CONNECTIONS

Electrical, Gas, Plumbing, Building

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Department of Justice

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Contents

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Reader correspondence should be addressed to:

CONNECTIONS

PO Box 56

Rosny Park TAS 7018

Phone: 1300 654 499

Email: cbosinfo@justice.tas.gov.au

Internet: www.justice.tas.gov.au

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Minister's Foreword

Nation-leading building reforms targeted at jobs growth

Hailed by industry as nation-leading, the Government's building legislation will make it fairer, faster, simpler and cheaper to build in Tasmania.

The Government understands the importance of building and construction, and the close to 20,000 jobs it provides in this State.

That's why we are committed to reducing costs and delays caused by unnecessary regulation that can stifle development, while maintaining appropriate safeguards for consumers, practitioners and the wider community.

The Building Bill 2016 has now passed Parliament and will come into effect on 1 January 2017.

The legislation will remove the need for building and plumbing permits for many projects, up to and including a two-storey house, where they are undertaken by accredited practitioners.

Our reforms are the result of extensive consultation and cooperation with the building and construction industry.

This work will continue over the coming weeks and months as the Government works through its agencies, particularly Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS), to make people aware of the reforms.

Whether you are a building practitioner, a property owner or engaged in local government, you will need to know how these reforms may affect you.

As an accredited practitioner, you should have received a letter and Fact Sheet from the Director of Building Control announcing the new legislation and summarising the changes most relevant to your role.

If you did not receive a letter, you can find the information on the Department of Justice Website: www.justice.tas.gov.au/building/building2016

I strongly encourage all involved in the industry to take advantage of one of the many training and information sessions that are being scheduled around the State for September and October.

If you haven't yet registered for a session, check with your industry association or the website: www.justice.tas.gov.au/building/training2016

I look forward to providing more information as we near the implementation date for these important reforms.

Hon Guy Barnett MP

New building legislation

By the Hon Guy Barnett MP

As the new Minister for Building and Construction I am pleased that I had the chance to complete the Government's work on:

- A new Building Act
- A new Residential Building Work Contracts and Dispute Resolution Act
- An amended Occupational Licensing Act.

Tasmania's building and construction industries welcomed the Government's move to make gaining approvals to build in the State fairer, faster, simpler and cheaper.

Leading a package of legislative reforms aimed at cutting red tape, the Building Act passed Parliament last month with the overwhelming support of industry.

The Bill introduces a risk-based approach to building and plumbing approvals that will remove the need for building permits for many projects, up to and including most residential properties and many commercial projects, such as shop fitouts.

Last month, I was pleased to meet with representatives from across the industry to discuss the importance of these reforms at one of the State's most high profile construction projects, the Parliament Square development in Hobart.

The Government understands the importance of building and construction, and the close to 20,000 jobs it provides for Tasmanians.

That's why we are committed to reducing costs and delays caused by unnecessary regulation that can stifle development, while maintaining appropriate safeguards for consumers, practitioners and the wider community.

So if you're working in the building and construction industry in Tasmania, you'll need to make sure you're up to speed on all the changes before the new legislation starts on 1 January 2017.

Here are the people who will be most affected by the changes:

- Builders
- Building Surveyors
- Owner builders
- Plumbers
- Plumbing Surveyors in Councils
- Permit Authorities in Councils
- General Managers of Councils
- Other building practitioners (designers, architects, engineers)

There are some changes for property owners too, who will need to know what their rights and responsibilities are under the new legislation.

There is information about the *Building Act 2016* and the *Residential Building Work Contracts and Dispute Resolution Act 2015* elsewhere in this issue of Connections, but here's what you need to know about how we're preparing for the changes:

Communication from Consumer Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) to you

All practitioners should have received a letter and Fact Sheet from the Director of Building Control announcing the new legislation and summarising the changes most relevant to your role.

If you didn't receive a letter, you can find the information on the Department of Justice website: www.justice.tas.gov.au/building/building2016

Training and information sessions

Training and information sessions are being scheduled around the State for September and October. Some of these will be run by industry associations such as MBA, HIA and MPAT. Some will be run by CBOS at no cost to you. The training will be at various times and in all areas of the state to suit your needs.

You should aim to attend a session to get an overview of the changes.

If you haven't yet registered for a session, check with your industry association or the website: www.justice.tas.gov.au/building/training2016

Other resources

A Guide to the Building Act 2016 will be released later this year (we have an early draft version which we'll be using for training).

The Guide will be made available to all Permit Authorities and Building Surveyors. Other interested parties can contact CBOS for a copy or download it from our website.

CBOS also provide updates, summaries and links to important documents on the website: www.justice.tas.gov.au/building/building2016

Residential Building Work Contracts and Dispute Resolution Act – **What does it mean to me?**

Tasmania now has new legislation which provides some protection for consumers who are entering a contract for residential building work.

There are also simpler, easier and cheaper dispute resolution options if a builder and owner disagree about the contract.

The legislation will come into effect from 1 January 2017 and will apply to all residential building work over $20,000.

Residential building work includes building, renovating or extending a Class 1a residence, but may also include plumbing, landscaping, driveways and paths, outbuildings or any work associated with a residence that has a contract price that exceeds $20,000 (inclusive of labour and materials).

So this will affect most builders, but it may also apply to plumbers undertaking a significant project for a home owner.

