



Fellow Practitioner Issue 258 Dated 12 June 2015

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IN OTHER NEWS

From Energy Safety

Commercial gas appliance flame supervision

Following an enquiry from a concerned gasfitter, an audit of commercial gas appliances has indicated that not all of these appliances being sold in New Zealand have the flame supervision facilities required by their relevant certification Standards.

Notwithstanding whether an appliance has a safety compliance label and a supplier declaration, gasfitters must take all practicable steps to ensure the appliances they install are safe. If a gasfitter comes across an appliance they believe should have flame supervision, they should initially ask the appliance supplier for verification.

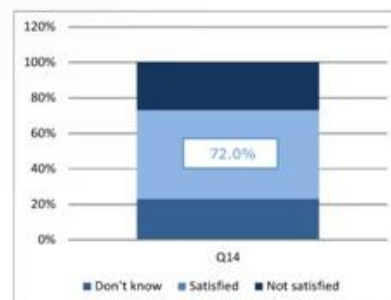
What flame supervision is required for commercial gas appliances?

All of the recognised certification regimes require flame supervision for unsupervised burners

Registration and Licensing

Registration and licensing

2015 saw an increase of 5.2% in the satisfaction levels with the Board's licensing and registration process in comparison to 2014. 72.0% of tradespeople were satisfied with the licensing or the registration process. 77.9% of those surveyed found text messages helpful to remind them of important dates, such as relicensing.



This screenshot from the latest Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Satisfaction survey has the Federation a little bit bewildered. Which is correct the written summary - or the chart?

The written summary claims a 5.2% increase in satisfaction and that 72% of tradespeople were satisfied with the licensing and registration process. The chart shows 25% are not satisfied, 23% don't know, so this leaves 52% that are satisfied. Last year's written summary claimed 66.8% were satisfied. The chart showed 4% didn't know, 34% were not satisfied and 62% were satisfied.

The charts combine "Very" and "Fairly" satisfied but is this enough - should the Board be setting the sights higher to "excellent"?

No matter what the truth is, this year the Board are consulting about licensing and registration so you need to have your say and make recommendations for improvements.

A lot has happened in the last decade with the requirements for licensing and registration. Terms and conditions have been imposed such as continuing professional development (CPD), and supervision but these really are only items that support the qualification that tradespeople in the industry should aspire to.

To have something that people can aspire to the system needs to start with the end product. We need to know what we want when all the training has been completed. For example we need a highly skilled, well trained, knowledgeable tradesperson who can operate unsupervised and who takes responsibility for their own work, understands the legislation and regulations they work under, and can be held accountable.

Setting the end product is simple and moves us away from the system that exists now where after a four year apprenticeship we end up with a partially trained individual who has to remain under supervision for a further two years, who is only partially accountable

(such as in ovens), but there are additional requirements for other burners which vary depending on the Standards to which the appliance has been constructed:

North American Appliances (CSA or ANSI certified) commercial appliance): Flame supervision is not required for “observable” burners except for observable burners located below 24 inches (61 cm).

Australian certified Appliances: Any burner on a commercial appliance with a rating exceeding 65 MJ/h, and any burner with an automatic or remotely controlled ignition, requires flame supervision.

European Appliances (CE certified appliances): All burners on commercial appliances require flame supervision.

The Federation finds it quite shocking that those who set the standards and impose the regulations have the audacity to say they have looked at the issue and our systems are failing but “we aren’t worried” because as a gasfitter IT’S YOUR responsibility.

Surely we check it is on the ESS website and that is enough? It can’t be the gasfitters job to be a bloody gas lab as well and to undertake all these other checks – who would pay?

Surely the consumer paying for the appliance has a right to expect the appliance “is fit for purpose” and shouldn’t

for their work and who in a lot of cases, opts out of the industry or who stays at licensing level.

