



Gas safety and your responsibilities

What does the law require me to do about the safety of gas appliances?

The Gas Safety (installation and Use) Regulations 1998, require an **employer or self employed person** to ensure that any gas appliance (including mobile or portable cylinders), flue or installation pipe work installed at a place of work they control is **maintained in a safe condition**.

Owners of premises used for residential accommodation **MUST** ensure that all gas appliances and flues are **checked for safety every 12 months** and **keep records**.

What type of premises come under these Regulations?

Certain domestic premises for example Bed and Breakfasts and commercial premises like offices, shops, warehouses, hotels, and Holiday homes, chalets, caravans, mobile homes and boats, restaurants (including those floating), public houses and mobile food 'stalls'.

What does the term "Gas Appliance" mean?

"Gas appliance" means an appliance designed for use for **heating, lighting or cooking**. It includes portable or mobile space heaters and appliances supplied with gas from a cylinder.

Types of appliances using gas include: central heating system boiler, water boilers, hob, commercial and domestic oven, fridge, Chinese cooker, tandoori oven, fryer, griddle etc

All appliances should have a flame failure device and a gas governor. Bunsen burner type heaters should have an on/off switch.

What should be done to maintain my gas appliances and how often?

Maintenance should follow the manufacturers' recommendations or appliance instructions and is usually required on an annual basis. Records should be kept, as these will provide proof of servicing.

Where inadequate maintenance could cause failure in a dangerous way i.e. with some flexible pipe work and certain protective devices, formal planned preventative maintenance may be necessary. e.g. replacement or refurbishing components before the end of their useful life (this will depend on manufacturers advice).

Maintenance by a competent person will also be required if any of the following are seen:

- Missing knobs
- Spark generator not working
- Clogged or blocked burners or jets
- Leaking gas (in which case there would be flames leaking from the casting body not just the jets)

- Yellow or orange flames (they should be clear blue)
- Visible smoke / fumes or odours
- Soot around the appliance
- Signs of corrosion

Who should service or maintain my appliances?

Note: From 1 April 2009 CORGI has been **replaced** by Gas Safe Register

- Anyone carrying out work on gas appliances or fittings must be competent and registered with Gas Safe. It is illegal for anyone to install, maintain, service or repair gas equipment **without** Gas Safe registration.
- Do-it-yourself work on gas appliances or fittings could be dangerous, is likely to be illegal and may result in prosecution.

In order to protect the general public, Gas Safe registered installers are:

- Given an identification card with a licence number and photo, which should be shown upon request. Call Gas Safe on 0800 408 5500 to check if you are not sure.
- Required to obtain competency certificates in areas of gas work they carry out, for example: Gas fires, cookers, central heating boilers (check they are qualified for the work you want them to do). The reverse of the card details different types of gas work the operative is competent to undertake
- Required to update their proof of competence regularly (check the expiry date on the reverse of the card)
- Subject to regular work inspections carried out by Gas Safe Inspectors

Further information about Gas Safe can be obtained:

By phoning the Gas Safe Register general enquiry office on 0800 408 5500 or you can look for an installer in your area using the Internet www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk

Advice regarding gas safety is available from the HSE gas safety advice line on 0800 300 363 or Environmental Services, Health and Safety Team on 01386 565015.

If you smell gas or are worried about gas safety call the Gas Emergency Freephone number on 0800 111 999 and you should do the following:

- Shut off the gas supply at the meter control valve
- Extinguish naked flames
- Open all doors and windows

Contact: Health & Safety Team, Environmental Services, Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, WR10 1PT

Tel: 01386 565015 Fax: 01386 561826

Email: environmental.health@wychavon.gov.uk www.wychavon.gov.uk/es