



Office of **Energy**

Office of **ENERGY WA**

Gas FOCUS

Damage to Electrical Consumers Mains

There has recently been an increasing number of instances of consumers mains cables being damaged by gas fitters when installing gas pipes below the electrical meter enclosure. The problems occur particularly where dual electric/gas enclosures are used.

1. A gas fitter drilled through a brick wall into the wall cavity, hitting the [fortunately dead] consumers mains cable in the cavity. The checking and testing process revealed the damage to the consumers mains before the cable was energised. The cable was subsequently replaced.
2. A gas fitter fed a gas pipe down the wall cavity alongside the meter enclosure. The pipe forced the live consumers mains into a sharp edge, causing damage to the cable. Fortunately no injury occurred. The overhead connection was isolated by Western Power so that repairs could be made.

Keep in mind that the consumers mains cable is not capable of being de-energised by the main switch. The consumers mains cable is generally a double insulated cable with no earth conductor and no additional mechanical protection inside a cavity wall. It is possible for damage to occur to one of the live conductors only, thus livening up any tool that is being used and without blowing any fuse.

With the preferred practice by builders of establishing the builders supply in the permanent meter position rather than using a temporary box clear of the building, there is an increasing likelihood that the consumer's mains will be live during the construction period.

IT IS IMPORTANT that all workers take extreme care to identify the location of consumers mains cables inside a wall cavity before, for example, drilling or installing pipes, anywhere round the electric meter box. It may save a life!

Gas Appliances

When installing gas appliances STOP!!! Read the installation instructions first. These instructions are provided by the appliance manufacturer to ensure the gas appliance is installed correctly and is safe to use.

Prosecutions have been initiated recently because gas fitters have failed to read or heed the installation instructions supplied.

As part of the certification process for gas appliances the Australian Gas Association (AGA) requires gas appliance manufacturers to supply recommended installation instructions. The gas appliance is installed under those conditions when tested. Any deviation from the manufacturers' installation instructions will more than likely void the makers warranty at a later date.

Any modification of a gas appliance during installation will also void the warranty. Just a reminder — it is an offence under Regulation 502 of the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999* to modify an appliance without the appropriate approval.

Look for the AGA approval badge on any new gas appliance. If you cannot identify approval contact the gas supplier.

Submission of Notices for Projects Involving More than One Gas Fitter

Regulation 28 of the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999* requires a gas fitter who carries out or supervises gasfitting work to submit a notice of completion for that work, unless exempted by the Director of Energy Safety.

For an installation which involves more than one gas fitter, each gas fitter must submit the appropriate notification that their work is completed.

**PROSECUTIONS FOR BREACHES OF
THE GAS STANDARDS ACT (1972) AND GAS STANDARDS REGULATIONS (1983)
1 November 1998 to 30 June 1999**

<i>Breach</i>	<i>Name (and Suburb/Town of Residence at Time of Offence)</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Fine \$</i>	<i>Costs \$</i>
<i>Carried out gasfitting work without certificate of competency, permit or authorisation Section 13A GSA</i>	<i>I Rankin (Pemberton)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>700.00</i>	<i>275.00</i>
	<i>J Wych (Wannup)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>165.00</i>
	<i>M Said (Willagee)</i>	<i>NLH</i>	<i>200.00</i>	<i>1 359.50</i>
<i>Regulation 17</i>	<i>J Mitchell (Hilton)</i>	<i>GF 000669</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>53.00</i>
<i>Regulation 18(1)</i>	<i>R Grant (Bunbury)</i>	<i>GF 007084</i>	<i>200.00</i>	<i>122.00</i>
<i>Failed to install a fitting line to the depth prescribed Regulation 19(1) GSR</i>	<i>L Rowson (Redcliffe)</i>	<i>GF 008498</i>	<i>1 000.00</i>	<i>202.00</i>
	<i>J Hudson (Mindarie)</i>	<i>GF 007692</i>	<i>250.00</i>	<i>200.00</i>
	<i>J Hudson (Mindarie)</i>	<i>GF 007692</i>	<i>250.00</i>	<i>200.00</i>
<i>Regulation 20</i>	<i>J Mitchell (Hilton)</i>	<i>GF 000669</i>	<i>110.00</i>	<i>53.00</i>
	<i>B Bransby (Nannup)</i>	<i>GF 001617</i>	<i>250.00</i>	<i>53.00</i>
<i>Regulation 21(1)</i>	<i>B Bransby (Nannup)</i>	<i>GF 001617</i>	<i>250.00</i>	<i>53.00</i>
	<i>R Grant (Bunbury)</i>	<i>GF 007084</i>	<i>200.00</i>	<i>121.00</i>
<i>Regulation 22(1)</i>	<i>B Wilkinson (Rockingham)</i>	<i>GF 008354</i>	<i>200.00</i>	<i>60.00</i>
	<i>S Piggott (Bunbury)</i>	<i>GF 006867</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>123.00</i>
	<i>R Grant (Bunbury)</i>	<i>GF 007084</i>	<i>600.00</i>	<i>122.00</i>
<i>Failed to pressure test an installation to ensure the system was gas-tight Regulation 26(1)(a) GSR</i>	<i>D Townshend (Coogee)</i>	<i>GF 005214</i>	<i>200.00</i>	<i>345.00</i>
<i>Failed to install appliance in safe and workmanlike manner Regulation 27</i>	<i>S Piggott (Bunbury)</i>	<i>GF 006767</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>122.00</i>
	<i>R Watt (North Beach)</i>	<i>GF 001491</i>	<i>300.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>
	<i>B Wilkinson (Rockingham)</i>	<i>GF 008354</i>	<i>200.00</i>	<i>60.00</i>
	<i>J Hudson (Mindarie)</i>	<i>GF 007692</i>	<i>250.00</i>	<i>200.00</i>
<i>Left an unapproved Type B gas appliance connected to gas supply Regulation 29</i>	<i>J Mitchell (Hilton)</i>	<i>GF 000669</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>53.00</i>
	<i>B Bransby (Nannup)</i>	<i>GF 001617</i>	<i>250.00</i>	<i>53.00</i>

NLH No Licence Held



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SUPPLEMENT

All Gas Incidents *MUST* be Reported

Regulation 42 of the *Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999*, requires gas incidents to be reported.

Incidents are to be reported to the relevant gas supplier as follows:

AlintaGas	Tel.	13 13 52
Kleenheat Gas	Tel.	1800 093 336
Boral Energy	Tel.	(08) 9439 2688
BOC Gases	Tel.	1800 653 572

When the incident is to be reported to the Director of Energy Safety (Office of Energy), the notification should be made to:

Office of Energy Tel. 1800 678 198

Regulation 42 Incidents to be reported

- (1) If an incident that causes or is likely to cause injury to a person or damage to property occurs, a person who is aware of the incident must immediately report it –
 - (a) to the relevant gas supplier and the Director; or
 - (b) to the Director, if –
 - (i) the gas installation in a mobile engine or is on or in a caravan or marine craft; or
 - (ii) the relevant gas supplier is not identifiable.
- (2) Subregulation (1) does not apply –
 - (a) to a person who believes, on reasonable grounds, that the incident has already been or is likely to have already been, reported in accordance with subregulation (1); or
 - (b) to a supervised gas fitter-
 - (1) who becomes aware of the incident while doing gas fitting work; and
 - (2) who reports the incident to the supervising gas fitter.
- (3) In the regulation –

“Incident” means an incident that involves the sudden discharge of gas or that otherwise relates to gas.