volts on the neutral of a consumer's installation. If excessive neutral voltage is caused by a defect in the distribution network, the network operator must carry out remedial work to reduce the voltage so that an occupier of the premises is no longer inconvenienced. If the excessive voltage is caused within the installation or an adjacent installation an inspector will issue an order on the owner of the premises causing the high neutral voltage to carry out suitable

remedial work to reduce the voltage so that occupiers of the affected premises are no longer inconvenienced. The electricity supply to the defective installation may be disconnected until the remedial work has been completed.

### **Western Power working end pillars (white cap pillars)**

As a part of underground distribution works by network operators, you may come across pillars that cannot be used to connect a customer's installation. These are working end pillars which allow both high voltage (HV) and low voltage (LV) distribution cables to be extended to the subdivision scheme boundary for future extension into the next stage. These are not for property connection and carry a label warning of their limited use.

During subdivision construction, underground cables, both HV and LV, may be extended to the



*Photograph showing a working end pillar as how it should appear.*



*Photograph showing a poorly painted working end pillar that has the warning label peeling off.*

subdivision scheme boundary for future extension into the next stage. The developer will terminate these cables at the working end pillars.

Working end pillars will not be installed inside any lot boundaries (including public open space lots) and can be painted or are partly painted white (similar to a graffiti attack) and are labelled "Western Power Use Only. Not for Connection. Working Ends Only."

Electrical contractors need to be aware that these pillars occur throughout the south west interconnected system (SWIS) to ensure they don't run consumer mains to them.

If you have a pillar energisation enquiry for the SWIS, please contact Western Power on 13 10 87.

### **Conviction for falsifying a licensing application to restore an electrical contractor's licence and for carrying out unlicensed electrical work**

An investigation revealed that Grant Michael Stone carried out electrical installing work while not holding an electrical worker's licence. Stone also carried out electrical contracting work without being authorised by an electrical contractor's licence as he had stated that he had a nominee when this was not the case.

Stone, the sole trader of GMS Property Services, was contracted by a home owner in Karrinyup to install two residual current devices (RCDs) to protect all socket outlets and lighting circuits. Stone carried out the electrical installing work, invoiced the home owner of the property for the work and received payment for it.

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After the work had been carried out, Western Power received a complaint from an electrician stating that while replacing a combined fan-light-heater at the property, he found the following serious defects:

- One lighting circuit was not protected by an RCD.
- A lighting circuit protective earth was not terminated.
- There was a fault on the lighting circuit.
- A socket outlet located in the switchboard was not protected by an RCD.

Stone had restored his electrical contractor's licence in August 2005 and in the process, listed another electrician as a nominee without gaining the electrician's authorisation.

Stone falsified, signed and submitted the "Restoration of Name to the Electricity Licensing

Register" application form to the Electrical Licensing Board to allow his company GMS Property Services, to restore its electrical contractor's licence.

Stone continued to receive renewal applications from EnergySafety's Licensing Office and made the required payments, he thereby maintained his electrical contractor's registration documents with the electrician's name falsely shown as the company's electrical nominee. This allowed GMS Property Services to maintain electrical contractor status.

Stone pleaded guilty to carrying out electrical installing work without being authorised by an electrical worker's licence or permit, carrying on a business as an electrical contractor while not authorised by an electrical contractor's licence and for falsifying a licensing application and renewing it while knowing the declared information to obtain his contractor's licence, was false.

The magistrate imposed a fine of \$4,000 with court costs of \$649.70.

This serves as a reminder for all electricians to report any defects to the network operator. If the electrician who discovered the defective electrical work had not reported it to the network operator, Stone could have continued as a danger to the community by carrying out electrical installing work without having the necessary training, skills or knowledge.

When reporting defective electrical work, sufficient details of the defective installation must be provided to the network operator for an investigation to commence. The network operator inspector will then immediately inspect the defective work (if unsafe), ensure it is made safe and then investigate the unsafe work.

## Electrical Licensing Fees

As of 1 July 2012, the following fees apply under the *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991*.

