



AGA NewsFlash Alert

Urgent Space Heater & Decorative Appliance Testing

Urgent Check Testing required for the following gas appliances:

1. **Gas Space Heaters and Wall Furnaces fitted with Draught Diverters, and;**
2. **Decorative Effect Gas Appliances fitted with Draught Diverters**

On 13th April 2018 Certification Bodies recognised by the Gas Technical Regulator's Committee (GTRC) received advice to undertake a Spot Test for all certified open-flued gas space heaters and wall furnaces fitted with draught diverters and Type 2 decorative effect gas appliances fitted with draught diverters.

Following the tragic death of a lady in Melbourne last year the Coroner is investigating whether the fatality may have been as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning from the deceased's open-flued gas space heater.

Following the fatality, the heater in question was check tested along with a number of other open-flued space heaters, some of which failed to meet combustion requirements during down-draught and/or blocked flue conditions or overload combustion conditions. This is of grave concern given that winter is fast approaching and people will be starting to use their space heaters. Accordingly, regulatory authorities have instructed Certification Bodies to initiate urgent check testing of all certified appliances of the types set out above. Other appliance types are **NOT** included in this program.

With the introduction of the Nationwide Housing Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS), modern houses have much less free ventilation compared to older homes and, as open-flued appliances rely on drawing combustion air from the room, there is limited opportunity for make-up air to enter the room being heated. This is compounded by the fact that modern houses are routinely fitted with range-hoods or extraction fans in kitchens, bathrooms, toilets and laundries. The operation of these extraction fans can create a slight negative pressure which can reverse the direction of flow in the flue, drawing combustion products into the room.

AGA has long held the view that all mass-produced gas appliances should be regularly subjected to check testing to verify that production samples continue to comply with the Certified Design as was originally certified. Accordingly, AGA welcomes the GTRC initiative.

AGA will be contacting all AGA Certificate Holders who have current certifications for open-flued gas space heaters and wall furnaces fitted with draught diverters and Type 2 decorative effect gas appliances fitted with draught diverters and arranging to select samples for urgent laboratory check testing.

If you require more detailed information, please contact your Client Manager.
