



AGA NewsFlash

AGA and KGS Annual Meeting

The Gas Appliance Certification Meeting (GACM) was established in 1996 through joint cooperation between The Australian Gas Association (AGA), Japan Gas Appliance Inspection Association (JIA), Korea Gas Safety Corporation (KGS) and the Singapore Productivity and Standards Board (PSB) – now known as SPRING Singapore. The GACM provides a forum for the premier certification organisations of countries in the Western Pacific region to establish dialogue and develop a basis of cooperation in the area of gas safety through product certification of gas appliances and components. At that time it was thought that the regional trade of gas appliances and components was likely to increase significantly and, therefore, it was important to develop cooperative arrangements between the major certification agencies in the region to protect consumer safety and enhance safety standards. The first GACM was held in Singapore in 1997 and in October this year, the 10th GACM will be hosted by JIA in Tokyo.

Through this forum, AGA has established close ties with the premier certification and testing agencies in the Western Pacific region and has developed cooperative arrangements with them which has assisted AGA in establishing comprehensive testing and certification regimes for LPGas cylinders and butane gas cartridges, as well as gas appliances and other gas-related product types. These arrangements offer greater flexibility for Australian and New Zealand companies wishing to import products manufactured or sourced from countries such as Korea, Japan, PR China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of PR China, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

One such partnership is the MOU between AGA and Korea Gas Safety Corporation which has assisted AGA in the development of a safety code for butane gas cartridges (AGA 301 – 2016: *Disposable Butane Gas Cartridges*). As part of this arrangement, the testing and production inspections are carried out by KGS on AGA's behalf. This is a significant development because the safety regulations in Australia covering gas cartridges are limited to the transportation of dangerous goods (*Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road & Rail: Edition 7.4*) rather than the safety integrity of the cartridge itself.

AGA and KGS hold a top level annual meeting to monitor the effectiveness of the MOU between the two organisations and explore other ways in which consumer safety can be enhanced and how safety problems can best be addressed.

This year AGA was honoured to host the annual meeting and a senior delegation led by Mr PARK Ki-Dong, KGS President & CEO travelled to Melbourne for the meeting.

In his opening address, AGA Chairman Mr Chris Devlin welcomed Mr Park and his delegation and emphasised the importance of the MOU between the two organisations.

Mr Devlin noted the high level of cooperation between the two organisations and the achievements that had been made in the areas of portable gas appliances such as cartridge cookers and gas cartridges. The Chairman also commented on the importance of manufacturing quality assurance and complimented the work carried out by KGS and Korean manufacturers in this area.

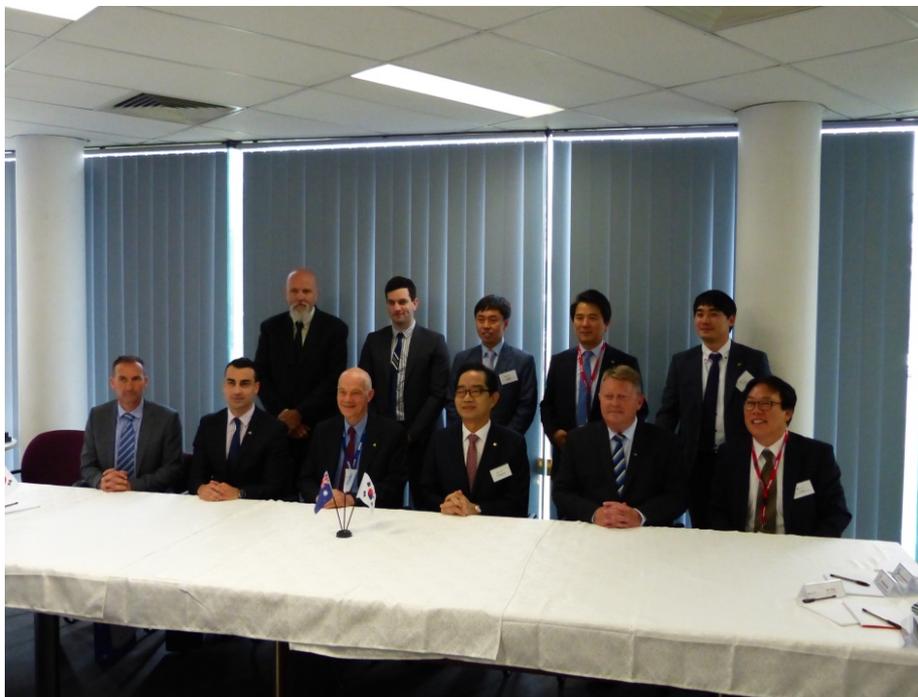
During their time in Melbourne, the KGS delegation visited the Rinnai-Brivis manufacturing facility at Braeside and Sitro Group (Aust) Pty Ltd facility at Mt Waverley. The visitors were very impressed