Electrical Worker's Licence/Permit	Fee (\$)
Application for a licence or permit	40
Registration and renewal of licence registration (for five years)	355
Permit fee (for one year)	71
Replacement for licence or permit or copy of certificate of registration	25
Application for restoration of name to register (failure to renew )	40
Electrical Contractor's and In-House Electrical Installing Licence	Fee (\$)
Application for a licence	80
Registration or renewal of registration of electrical contractor's licence	429
Registration or renewal of registration of in-house electrical installing work licence	214
Replacing or adding a nominee for an electrical contractor's licence	380
Replacing or adding a nominee for an in-house licence electrical installing work licence	190
Replacement for a licence or copy of a certificate of registration	32
Extract of register	32
Copy of register (if available)	68
Application for restoration of name to register (failure to renew)	40
General	Fee (\$)
Further inspection	158

## Simon Bunney in court again

EnergySafety has previously alerted employers and electricians to be on the look out for Simon Bunney and to report him to the network operator or this Office if it becomes known that he has been undertaking electrical work.

Readers would be aware that Bunney holds himself to be a licensed electrician by using a fraudulent copy of an electrical worker's licence.

On 7 March 2012, Simon Bunney was again convicted and fined a global penalty of \$3,000 for several breaches of the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991 including four breaches of the Regulation 19(1). Bunney was also convicted for one breach of Regulation 59(1)(c) for wrongfully representing himself as the person referred to in an electrical worker's licence.

Bunney had supplied a labour hire company with his resume, and had advised them that he was a qualified "A" grade electrical mechanic to gain work as an electrician at a gold mine. The unlicensed electrical work carried out at the mine site by Bunney included the installation of cabling between a generator and switchboard and the connection and commissioning of a generator associated with a transportable building, installation of a lighting fitting, the relocation of an air-conditioning unit (including extending the cable and connection of a junction box on the air-conditioner) and the replacement of an equipment tray in a lighting fitting.

Considering the nature of this work, it was a great concern to this Office that the work was performed by an individual who did not possess the necessary training or skills to perform such work in a safe manner.

This placed Bunney and the public at serious risk.

Simon Bunney is not a stranger to the courts. On 29 March 2010, he was convicted and fined a global penalty of \$20,000 for several breaches of the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991 including nine breaches of Regulation 19(1) for carrying out unlicensed electrical work at two nickel mine sites. Bunney was also convicted for one breach of Regulations 59(1)(c) for wrongfully representing himself as the person referred to in an electrical licence.

On 14 April 2008, Bunney was convicted and fined \$500 for three breaches of the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991 for carrying out unlicensed electrical work at a copper mine site.

There is clear danger when unqualified and inexperienced workers are repetitively performing electrical work and are not adhering to standards or regulations. As a matter of public safety, EnergySafety encourages electricians to report instances of unlicensed work to the Electrical Compliance Directorate on 9422 5261.

## Incorrect IP rating on a double weatherproof socket outlet

EnergySafety received a complaint from an electrical contractor concerned about the IP rating of a double weatherproof socket.

The unit was offered for sale from HQA Wholesale Suppliers as a HQAWPS2 Double weatherproof P/point 10A IP56 and was suitable for 10A 250 volts.

The information was identical on the packaging box and the adhesive label on the unit for the double power point (socket outlet).



*Photograph showing the weatherproof socket outlet.*

The HQAWPS2 Double weatherproof socket outlet appeared similar in construction to other well known brands (Clipsal and HPM) IP53 rated weatherproof power points, hence the cause for concern.

An investigation revealed the product was IP53 rated, which was confirmed from the supplier and that there had been a packaging error in the manufacturing process.

HQA Wholesale Suppliers, an electrical supplier from Queensland was aware of the issue and had spoken to their only supplier and installer in Western Australia about the issue. Approximately 150 pieces were sold in Western Australia to a single distributor/installer.

HQA Wholesale Suppliers advised EnergySafety that there are approximately 8% of installed socket outlets that may have been placed in unsuitable locations and that they will be contacting the customers. All others outlets available have been relabelled to IP53 as intended and all customers who have had the product installed have been notified.

