



AGA NewsFlash

AGA Laboratory Open Day

The July edition of NewsFlash flagged that there would be an Open Day at the AGA Performance Testing Laboratory on Friday 26th August. The event was well attended by more than fifty people from more than twenty different manufacturers, suppliers, government organisations, service providers and industry associations.

The afternoon began with a light barbecue lunch over a glass of wine while guests had an opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues and meet other AGA Members and staff. CEO Chris Wealthy welcomed guests and pointed out that there is growing focus on energy efficiency measures to curb greenhouse gas emissions and that the AGA Board had recognised the need to develop a performance testing capability to support industry in meeting the challenges of improving the energy and water efficiencies of whitegoods and gas appliances.

AGA's laboratory Manager, Dennis Karafotias and Testing Officer Dean Shaw outlined the capabilities of AGA's Performance Testing Laboratory which includes energy labelling testing for storage and instantaneous gas water heaters, space heaters and ducted air heaters, as well as testing a wide range of whitegoods including dishwashers, washing machines, clothes dryers, fridges and freezers.

Many companies took advantage of the opportunity to see through AGA's state of the art performance testing laboratory and ask questions about the testing methodology for energy and water efficiencies of a wide range of products.

The event was well received and widely acclaimed as a great success. AGA sincerely thanks all those who attended and hope everyone found the afternoon both informative and enjoyable, with special thanks to all those who travelled from interstate.

Photos from the event are available through the following link:
<http://www.aga.asn.au/26th-august-2016-aga-open-day-photos>



New AGA Procedure saves thousands for AGA Certification/Testing Jobs

The Certification and Testing procedure has recently been improved giving the opportunity for AGA customers to save thousands of dollars for every one of their Certification/Testing Applications. For more information, please contact your Client Manager, or AGA's Group Manager, Technical Operations, Billy Tabourlos.

WaterMark - Draft Scheme Rules now published

On 1 July 2016, The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) launched the improved

WaterMark Scheme with the publication of the draft WaterMark Scheme Rules.

The WaterMark Certification Scheme will be governed by these rules once completed. The rules outline the requirements for evaluation and certification, risk assessment and developing applicable specifications. In order to achieve WaterMark Certification, the subject material or product needs to—

- be tested by an accredited laboratory;
- comply with an applicable specification;
- be manufactured in accordance with an approved Quality Assurance Program; and
- clearly state its intended Scope of Use.

It is anticipated a final version of the improved single level WaterMark Scheme Rules will be published 1 January 2017 and by 1 July 2017, progressive transition to the improved scheme will commence to allow sufficient time for the Industry to adjust.

- Within 1 year of implementation all renewals of Approved Certifier Agreements and product licences are to be completed in accordance with the requirements of the single level scheme.
- Within 3 years all retained existing Level 2 products are to be re-certified in accordance with the requirements of the single level scheme.
- Within 5 years all retained existing Level 1 products are to be re-certified in accordance with the requirements of the single level scheme.

The WaterMark Certification Scheme is a mandatory certification scheme for plumbing and drainage products to ensure that plumbing and drainage materials and products are fit for purpose and appropriately authorised for use in plumbing installations.

The National Construction Code, Volume Three – Plumbing Code of Australia, requires certain plumbing and drainage materials and products to be certified and authorised for use in a plumbing or drainage installation. These materials and products are to be certified through the WaterMark Certification Scheme and listed on the WaterMark Product Database.

To learn more about the new Scheme requirements and transitional arrangements or how these changes may impact on your business, please contact Ivan Marsic.



Victorian Government Bans Fracking

The Andrews Labor Government yesterday announced a permanent ban on the exploration and development of all onshore unconventional gas in Victoria, including hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') and coal seam gas.

The full media release from the the Victorian Premier's office can be found here:

<http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/victoria-bans-fracking-to-protect-farmers/>

Latest Standards Updates

AS/NZS 1596:2014 Amd 1 (The storage and handling of LP Gas) is now out for public comment, until the 1st November 2016. If you would like to submit any comments, you may forward them to our Group Manager, Technical Operations, Mr Billy (Vasilios) Tabourlos [btaborlos@aga.asn.au], or directly through the Standards Australia website:

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

AS 3688:2016 (Water supply and gas systems—Metallic fittings and end connectors) has recently been published. Please review your Gas and WaterMark Certifications and make Application to upgrade if necessary. Please contact your AGA Client Manager if you have any queries.

The public comment period for the series of gas component Standards advised in our June and July 2016 NewsFlashes has ended. We will advise when the updated Standards are published following the review process from Standards Australia.

