



AGA NewsFlash

30 June 2018

GTRC Gas Equipment Certification Scheme “The Rules” – Version 2



In the April 2018 edition of AGA NewsFlash, we advised that the Gas Technical Regulator’s Committee (GTRC) had published Version 1.0 of the Gas Equipment Certification Scheme “*The Rules*”. This has now been superseded by Version 2.0, a copy of which can be downloaded from the AGA website [HERE](#).

The main changes to Version 1.0 of “*The Rules*” are the removal of the definition and references to “foreseeable misuse” and a change to the definition of “safe” that is consistent with AS3645. Other aspects of “*The Rules*” remain unchanged.

The regulatory authorities in both Victoria and Tasmania have announced that they will adopt ‘*The Rules*’ on 1st January 2019 and has advised that:

- All current certifications, and new certifications issued prior to 1st January 2019, must comply with ‘*The Rules*’ by 1st January 2020, and;
- All new certifications issued after 1st January 2019 must comply with ‘*The Rules*’.

At this stage it is unclear when the other Australian state and territory jurisdictions will adopt ‘*The Rules*’ however, we understand that WorkSafe New Zealand will not be adopting the ‘*The Rules*’.

A new generation of Gas Heating Appliances



Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) held a consultation meeting with manufacturers and suppliers of open-flued space heaters on 28th June to discuss arrangements for the industry to phase out open-flued space heaters and transition to the more modern technology of room-sealed space heaters. Mr Paul Fearon, Director of Energy Safe Victoria indicated that such a transition was necessary as modern energy efficient housing stock is not compatible with older open flued technology.

The transition from open-flued gas space heaters to room sealed appliances will herald a new era in gas space heating and improve consumer safety. It is expected that the transition arrangements will be announced in the near future. AGA will keep you posted of these unfolding developments.

Vale Stephen Wilson Light

12 June 1959 – 21 June 2018

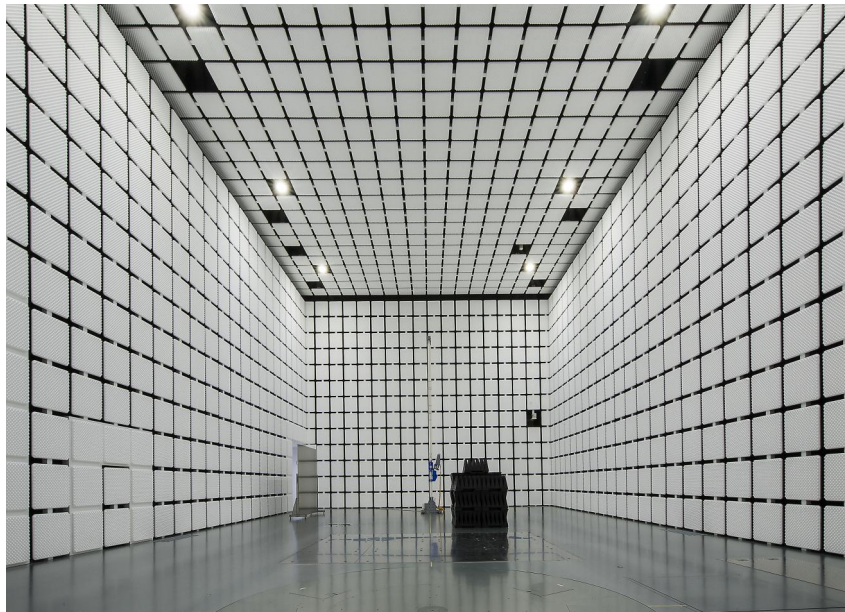


It is with great sadness we report the passing of Stephen Light following a short illness. Steve was farewelled at a very moving memorial service on 29th June held at the Cumulus Chapel at Bunurong Memorial Park. Steve's family and many of his friends and colleagues filled the Chapel and came together to pay tribute to a man who had touched the lives of so many.

For the past 15 years Steve was a key figure in the team at Sitro Group Australia Pty Ltd and was a great contributor to the gas industry. On behalf of the industry, we send our condolences to his son, Jeremy, daughter Abby and sister Lesley, all of whom made moving tributes to Steve at the service.

Steve will be sorely missed by his family and his many friends and colleagues and will be long and fondly remembered. May he rest in peace.

JIA opens new laboratory in Nagoya, Japan



The Japan Gas Appliance Inspection Association (JIA) has three major laboratories located in Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya. As a symbol of its commitment to the Japanese gas industry, JIA took the decision to rebuild the Nagoya laboratory and earlier this year opened a new state of the art facility on the same site.

AGA CEO Chris Wealthy visited the new facility in May of this year. "This facility is truly world class and is a credit to the JIA staff and contractors who designed and built such an outstanding facility." Mr Wealthy said.

One of many very impressive features in the new laboratory is the anechoic chamber for EMC testing – see above.

Fair Work Commission increases minimum wage by 3.5 per cent



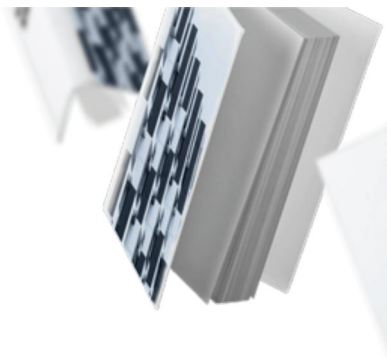
Australia's minimum wage will rise by 3.5 per cent from July 1, lifting weekly rates by \$24.30, following a ruling by the Fair Work Commission.

The increase raises the minimum wage to \$719.20 per week, and is marginally higher than the 3.3 per cent increase granted in 2017. About 2.3 million workers will benefit from the decision which commission president Justice Iain Ross said was part of planned modest and regular increases designed not to discourage employment growth. Across a 12-month period, the minimum wage will exceed the \$37,001 threshold, tipping some workers from the second lowest 19 per cent tax bracket into the middle-income 32.5 per cent bracket.

The level of increase we have decided upon will not lead to undue inflationary pressure and is highly unlikely to have any measurable negative impact on employment," Justice Ross said. "However, such an increase will mean an improvement in the real wages of those employees reliant on the national minimum wage and modern award minimum wages and will, absent any negative tax transfer effect, result in an improvement in their living."

The commission pointed to strong economic indicators and a healthy labour market, with the consumer price index increasing by 1.9 per cent.

Standards Update



AS 4617 (Manual Operated Gas Valves) has been updated and published on the 28th June 2018. Please contact your Client Manager if you hold current Certifications to this Standard.

DR AS/NZS 5263.1.10 (Gas appliances, Part 1.10: Gas direct fired air heaters) is out for public comment which will be ending on **6th July 2018**.

If you would like to submit any comments, you may forward them to our Group

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[Click Here](#)

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