## Contractor prosecuted for a transposition error which caused three electric shocks

An investigation revealed that electrician Peter Lippiatt failed to carry out adequate checks and tests on the installation on which he had worked. The work included the installation and connection (termination) of single phase

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underground consumers mains from the Western Power (WP) pillar to an adjacent builder's supply (switchboard and tariff meter) for a property in Harrisdale.

The electrician had also tested the installation, leaving the builder's supply connected to the electricity supply, allowing the building site power to be utilised for construction purposes.

Some days later, a person received an electric shock when they touched the builder's supply enclosure at the property.

An inspection carried out by a Western Power inspector revealed that the consumers mains active and neutral conductors at the tariff meter of the builder's supply were incorrectly connected. This would have resulted in the earthing system (via the MEN connection) and the conductive parts of the builder's supply enclosure to



*Photograph showing the transposed active and neutral conductors.*

become "live" and dangerous with a touch potential of up to 240 volts AC.

Approximately a month later, Western Power was advised that two bricklayers had received an electric shock when they touched the builder's supply enclosure at a property in Hammond Park.

The Western Power Inspector carried out another inspection of the property and discovered that the consumers mains active and neutral conductors at the tariff meter of the builder's supply were incorrectly connected (i.e. transposed active and neutral conductors).

The defects at the two installations left a highly dangerous situation as detailed above. Three people received electric shocks as a result of the serious defects, which could have killed them.

It was clear following the inspections by the Western Power Inspector of the two installations, that the verification (inspection, checking and testing) of the electrical installations by Lippiatt was inadequate and contrary to the requirements in AS/NZS 3000:2007 "Wiring Rules" and was not safe to connect to the electricity supply.

At the time of the offences, Lippiatt had 'Contractor Connect Scheme' accreditation, Following the sub-standard work, his Contractor Connect accreditation was suspended.

Peter Lippiatt entered a plea of guilty. Given the seriousness of the offences, the magistrate imposed a fine of \$15, 000 with court costs of \$649.70.

## **Prosecutions for breaches of electricity legislation**

*1 March to 31 May 2012*

<b>Name (and suburb of residence at time of offence)</b>	<b>Licence No.</b>	<b>Legislation and Breach</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Date of Offence</b>	<b>Fine (\$)</b>	<b>Court Costs (\$)</b>
<i>Richard Scallan (Boyanup)</i>	<i>EW115442</i>	<i>Regulation 33(1) E(L)R 1991</i>	<i>Held himself out to be an electrical contractor while not authorised by an electrical contractor's licence</i>	<i>12/02/10</i>	<i>7,500.00</i>	<i>649.70</i>
		<i>Regulation 49(1) E(L)R 1991</i>	<i>Carried out unsafe and substandard electrical work</i>			
<i>Brian Fahy (Northbridge)</i>	<i>EW156030</i>	<i>Regulation 33(1) E(L)R 1991</i>	<i>Carrying on business as an electrical contractor while not authorised by an electrical contractor's licence</i>	<i>Between 27/01/10 and 12/02/10</i>	<i>5,000.00</i>	<i>649.70</i>



## Prosecutions for breaches of electricity legislation continued

<b>Name (and suburb of residence at time of offence)</b>	<b>Licence No.</b>	<b>Legislation and Breach</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Date of Offence</b>	<b>Fine (\$)</b>	<b>Court Costs (\$)</b>
Grant Michael Stone (Scarborough)	NLH	Regulation 19(1) E(L)R 1991	Carried out electrical installing work while not authorised by an electrical worker's licence	23/03/10	4,000.00	649.70
		Regulation 33(1) E(L)R 1991	Carrying on business as an electrical contractor while not authorised by an electrical contractor's licence			
		Regulation 59(1)(a) E(L)R 1991	Falsifying a licence application			
Nathan Bailey (Darch)	EW144278	Regulation 49(1) E(L)R 1991	Carried out unsafe and substandard electrical work	02/02/10	1,000.00	649.70
Gerrit Ballast (Albany)	EW157772	Regulation 49(1) E(L)R 1991	Carried out unsafe and substandard electrical work	05/03/10	11,000.00	649.70
Matthew Grainger (Madora Bay)	EW146771	Regulation 49(1) E(L)R 1991	Carried out unsafe and substandard electrical work	18/01/10	4,000.00	649.70
Peter Lippiatt (Swan View)	EW161361	Regulation 49(1) E(L)R 1991 (2 breaches)	Carried out unsafe and substandard electrical work	Between 08/03/10 and 11/03/10	15,000.00	649.70
Ricky-Lee McKeith (Attadale)	EW141406	Regulation 49(1) E(L)R 1991 (2 breaches)	Carried out unsafe and substandard electrical work	Between 14/02/10 and 16/02/10	4,000.00	649.70
Rocco Vasile (Munster)	EW164452	Regulation 49(1) E(L)R 1991	Carried out unsafe and substandard electrical work	Between 01/02/10 to 30/04/10	6,500.00	649.70
Christian Ahumada (Wilson)	NLH	Regulation 49B E(L)R 1991	Carried out electrical work that was not safe for use and was not completed to trade finish	9/01/10	7,500.00	649.70
Shane Willis (Broome)	EW106649	Regulation 50A E(L)R 1991	Permitted unsafe wiring to be connected at an electrical installation	13/02/10	4,000.00	649.70

