

30 January 2017



AGA NewsFlash
Please forward to others within your organisation.

AGA NewsFlash

Message from AGA

To AGA Members, clients and industry colleagues, on behalf of all of us at AGA I take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year and hope 2017 brings you excellent health and great prosperity. For many of us 2016 was a year of change, for others it was a year of consolidation, either way I am sure it was a year that presented challenges of one sort or another.

For AGA's part, I am delighted to report that much of our hard work has been rewarded by positive outcomes. Our organisation has been successfully restructured in order to improve operational efficiencies and deliver the highest level of customer service whilst keeping the cost of those services to a minimum. These cost savings will, as has always been the case, be passed on to our customers for the benefit of the industry. The restructure also means that each of our Customers deal directly with their respective Client Manager to ensure that your certification or testing project is managed by experienced professionals.

The capabilities of the AGA Laboratory has been further expanded to assist client companies, whether it be in R&D work, product development, incident investigations or laboratory testing for certification purposes. We have also further improved our testing capabilities for a wide range of domestic whitegoods as well as energy labelling of gas appliances. Over 50 of our members, clients and regulatory authorities had the opportunity to view our facilities first hand during our Laboratory Open Day in August.

Over the past year AGA has been very active in driving changes to enhance consumer safety. This work has contributed to the publication of a number of Technical Guidance Bulletins the contents of which is expected to be incorporated in relevant Australian Standards. AGA also developed an AGA Code for butane gas cartridges AGA 301 – 2016 (V2) "Disposable Butane Gas Cartridges" and launched The AGA Gas Cartridge Certification Scheme to further enhance the safety of these product types.

In December 2016, the AGA Gas Industry Forum was held in Melbourne and was attended by many local and overseas manufacturers and importers. Delegates were interested to hear from a wide range of speakers from Commonwealth and state governments as well as speakers from Japan, UK, China and Nth America. We thank all those who attended and, judging from the feedback received, the Forum was judged to be a great success and very worthwhile.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to working with you this year and helping you to achieve your goals for 2017.

Sincerely yours

Chris Wealthy
Managing Director & CEO

New Gas Appliances GTRC Technical Guidance Bulletins

The Gas Technical Regulators Committee (GTRC) has published the following Technical Guidance Bulletins (TGB's) on the 1st January 2017:



- TGB number 008** (supersedes Bulletin 008 dated 18/3/16) – Gas fired fire pits
- TGB number 009**– Unflued portable water heaters
- TGB number 010** – Portable butane stoves incorporating enclosed gas cartridges
- TGB number 011** – Transitional requirements for the implementation of flame failure on domestic cookers

It is important all Certificate Holders, manufacturers, suppliers and retailers

understand and are aware of these documents.

These documents can be downloaded from the GTRC web site <http://www.gtrc.gov.au/publications/technical-guidance-bulletins/> and, importantly, include actions to be taken and transition arrangements to ensure new applications and existing certifications are updated to meet these safety related requirements.

AGA will be in contact with relevant Certificate Holders to advise the actions required and if you require further information please contact your Client Manager.

Standards Australia Committees

AGA representatives will be attending the following committees in February & March 2017 and we welcome any items you wish to raise as an AGA member:

AG-001 (Gas Appliances) & AG-013 (Gas components)
February 2017

AG-006 - Gas Installations
March 2017

Please forward any items you wish to raise to our Group Manager, Technical Operations, Mr Billy (Vasilios) Tabourlos at btaborlos@aga.asn.au



Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement



US President Donald Trump has pulled America out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership as his first act after taking the Oath of the Office. Australian Trade Minister Steve Ciobo believes that trade deal could still be salvaged without the US. Mr. Ciobo has already had discussions with Canada, Mexico, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia about working towards an alternative. He also indicated that there is a prospect of expanding the deal to include other nations like China and Indonesia.

Mr Ciobo said, "It's a moving space, but it's an important space, one that we must continue to pursue to give Aussie exporters the best chance to get preferential, global access for Australian exports."

Latest Standards Updates

The following Australian Standards covering gas components have been updated and published on the 21st December 2016:

- AS 4617 - Manual shut off gas valves
- AS 4618 - Gas appliance thermostats
- AS 4619 - Gas appliance thermostats
- AS 4620 - Thermoelectric flame safe guards
- AS 4621 - Regulator for use with liquefied petroleum – vapour phase
- AS 4624 - Combination controls for gas
- AS 4628 - Pressure and temperature limit devices for use with gas burners
- AS 4629 - Automatic shut off and vent valves
- AS 4631 - Limited flexibility connectors for gas
- AS 4632 - Over-pressure and under-pressure cut off device

The most significant amendment is allowing alternative pressure units of measure to be marked on components, such as mbar and PSI. Please review your gas component Certifications and make an Application to upgrade if necessary. Please contact your AGA Client Manager if you have any queries.

The public comment periods for DR AS/NZS 5263.1.4 (Gas appliances, Part 1.4: Radiant gas heaters), & DR AS 3645 (Essential requirements for gas equipment) advised in our previous NewsFlashes has ended. We will advise when the updated Standards are published following the review process from Standards Australia.

If you have any queries regarding the Standards review process, you may forward them to our Group Manager, Technical Operations, Mr Billy (Vasilios) Tabourlos.

