



AGA NewsFlash

Update - GTRC Scheme Rules

For some time now, the Gas Technical Regulator's Committee (GTRC) has been developing a set of "Scheme Rules" which are intended to provide all stakeholders in the gas product supply chain to market with a set of rules which set out the roles and responsibilities of respective stakeholders. The most recent draft of this document is titled "The Framework for the Certification of Gas Appliances and Components" known as "The Rules". This draft was tabled and discussed at the GTRC Technical Sub-Committee Meeting held at the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines on 24th May 2016.

In the current draft of "The Rules", key stakeholders are identified as:

- Australian State & Territory Technical Regulators;
- Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs);
- Test Laboratories;
- Applicants (for certification);
- Certificate Holders;

It is notable that in the current draft, manufacturers and suppliers are not listed as key stakeholders.

Some of the key issues in "The (draft) Rules" that may have implications for your business include the following:

- It is proposed that "The Rules" will only come into effect when called up by each respective state/territory regulatory authority, however, it is unclear at this stage when this will occur.
- At this stage it is intended that "The Rules" will only apply in Australian states & territories i.e. not in New Zealand.
- It is proposed that a "Gas Compliance Mark" (GCM) will be introduced and that Certificate Holders will be required to affix the GCM to each certified gas appliance for it to be legally sold in Australia. Note (i) The GCM will not be required for gas-carrying components and controls, and (ii) New Zealand has its own unique Compliance Mark and it is now a regulatory requirement for the NZ Compliance Mark to be affixed to gas appliances sold in New Zealand.
- It is proposed that Applicants (for certification) must be able to demonstrate that the product for which certification is sought complies with requirements of AS 3645-2010 : "Essential requirements for gas equipment".
- The proposed draft requires the Certificate Holder to make a formal declaration that a suitable quality management system is in place, and that the product complies in all respects with the Certification issued by a Conformity Assessment Body and satisfies the requirements of AS 3645-2010.
- The draft proposes that a gas product Certificate will have a lifespan of 5 years.
- It is proposed that Certificate Holders will have a period of 2-years in which to upgrade an existing Certification following amendments to the Standard.



available.

NSW Fair Trading - Corporate Lawyer Requirements

NSW Fair Trading has asked AGA to advise its members and customers about important changes to the law which affects corporate lawyers.

Any person who is practicing as a corporate lawyer in NSW, but has not been admitted to the legal profession must:

1. Notify the NSW Legal Profession Admission Board, within 12 months of commencing such practice or by 30 June 2016, whichever is the later, and;
2. Become admitted, and hold a practicing certificate no later than 30 June 2018.



Prior to the commencement of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law (NSW)* on 1st July 2015, corporate lawyers in NSW were exempt from the requirement to be admitted or hold a practicing certificate in order to engage in legal practice. There is no equivalent exemption under the Uniform Law. This means that corporate lawyers in NSW will soon be required to become admitted and to hold a practicing certificate.

If you have a corporate lawyer practicing in NSW within your organisation, please bring this matter to his/her attention.

Further information is available at the websites of the Legal Services Council at www.legalservicescouncil.org.au and the NSW Legal Profession Admission Board at www.lpab.nsw.gov.au

WaterMark - New Scheme Rules announced by the ABCB

AGA's, Mr Ivan Marsic attended the WATERMARK CERTIFICATION SCHEME WMCAB FORUM 2016 & SCHEME TRANSITION WORKSHOP on Thursday 19 May 2016. At this forum, ABCB provided details of the new improved WaterMark Scheme. Since February 2013, responsibility for management of the WaterMark Certification Scheme was transferred to the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) from Standards Australia. Since that time, the ABCB undertook to review the Scheme and is now about to launch (1 July 2016) the new improved Scheme. It is anticipated that implementation of the Scheme will be ready on 1 July 2017. It is estimated that it will take up to 2 years to fully transition to the new Scheme.

The key change to the Scheme will be the removal of the current 2 levels of WaterMark certification i.e. Level 1 and Level 2. Now, there will be a single level Scheme to cover all product types under the scope of the Scheme and this will involve initial evaluation including type testing and on-site assessment of manufacturing quality system and production process. Also, post certification requirements will change to an annual product conformity surveillance programme which may be performed locally. This will include a desktop audit and product inspection.



All licences will be valid for a 5 year period and in order to renew the licence, re-evaluation of the product will be required. This involves some testing by an accredited laboratory and on-site assessment of manufacturing quality system and production process as per the initial assessment.

To learn more about the new Scheme requirements and transitional arrangements or how these changes may impact on your business, please contact Ivan Marsic. You can also visit the ABCB web site <http://www.abcb.gov.au/Product-Certification/Improved-WaterMark-Scheme>, to keep abreast of progress.

Latest Standards Updates



Reminder: The public comment process for DR AS/NZS 5263.0 (Gas appliances, Part 0: General requirements) was initiated on 13th April 2016 and will be ending on the **15th June 2016**. This Standard will replace the AS 5263.0 2012 version and will be used in conjunction with published Part 1 Standards such as “Domestic gas cooking appliances”, “Gas space heating appliances”, “Domestic outdoor gas barbecues” and “Gas fired water heaters for hot water supply and/or central heating”.

Further, DR AS 4627 (Quick-connect devices for gas) is also out for public comment which will be ending on **6th June 2016**. This Standard will replace the 2005 version and includes, change in working pressure for Type 1 bayonet devices, clarification of marking requirements and updated drawings of the male and female Type 1 bayonet connections.

If you would like to submit any comments, you may forward them to our Group Manager, Technical Operations, Mr Billy (Vasilios) Tabourlos

[btabourlos@aga.asn.au], or directly through the Standards Australia website:

<https://sapc.standards.org.au/sapc/public/listOpenCommentingPublication.action>

AGA Customers please note: The AGA NewsFlash will be an important way that we communicate with you about issues that affect your certifications. This would include changes relating to our services as well as changes in respect of the regulatory framework within which we operate. Please do not unsubscribe to this email service unless you are confident that you have other ways of keeping informed.