## Prosecutions for breaches of electricity legislation continued

<b>Name (and suburb of residence at time of offence)</b>	<b>Licence No.</b>	<b>Legislation and Breach</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Date of Offence</b>	<b>Fine (\$)</b>	<b>Court Costs (\$)</b>
Simon Gold (Butler)	EW141908	Regulation 50(1) E(L)R 1991	Did not effectively supervise an electrical apprentice	16/02/10	5,000.00	649.70
Simon Bunny (North Fremantle)	NLH	Regulation 19(1) E(L)R 1991 (4 breaches)	Carried out electrical installing work while not authorised by an electrical worker's licence	Between 29/12/09 and 09/01/10	3,000.00	649.70
		Regulation 59(1)(c) E(L)R 1991	Wrongfully represented himself at the above address as being the person referred to in an electrical licence			
Electricity Networks Corporation T/ As Western Power (Perth)	EC004931	Regulation 25(1)(a) EA	Failed to maintain service apparatus in a safe and fit condition for supplying electricity	23/04/10	60,000.00	649.70
Electricity Networks Corporation T/ As Western Power (Perth)	EC004931	Regulation 25(1)(a) EA	Failed to maintain service apparatus in a safe and fit condition for supplying electricity	05/02/10	60,000.00	649.70
Electricity Networks Corporation T/ As Western Power (Perth)	EC004931	Regulation 25(1)(a) EA	Failed to maintain service apparatus in a safe and fit condition for supplying electricity	16/02/10	60,000.00	649.70
Electricity Networks Corporation T/ As Western Power (Perth)	EC004931	Regulation 25(1)(a) EA	Failed to maintain service apparatus in a safe and fit condition for supplying electricity	25/02/10	60,000.00	649.70
Stephen Hartley (Eaton)	EW122629	Regulation 49(1) E(L)R 1991	Carried out unsafe and substandard electrical work	07/04/10	5,000.00	649.70

# g a s

## focus

### Gas water heater exemption 2003/251 revoked

The Exemption 2003/251 is to be revoked by the Director of Energy Safety effective 1 November 2012.

From this date, the Exemption is cancelled and withdrawn. Replacement gas water heaters will no longer be permitted to be installed in the same non-conforming locations. Gas fitters must ensure that these gas installations also comply with the prescribed requirements of the regulations and AS/NZS 5601 Gas installations.

EnergySafety had forewarned that this action may be taken in a Gas Focus article of Energy Bulletin No. 57 published in February 2012. Further review has found that the exemption previously issued under regulation 32(1)(b) of the Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999 was being misused by some gas fitters.

EnergySafety may issue either a specific variation/exemption or dispensation in exceptional circumstances for residential units of particular multi-storey buildings that are not able to be brought into stringent conformance. These are generally issued to the building Strata Company and displayed near the gas installations within the particular multi-storey residential building. They may also be listed in the Generic/Global Variation/Exemptions on the EnergySafety website at [http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/EnergySafety/Content/Regulation/Gas\\_Installations/Interpretations\\_of\\_AS\\_5601\\_gas.html](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/EnergySafety/Content/Regulation/Gas_Installations/Interpretations_of_AS_5601_gas.html).