We have a group of people who complete apprenticeships but who don’t pass registration and who flop around in “no man’s land” – some running businesses, or working illegally in the industry and taking work off those who are following the rules. This group are working outside of the legislation and regulation of the industry and put both themselves and customers at risk.

The industry needs to step up and state what we want as the end product. That is the standard and the terms and conditions. Last year a review of the NZQA qualifications with regard to plumbing, gas fitting and drainlaying was conducted and the Federation lobbied for change and keeping in mind the end product, approached the Board for a change in the Registration requirements. That approach was not successful and the review continued on.

The Federation had pushed for one qualification being “Registered”. One qualification that resulted from quality training, unlike what is in place now, where other training and CPD is required to train people in what wasn’t taught in their apprenticeship. We wanted a return to a “decent” apprenticeship ten to twelve thousand hours – but one where the end result was a competent tradesperson.

Once the standards for the final product are set by the PGD Board then it is up to the support organisations such as NZQA and Skills to implement the training required to achieve that standard. The Federation fears the reverse is happening and the industry is in fact getting something that is not fit for purpose and will not take us into the future.

The term "Journeyman" has been mentioned and the Federation believes this could tidy up a lot in the industry and help hold people accountable for their own work. To the Federation, a Journeyman is a person who has served an apprenticeship at a trade and is authorised to work at assisting a Certifier whom they work for.

The term Journeyman clutches up people who have not achieved their qualification for whatever reason and helps retain those people in the industry. It also takes away the loopholes in the supervision requirements that currently exist.

What end product do you want? Once decided we need to let the Board know. Remember start with the end product and then think about how we get there!

NZ Standards

Isn't it amazing how we as tradespeople in the plumbing gasfitting and drainlaying industry get hit with the bill to protect the health and safety of the public, yet we have to purchase the information we need to do our jobs properly to protect ourselves and to buy our right to work from the government.

that include being fit for NZ conditions?

Surely to goodness the gasfitter can't be held responsible for this too? With second hand appliances you would of course do extra checks and wouldn't install it if it wasn't ok for whatever reason, but for new ones?

Perhaps a FIFA style cleanout is needed to get transparency and accountability.

Kapiti Meeting

At the moment the Federation is the only organisation without a financial interest in the direction of the industry and are meeting with practitioners to get their views and ideas and to discuss the current situation.

A meeting is to be held in Kapiti on 30th June 2015, 6pm onwards at the public bar of the "Boundary tap and kitchen" pub, 3 Raumati Road, Raumati Beach, Kapiti.

This is your chance to exchange information and meet members of the Federation Executive Committee.

If you want a meeting in your area let us know.

NZ Standards go about their business on behalf of the Government setting standards most of us have never heard of, or possibly even care about until something goes wrong. Then when we want to check up on the standard we have to purchase the standards - another cost. What's really galling is that many of the hours involved in writing standards is done voluntary, for instance there are people in the plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying industries who give us hours and hours of time to sit on standards committee for FREE. This certainly is not reflected in the price we have to pay to purchase them.

If the Government are so worried about the safety of the public and their property why aren't the standards free to those expected to protect the public. Where is the list of standards that pertain to each industry? How do we know what standards relate to our work?

There is free access to the Crimes Act, the Misuse of Drugs Act and nearly every bit of Legislation imaginable so if Standards and Codes of Practice are going to be cited and used against us then they should be readily available free of charge. They shouldn't be hidden away behind locked doors. Speaking of doors...

The Door



You would all have heard about a new security door to keep National and Labour MPs from prying on each other at parliament, with a \$30,000 price tag .

Apparently an argument has broken out about who

demanded the doors be put in in the first place. The new doors will create a divide on the second floor, where both National and Labour MPs have offices. National MPs won't be able to access the part of the corridor where Labour MPs have their offices and vice versa.

We say don't worry too much about the price of the doors as good quality doors are needed to smack them all in the arse when they get voted out for not helping the trades. Have a nice weekend.

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