with both operations and AGA would like to sincerely thank Rinnai-Brivis and Sitro for their generous hospitality and for making these visits possible. Members of the delegation also toured AGA's laboratories and were impressed by its testing capabilities covering such a diverse range of products.

AGA has established these international networks specifically to assist companies sourcing product from countries in the Western Pacific region, Europe or North America for sale in the Australian and/or New Zealand markets. Contact AGA to find out how we can assist.

Tel: +61 3 9580 4500

E: office@aga.asn.au



Front row L-R: Mr Ivan Marsic AGA Client Manager, Mr Billy Tabourlos, AGA Group Manager Technical Operations, Mr Chris Devlin, AGA Chairman; Mr Park Ki-Dong, KGS President & CEO; Mr Chris Wealthy, AGA Managing Director & CEO; Mr Choi, KGS Head of Gas Appliances Division.

Back row L-R: Mr Peter King, AGA Senior Engineer; Mr Dennis Karafotias, AGA Laboratory Manager; Mr Huh, KGS Manager Global Business Supporting Department; Mr Song, CEO's Head Secretary; Mr Choi, KGS Gas Engineer.

EU - New Gas Appliances Regulations

On 21 April 2018, the European Gas Appliance Directive 2009/142/EC (GAD) will be replaced by the new Gas Appliance Regulation (EU) 2016/426 (GAR) for appliances burning gaseous fuels.

The GAD was originally implemented in 1990 but was modified in 1993 to make it a formal "CE Marking" directive. It is now changing to include updates and enhancements in order to provide clarity and ensure legal certainty particularly with regards to definitions and the scope of the Directive.

Some of the main changes include:

- Fittings will be required to be CE marked and go through the same conformity assessment procedure as appliances.
- Appliances having a normal water temperature exceeding 105 degrees C will now be included under the scope provided they are used for one of the purposes listed (e.g. space heating).
- The definition of manufacturer has been clarified as follows: *"any natural or legal person who manufactures an appliance or fitting or who has an appliance or fitting, designed or manufactured, and markets that appliance or fitting under his name or trademark..."*
- Manufacturers will be required to conduct and document a risk



assessment of their appliance or fitting as part of compliance with the GAR. This process must take into consideration foreseeable misuse that might occur.

- Appliances shall be designed and constructed so that when normally used, they do not cause a concentration of carbon monoxide harmful to death. This previously applied to flueless space heaters.
- The certificate will have a maximum validity period of 10 years from the date of issue and notified bodies are required to inform manufacturers of changes in technology / regulation that affects certification.

For more details about the new regulation, go to <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html?locale=en> or contact Ivan Marsic (imarsic@aga.asn.au) at AGA.

Victoria Bans Gas Exploration and Development

The Andrew's Labour Government in Victoria, with the support of the Coalition passed legislation in February to amend the *Petroleum Act 1998* and the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* to implement the permanent ban on hydraulic fracturing and conventional onshore gas exploration and development.

Farmer's groups and environmental groups have welcomed passage of the Bill, however, it has drawn criticism from the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) which has accused the Andrews government of not taking independent expert studies into account which conclude the industry is safe for the environment.

Lakes Oil, which is an oil and gas exploration company, part owned by Gina Rinehart's Hancock Prospecting, said it was seeking \$2.7 billion in damages from the Victorian Government after the state moved to ban fracking.

The Victorian legislation is being closely monitored by other state governments that recognise the important social and economic role of the gas industry and the environmental benefits of gas as governments at Federal and state levels review their energy policies.



Latest Standards Update

AS 4627 (Quick-connect devices for gas) has been updated and published on the 11th January 2017. Changes include allowing marking of alternative pressure units of measure and clarification of the Type 1 Quick-connect diagram dimensions. Please contact your AGA Client Manager if you have any queries.