Where a gas fitter encounters an existing non-conforming installation in a multi-storey residential building and has been requested to install a replacement gas water heater then this must conform to prescribed requirements. Designated gas inspectors at ATCO Gas Australia (Phone: 9499 5200) or EnergySafety (Phone: 9422 5297) may be able to assist the gas fitter in gaining compliance with installation of replacement gas water heaters.

### Approval of individual and custom built Type A gas appliances.

It is an offence in Western Australia to sell, hire or display for sale a gas appliance that is not approved. Approvals are undertaken by the Australian Gas Association (AGA), SAI Global and other approval bodies recognised by the Director of EnergySafety and those gas appliances individually approved by independent gas inspectors.

A gas fitter was about to commence the installation of some custom built gas appliances in an alfresco setting, and being aware of these regulations noticed some irregularities with the approval badges on two gas appliances. The gas fitter quite rightly declined to install the appliances and reported the anomalies to the gas supplier who in turn alerted EnergySafety.

The badges had been transferred from other gas appliances previously installed.

As the appliances could not be installed they were returned to the retailer.

Investigation by an EnergySafety gas inspector found that the badges belonged to two gas appliances that had been modified since their approval and then combined into custom built appliances.

This resulted in the appliance retailer receiving a significant monetary penalty, their reputation damaged and the consumer seeking a refund. Things could have been much worse had the gas appliances been connected. There was a possibility of causing serious personal injury or property damage.

In Western Australia a specific appliance approvals process exists for individual, modified and custom-built appliances.

An independent Type A gas appliance inspector designated by the Director inspects and tests the appliance for compliance to the relevant Australian Standards and codes to ensure they are safe and suitable for installation and use in Western Australia. Only when the inspector is satisfied the appliance is fully compliant can an approval badge be attached.

The specific approvals process enables manufacturers of custom built appliances, agents of imported appliances or modified appliances for which market potential is to be ascertained, can be assured that the appliance has been satisfactorily tested to acceptable standards of gas safety.

## Volume produced appliances

The Director of Energy Safety recognises a number of competent bodies for the certification of volume produced Type A appliances. A list of these approval bodies along with their specific identification badges are published on the EnergySafety website, also available as a brochure. Installers can download a copy of 'Approval of Type A gas appliances' from our website at: [www.energysafety.wa.gov.au](http://www.energysafety.wa.gov.au)

## Approval Badge for Type A Gas Appliances

EnergySafety will soon introduce a revised approval badge for Type A gas appliances that are approved by Type A gas appliance inspectors in Western Australia. The new approval badge is identified by the code ESWA G002 0612 at the bottom right hand corner of the plate.



The revised badge will replace the current badge [ESWA G002 1003] and is of a similar colour and size.

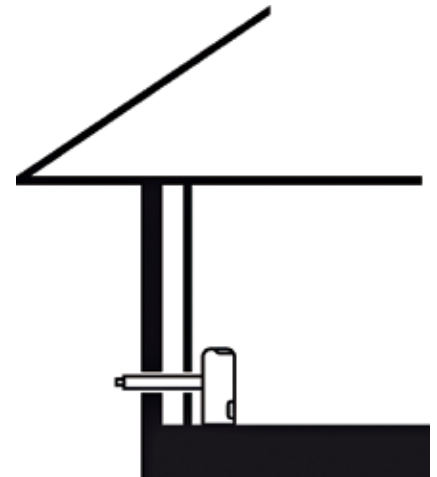
The current approval badge will be phased out from 30 July 2012.

## 6 Star Rating houses and gas bayonet points

With the residential energy efficiency requirements in the Building Code Australia (BCA) now at "6 Stars" the installation of gas bayonet points for the connection of unflued room heaters will no longer be allowed in new houses constructed after 1 May 2012.

To achieve 6 Star rating, insulation is not only required in the ceiling space but also within the cavity walls. The construction of double brick homes lends it readily to accept the "blow in" form of insulation.

