



AGA NewsFlash
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GTRC SCHEME RULES

AGA has provided the gas industry with a comprehensive product certification scheme for gas appliances and components since 1962 and is recognised for playing a major role in achieving the high level of consumer (gas) safety we enjoy today. Over that period, the regulatory framework has changed considerably and now gas safety regulations in all Australian states and territories require that commercial and domestic gas appliances, components and controls must be independently certified for compliance with Australian safety standards. Prior to 2004, AGA was the only organisation providing product certification services for gas equipment in Australia, however, in 2004 the first of a number of other organisations began offering certification schemes for gas products. At that time Regulatory authorities with responsibility for gas safety became concerned that the level of safety consumers had enjoyed for many years could be eroded as a result of multiple Compliance Assessment Bodies (CAB's) competing for a share of a market that may not be able to commercially sustain multiple CAB's and Test Laboratories. Accordingly, in 2004 regulatory authorities decided to introduce what was called "The Scheme Rules" setting out regulatory requirements for stakeholders such as manufacturers, Certificate Holders, agents, suppliers, CAB's and Test Laboratories that were involved in the gas equipment supply chain to consumers. When originally conceived, The Scheme Rules were conceptually similar to the regulatory framework adopted in Europe, however, over time and much debate the document has been reduced to one that only provides a set of rules for the certification of gas equipment and does not apply to other stakeholders in the supply chain.

On 16th May, regulatory authorities held a Stakeholder Consultation Meeting in Melbourne which was attended by AGA and other CAB's as well as interested parties such as JAS-ANZ, GAMAA, GEA and CESA. Many of the comments offered by AGA have been incorporated in this document, however, the drafting process is ongoing and further changes will be necessary, some of which are already under consideration. AGA has made many submissions to regulatory authorities pointing out that the only stakeholder in the supply chain with absolute control over quality assurance is the manufacturer and we are pleased to report that one issue under consideration is the need for a higher level of post-certification product surveillance which may take the form of periodic safety-critical testing of gas appliances. We understand there will be further stakeholder consultations and we will keep NewsFlash readers posted as more information comes to hand.

New AGA Website - Coming Soon

We are progressing with the development with our new website and welcome your suggestions for improvements. Please contact our Group Manager, Technical Operation, Mr Billy Tabourlos - btaborlos@aga.asn.au with your suggestions.



AGA Product Verification Audits Conducted in China

AGA has expanded its partnership arrangements with CSA – Guangzhou to also include gas Product Verification Audit (PVA) services to satisfy Australian post-certification audit requirements under the AGA Product Certification Scheme – for Type Tested Gas Products.

CSA, acting on behalf of AGA, will now be able to carry out routine PVA's in China and



its local region. The audits will be carried out in accordance with AGA procedures and CSA will provide a report to AGA for final review and certification decision.

This additional service strengthens our alliance and long-term commitment with CSA for the benefit of Certificate Holders and manufacturers in this region. This initiative also enables a much more efficient way to subject product to audit by:

- Making audits more effective through local communications and language.
- Combining existing CSA audit activities with AGA audit requirements.
- Saving costly transportation and related costs
- Removing complications that comes with transportation of goods from county to country.

So far, we have over 20 organisations involved with this programme and if you are interested to participate, please contact our Manager, Certifications, Mr Ivan Marsic (imarsic@aga.asn.au).

Latest Standards Updates

There have been no gas or related Standards published this month affecting AGA customer Certifications.

