



AGA NewsFlash

2016 AGA Industry Forum

- Appliance Safety & Quality Control

The 2016 AGA Industry Forum was held on the 24th November 2016 and was well received from all who attended. All sectors of the gas industry joined together with a united objective towards improving the safety and quality of gas products entering our market. Over 110 delegates including many local and overseas manufacturers, suppliers, retailers, state, territory and Federal government regulatory authorities as well as Notified Bodies and Certification Bodies worldwide.

Over 50 delegates attended a Welcome Dinner on the 23rd November 2016. Delegates enjoyed a sumptuous 3-course meal and took in unique views of Melbourne's historical architecture. AGA Chairman, Mr Chris Devlin, LLB, delivered a powerful speech at the dinner which set the scene for the important day to come.

Mr Paul Fearon, Director of Energy Safe Victoria, officially opened AGA's 2016 Industry Forum. Mr Fearon outlined the role of a regulatory authority and the key characteristics required of a good Regulator. Mr Fearon also outlined some of the challenges regulatory authorities face on a day to day basis and the unrealistic expectations we sometimes have of regulatory authorities.

Energy Safe Victoria's Manager of Type A Gas Appliance and Component Safety, Mr Enzo Alfonsetti followed on from Mr Fearon to present upcoming changes to gas-safety regulatory requirements. These included Technical Guidance Bulletins to be published as well as the national GTRC Scheme Rules.

During the morning tea break, delegates had the opportunity to browse displays of unique and innovative products which manufacturers and suppliers chose to share during the Forum. These included newly developed cartridge safety devices as well as cartridge cookers.

The Forum continued with the General Manager of the Consumer Product Safety Branch from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), Mr Neville Matthew. Mr Matthew summarised the responsibilities of manufacturers and suppliers under Australian Consumer Legislation (ACL). The increasing number of Product Recalls of gas products in Australia was highlighted, as were methods for enhancing the quality of imported goods. The Senior Advisor from GS1, Mr Andrew Brown followed with a presentation covering product tracking solutions to help organisations be prepared to manage a Product Recall should the need arise.

The morning presentations focused on the challenges we face and various strategies to improve manufacturing quality assurance. The overwhelming number of questions and extensive discussions that followed each Speaker was testimony of the quality of the Papers delivered and the level of interest they generated.

Following the buffet lunch, the afternoon moved on with three informative and powerful presentations from:

- The Global Head of Electrical & Gas Products from BSI, Mr Graham McKay,
- The Team Leader of the Inspection Group from JIA, Mr Yasunori Kato, and
- The Operations Manager from CSA Group Guangzhou, Mr Bruce Deng.



These presentations summarised the gas product approval regimes in Europe, Japan, USA and Canada with an emphasis on the post certification surveillance systems adopted in those regions. In particular, on-site factory inspections, random product sampling and laboratory testing is routine practice in all these regions.

The final presentation was delivered by AGA's Group Manager, Technical Operations, Mr Billy Tabourlos covering the quality assurance and gas composition of gas cartridges. Mr Tabourlos covered the background of gas cartridges and how they could be dangerous if not manufactured or used properly. He then introduced the AGA Gas Cartridge Certification Scheme which is underpinned by the Standard AGA 301.

Mr Wealthy concluded the Forum with his Closing Address summarising the outcomes of the forum which include:

- The sharing of information for quality control between manufacturers, suppliers, retailers, regulatory authorities and certification bodies.
- The insight of practices adopted internationally to combat poor quality control.
- Processes available to improve quality control and preparing for potential Product Recalls.
- Schemes and procedures which could be introduced by each sector to prevent quality drift and the downward safety spiral.

Over 50 delegates attended the Forum Farewell Dinner to continue the very important discussions and to reflect on the challenges we all face with improving Appliance Safety and Quality Control.



A selection of forum pictures can be viewed by clicking on the following link <http://www.aga.asn.au/2016-aga-industry-forum>



AGA 55th Annual General Meeting

The AGA 55th Annual General Meeting was held on 28th November 2016 at the AGA Headquarters in Melbourne. The meeting was a success and the resolutions tabled were accepted unanimously. AGA's Chairman, Mr Devlin and AGA's Managing Director and Chief Executive reflected on the successful 2016 and discussed the challenges facing AGA in 2017.



Latest Standards Updates

The public comment process for DR AS/NZS 5263.1.4 (Gas appliances, Part 1.4: Radiant gas heaters) was initiated on 16th November 2016 and will be ending on the 18th January 2017. This Standard will replace AS 4565-2004 and AS 4643-2007. Further the public comment process for DR AS 3645 (Essential requirements for gas equipment) was also initiated on 16th November 2016 and will be ending on the 18th January 2017.



If you would like to submit any comments, you may forward them to our Group Manager, Technical Operations, Mr Billy (Vasilios) Tabourlos [\[btabourlos@aga.asn.au\]](mailto:btabourlos@aga.asn.au), or directly through the Standards Australia website: <https://sapc.standards.org.au/sapc/public/listOpenCommentingPublication.action>