Under the Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999, high and low level ventilation to



the outside is required at 250cm<sup>2</sup> for each opening. The practice of placing one vent at low level from the room into the cavity and another in the ceiling at high level in a house with full insulation will no longer meet these ventilation requirements.

If a vent at low level was installed passing right through the cavity to the outside, this would compromise the 6 Star rating of the house.

As an alternative to a bayonet point, builders will be recommending to prospective clients to install a conventionally flued gas heater or a gas heater with a balanced flue. The installation of a balanced flued heater negates the need to install high and low level ventilation with the economies of simpler installation requirements.



## Gas Licensing Fees

As of 1 July 2012, the following fees apply under the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999*.

Gasfitting Permit's/Authorisations	Fee (\$)
Application for a permit	71
Application for an authorisation	429
Replacement for a permit or authorisation	25



## Information for industrial gas fitters of Type B Gas equipment

Siemens LGA, LGB & LMG

Siemens (Landis & GYR) burner controls have been phased out of production.

Industry has been advised that Siemens Building Controls have limited stock of these controllers remaining. EnergySafety will no longer accept any new gas appliances with these controllers.

Existing stocks of Siemens controllers will be considered suitable as “like for like” replacement only.

In replacing any of the above controllers with any other burner controller, including the Siemens controls, EnergySafety will consider this as a modification requiring approval of the Director in accordance with Regulation 36 (1a) of the Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999.

Please note that the bases of some Siemens controllers are similar but the input/output locations are different, so it is possible a dangerous situation may arise if rewiring and safety interlock verifications are not completed.

As a Class I gas fitter, should you require any further information or assistance in this matter and want to install a replacement burner control, please contact the gas appliance/burner manufacturer.

## Dispensation for gas installations in specific multi-storey residential buildings

Rather than having a generic or global exemption (GV/E 2003/251) applying to mainly multi-storey building installations, EnergySafety now intends issuing either a specific variation/exemption or dispensation in exceptional circumstances for the non-complying gas installations in residential units of particular multi-storey buildings.

The variation/exemption or dispensation will be specific to a particular multi-storey building that has not been able to be brought into stringent conformance with the regulations and AS/NZS 5601.1.

These dispensations are generally to be issued to the building Strata Company and displayed near

each of the residential unit gas installations within the particular multi-storey residential building.

They are also to be listed on the EnergySafety website ([http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/EnergySafety/Content/Regulation/Gas\\_installations/index.html](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/EnergySafety/Content/Regulation/Gas_installations/index.html)) under ‘*Dispensations for specific multi-storey residential buildings*’.

Where a gas fitter encounters an existing non-conforming installation in any multi-storey residential building and has been requested to install a replacement gas water heater then this must conform to prescribed requirements under the regulations.

If this is not considered possible and there is no specific variation/exemption or dispensation available either on-site or on the EnergySafety website, then please contact designated gas inspectors beforehand at:

ATCO Gas Australia  
(Phone: 9499 5200); or  
EnergySafety (Phone: 9422 5297).

These gas inspectors may be able to further assist the gas fitter in gaining compliance with the installation of replacement gas water heaters or in obtaining a dispensation or variation/exemption for the particular residential multi-storey building.

## Portable barbecue to be withdrawn from sale

This particular type of portable barbecue situated on an extension connected to a brass valve will no longer be available for sale in Western Australia.

A complaint following an incident with this type of barbecue led to further testing by EnergySafety to determine the basis of the complaint. Should a fitting or a cylinder valve fail for whatever reason, LP Gas can rush from the cylinder. Ignition of this escaping gas can cause serious burns to anyone near the barbecue and property damage.

Gas Technical Regulators around Australia have agreed with manufacturers of gas appliances and Conformity Assessment Bodies to introduce National Uniform Scheme Rules. In the future the opportunity of maintaining certification of appliances that are not deemed to comply with new or improved standards will be limited. On this basis one can expect that these types of appliances will become unavailable.



In the interim, in the interest of your safety EnergySafety would recommend you take extreme care should you wish to continue using these appliances.

## Staff Changes at EnergySafety



Senior Gas Inspector David Hartley's pending retirement in January 2013 resulted in a vacancy within the department. This has now been filled with Roy Shearer joining the Gas Inspection Branch as a Senior Gas Inspector.

