



AGA NewsFlash

29 August 2018

2018 AGA Gas Industry Forum



Preparations for the 2018 AGA Industry Forum are well underway with the theme this year being "**THE FUTURE OF GAS**". Forum Registrations are now open and we recommend you register early to avoid missing out.

Proceedings will commence with the Annual General Meeting of AGA Members in the afternoon of Tuesday 27th November, followed by cocktails and a Gala Welcome Dinner for Members and Forum Delegates. An exciting program is being developed for the Industry Forum which will be held on 28th November followed by a relaxing dinner to catch up with friends and colleagues at one of Melbourne's iconic restaurants.

Whilst the Program is still under development, topics to be covered will include:

- Review of the regulatory framework for gas appliances.
- Renewable hydrogen production and storage.
- Hydrogen - a fuel of the future.
- Open-flued gas space heaters in modern energy efficient housing.
- Improved safety of leisure gas cylinders.
- New requirements for camping and leisure appliances.

- Introduction of the Gas Technical Regulators Committee (GTRC) Scheme Rules and a new Gas Compliance Mark for gas appliances.

Each year the AGA Industry Forum is getting bigger and better so we recommend you register and book accommodation early. You can register online by clicking on the image above or [HERE](#). Alternatively, you can contact our event organisers **Kylie or Sandi** if you have any questions:

E: industryforum@aga.asn.au

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For those who have attended previous Forums, we thank you for your ongoing support of this important industry event, and look forward to seeing you at this year's Forum.

AGA and CISR Cooperation in Vietnam



AGA and the Center of Industrial Safety Registration Zone II (CISR) have entered into a cooperative arrangement to cover cylinder manufacturing inspections in Vietnam for the Australian market.

Under the AGA Cylinder Certification Scheme, and in accordance with the AS 2030 series of Standards, a competent and accredited Inspection Body is required to conduct on-site inspections for cylinders destined for Australia.

Following detailed assessment and auditing, CISR has successfully become an AGA Authorised Inspection Body and a close partner of AGA in Vietnam. CISR is a state agency for technical safety under the Ministry of Labor, War, Invalids and Social Affairs, and was established in April 1994. CISR is a public administrative unit under its authority as per the Prime Minister's decision (Decision No. 58 / QĐ-TTĐ dated January 9, 2014).

CISR is the leading organisation in Vietnam for product quality testing, certification, testing, training, supervision and technical advice. CISR is also the first body in Vietnam to be fully accredited for inspection, testing and calibration in accordance with international standards ISO / IEC 17020 and ISO/IEC 17025.

As well as becoming an AGA Authorised Inspection Body, CISR is one of the first organisations to be recognised by the New Zealand government as an inspection agency under regulation 15.1 of the New Zealand Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017.

AGA is pleased to have such a significant and highly credentialed partner in Vietnam and both organisations are looking forward to helping manufacturers in Vietnam and suppliers in Australia and New Zealand with their Certification and Inspection needs.

Please contact your AGA Client Manager if you have any questions.

Open – Flued Space Heaters



The Nationwide Housing Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) requires modern houses to meet certain energy rating targets and, consequently, to achieve the required energy rating modern houses have much less natural ventilation than has been the case in the past and there is also much less adventitious ventilation due to tight fitting doors and windows. This has become problematic where an open-flued gas space heater is installed in a modern energy rated house fitted with multiple extraction fans and/or a range hood over the cooker. Operation of these extraction fans can produce a negative pressure in the house and this can reverse the direction of flow in the flue of an open-flued appliance such that products of combustion are drawn into the room.

Currently, Australian Standards AS5263.0 and AS/NZS5263.1.3 do not adequately address this situation and, therefore, a Working Group has been established to urgently address this situation. The Working Group has already developed an initial draft setting out the requirements to address induced draught in the flue of an open-flued gas space heater and the associated laboratory test methodology.

AGA has built a dedicated Test Chamber at its laboratory and the test methodology developed by the Working Group is currently being “road tested”. AGA has given this R&D work urgent priority and expects to be in a position to share the “road testing” results with the Working Group in the near future.

Hydrogen Future Fuel



Australian Scientists may have solved one of the biggest challenges facing the hydrogen fuel industry - its transport and storage. The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) has developed a membrane technology that can produce ultra-high purity hydrogen from ammonia (NH₃).

Hydrogen can be extracted from ammonia, first by using a catalyst to help decompose the ammonia molecule into a mixture of nitrogen and hydrogen gases. Then, a hydrogen membrane allows hydrogen to pass through it while blocking any other gas. Scientists at the CSIRO believe the rollout of this technology may pave the way for a fuel export industry from Australia. Two fuel cell vehicles, a Toyota Mirai and Hyundai Nexo, have been successfully refuelled using ultra-high purity hydrogen produced in Queensland.

Unlike electric charge cars, hydrogen-cell vehicles can be refuelled in minutes with a range up to twice that of electric vehicles run on batteries. Technological advances are also helping drive down the production costs of renewable hydrogen to make it cost competitive with oil-based fuel.

It solves the problem of the currently complex and relatively expensive movement of bulk hydrogen by using liquid ammonia. The CSIRO is also working on other parts of the hydrogen technology chain, including water electrolysis and hydrogen production.

While hydrogen-powered cars have been a major focus of Hyundai in South Korea, with a five-year plan to put 16,000 vehicles on the road, the technology is still under trial in Australia and a lack of refuelling infrastructure has been a key problem.

Toyota is looking to begin importing the Mirai in Australia as soon as 2019, following a three-year trial of five of the hydrogen-powered cars locally since 2016.

Australia's energy needs are changing, and momentum on hydrogen is growing both nationally and internationally. The hydrogen council predicts that by 2050, hydrogen will make up 15 per cent of global energy demand, with annual sales of hydrogen and equipment of \$2.5 trillion! The CSIRO's work on alternative fuel options is proving critical in preparing for a reliable, economical and sustainable energy future. There is now the very real potential for a national renewable hydrogen export industry, and a growing global market for clean hydrogen. With this world-first membrane technology, hydrogen now has the potential to rival the LNG industry.

National Energy Guarantee



During the last days of his prime ministership, Malcolm Turnbull was trying to get a consensus on his proposed National Energy Guarantee (NEG) which he claimed would deliver cheaper and more reliable power while lowering carbon emissions.

Amongst other things, the NEG was a contentious issue even among Liberal Party members and fuelled the factional unrest within the Liberal Party that ultimately resulted in the change of leadership. PM Scott Morrison has declined to commit to keep the NEG, but said lower energy prices remained a priority. Although the NEG may be dumped, the government has already committed to adopting market intervention measures to lower power bills.

The AGA strongly urges the Morrison government to end the energy policy vacuum that has existed for over a decade in order to achieve greater investment certainty in the energy sector and thereby security of supply to deliver lower energy costs for households and small businesses which, over the past decade, have doubled.

Standards Update



- AS 4618 (Gas Appliance Regulators);

and

- AS 4621 (Regulator for use with liquefied petroleum - Vapour phase)

Are out for public comment, both will be ending on **14th September 2018**.

If you would like to submit any comments, you may forward them to our Group Manager, Technical Operations, Mr Bill (Vasilios) Tabourlos [btamourlos@aga.asn.au], or directly through the Standards Australia website: [Click Here](#)

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