EnergySafety thanks David Hartley for his years of service and acknowledge the significant contributions made by David in ensuring consistent and adequate accredited training for our future gas fitters and wishes him all the best in his retirement.

Roy commenced his career by undertaking an apprenticeship with the Royal Australian Navy as an electrician working mainly on diesel fired HMAS Torrens and Fremantle Class Patrol Boats.

He began working with gas fired appliances in 1994 and since then has worked on a variety of gas and dual fuel Type B Appliances.

EnergySafety extends a warm welcome to Roy.

## Servicing Type B Appliances

It's disappointing to report that EnergySafety has had to infringe 3 industrial gas fitters within the past few months. The infringements were a result of investigations that highlighted complacency and deficiencies in gas fitters' understanding of the requirements when servicing these often complex appliances.

In one case an experienced industrial gas fitter had serviced an appliance which involved cleaning of the combustion air fan. Upon completion, the appliance was placed back into service without the gas fitter checking combustion was compliant. The result was an explosion which was believed to have been caused by a build-up of carbon monoxide due to incomplete combustion. The investigation found carbon deposits inside to the flue indicating the appliance had been burning incorrectly for some time. EnergySafety reminds gas fitters, cleaning of gas appliances often affects air/gas ratio. Depending on the degree of debris build-up this affect can be significant, therefore flue gas analysis upon completion is required.

All "I" class gas fitters and Authorisation holders are reminded that if they engage in servicing Type B industrial gas appliances they need to ensure, upon completion, the appliance is tested for safe and correct operation before it is handed back to the client. In the case of Type B appliances the appliance operation and setup is required to be checked against original commissioning data if available. At a minimum, a combustion analysis is required to ensure the appliance is safe and compliant with the requirements of AS3814.



### WHAT IS "SERVICING"?

**Servicing** is defined in the regulations as:

- (a) maintenance involving the adjustment and cleaning of any gas appliance or apparatus in the gas installation in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer; or
- (b) repair involving the exchange of components but not requiring modification of the installation.

As with any gas appliance (**Type A or B**), when a gas fitter services an appliance the gas fitter is required to comply with the requirements of Regulation 23 of the Gas Standards (Gasfitting & Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999, which requires a gas fitter to record service information. At a minimum this information must include:

- 1. the date the service took place; and**
- 2. the gas fitter's number of the gas fitter who did or supervised the work.**

This information can be recorded on a simple label, or in the case of Type B appliances, gas fitters are reminded that EnergySafety produce a Gas Service Logbook. This logbook assists industry, including gas fitters and owners/operators of Type B appliances, to meet regulatory obligations, including regulatory requirements associated with recording details of their servicing work.

The owner/operator of the industrial gas installation is responsible for applying to EnergySafety for use of the logbook at their site, but gas fitters can apply with consent of their client. The use of a Gas Service Logbook is approved in each case by the Director.

Be aware, EnergySafety will be stepping up its compliance audits of industrial gas installations, "I" class gasfitters and Authorisation holders around Western Australia over coming months.

## Prosecutions for breaches of gas legislation

1 April 2012 to 30 June 2012

<b>Name (and suburb of residence at time of offence)</b>	<b>Licence No.</b>	<b>Legislation and Breach</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Fine (\$)</b>	<b>Court Costs (\$)</b>
Ronald Keith Child (Iluka)	NLH	GSA 1972 13(A)(2)	Carried out gasfitting work while not holding a certificate of competency, permit or authorisation allowing him to do so	20,000	649.70
Christopher Brocklebank (Woodvale)	GF 14946	GSA 1972 13 (A)(2)	Carried out gasfitting work while not holding a certificate of competency, permit or authorisation allowing him to do so	700	649.70
Craig Sulzberger (Hopetoun)	NLH	GSA 1972 13(A)(2)	Carried out gasfitting work while not holding a certificate of competency, permit or authorisation allowing him to do so	8,000	649.70
		GSR 1999 42(A)	Failing to report an incident that causes or is likely to cause injury to a person or damage to property		

Legend NLH No Licence Held

GSA Gas Standards Act 1972

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