Here are some of the key concepts in the new Act:

- For work over $20,000 there must be a written contract between you (the builder or other services provider) and the owner
- The contract must contain certain clauses specified by the Director of Building Control
- You must provide a copy of the Consumer Guide to the owner before the contract is signed
- Any variations to the contract must be agreed and put in writing before work starts (an SMS is an acceptable form of written variation under the *Electronic Transactions Act 2000*)
- The owner has a 'cooling off period' of five days in which to withdraw from the contract.

Once a contract has been signed, if a dispute arises between the builder and owner, the new Act provides some easy and accessible ways of getting the project back on track.

When a dispute arises

When a dispute arises, the first step you should take is to talk to the owner and clarify the issues. If you cannot resolve the dispute, either you or the owner may register the dispute with the Director of Building Control.

If both parties agree to mediation, this is provided at no cost by Consumer, Building and Occupational Services. This will give you and the owner the opportunity to sit down with a neutral third party to see if you can reach a resolution. Any agreement will be binding.

If mediation is unsuccessful, or one of the parties doesn't agree to take part, the owner may lodge a Work Completion Claim which identifies the work they believe has not been completed and gives you a reasonable timeframe in which to finish the work.

If you don't complete the work, the owner can ask the Director to establish an Adjudication Panel, which will consist of one or more independent experts with knowledge relevant to the dispute. So for example, if the dispute is related to the design, the panel may include an accredited designer or engineer.

The decision of the Panel will be legally enforceable. Costs will usually be shared by parties, though the Panel may order otherwise.

You may still pursue payment from the owner under Security of Payment legislation, and if you have started such action, mediation and/or adjudication can't be used until that process is complete.

More detail is available on our website at www.justice.tas.gov.au/building/building2016

Thinking of upgrading to a higher level of accreditation?

Building practitioners are sometimes unclear how to gain and then demonstrate the level of experience they require when it comes to upgrading their level of accreditation within a class.

The accreditation scheme is quite specific when it comes to the qualifications and experience that are required to be accredited to a particular class, however the Director of Building Control has the discretion to determine that a combination of qualifications and experience obtained by an applicant are equivalent to those required for that accreditation.

Provisional accreditation

An accredited builder who is able to demonstrate a combination of most, but not all, of the required competencies for the next highest category and a number of years' experience may be granted an additional accreditation at that next level. This may be subject to increased levels of audit and compliance checking while they gain the full qualifications.

Qualification requirements

In relation to the requirement for a qualification, a building practitioner needs to either have completed the qualification, or be substantially through the qualification process with a known completion date.

Demonstrating experience

It is often difficult for an accredited building practitioner who has been working in a particular accreditation class of work to be able to demonstrate that they have gained the required experience for that next upgraded accreditation class.

The scheme recognises and allows experience to be gained where the building practitioner has:

- worked on more complex building projects allowed within the current accreditation scope; and/or
- performed work in an existing building of greater size than their level of accreditation would allow, providing the work does not alter or affect, or likely alter or affect the structure, access or fire safety of the building.

Gaining more experience

If these avenues are not available then the building practitioner would need to sub-contract into projects within the next accreditation class to gain experience.

It is important to remember that an accredited building practitioner must only work within the area of his or her competence, and cannot work outside of that to gain experience.

More information

For more information go to www.justice.tas.gov.au and search for 'scheme of accreditation'.

A risk-based approach to building, plumbing and demolition

The new *Building Act 2016* – due to come into force next January – takes a risk-based approach to getting approval to carry out building, plumbing or demolition work.

We've talked to people in the industry and they've told us that it takes too long and costs too much to get approval for what might be a relatively simple, low risk project such as putting up a prefabricated shed or carport on a residential block, or renovating a bathroom.

So we've completely overhauled the approval process to match the level of risk.

Three levels of risk

For building projects there are three levels of risk:

Low risk building work

This is work that can be safely undertaken by a licensed builder. This type of work will no longer need a building permit.

Low risk work might involve putting up a small shed or a low deck.

Medium risk building work

This is work that can be safely undertaken by a licensed builder. It won't need a building permit but requires a building surveyor to assess likely compliance with legislation and standards, and to carry out inspections of the work. The building surveyor will also notify the Permit Authority at the Local Council that this work is happening, but the Permit Authority is not required to issue approval.

This type of work is called notifiable building work.

A new house that does not need planning approval might be classified as notifiable building work.

High risk building work

This is work that requires a full permit process overseen by the Permit Authority at the Local Council, inspections by a building surveyor and work performed by a licensed builder.

Most commercial work or residential projects in hazardous areas will be classified as high risk.

Plumbing projects

Plumbing projects also have low, medium and high risk work categories, but there are some tasks in the low risk category that an owner may be able to undertake (similar to the work that was previously classed as exempt). Some work – such as pumping out a septic tank - can be done by a competent person, as specified by the Director, who is not necessarily a licensed plumber.

Low risk plumbing work

This must be undertaken by a licensed plumber (apart from the work that the Director determines can be done by an owner or competent person). No authorisation is needed. Low risk plumbing work might involve replacing the fittings in a bathroom without substantially changing the placement.

Medium risk or "notifiable" plumbing work

This must be done by a licensed plumber who will advise the Plumbing Permit Authority at the Local Council that the work is being undertaken. The Plumbing Permit Authority will check that the work is likely to comply with the NCC and the Council Plumbing Surveyor may choose to inspect some of the work.

Notifiable plumbing work includes plumbing for a new residence on a standard block where there are no hazards to be considered.

High risk plumbing work

This is the sort of plumbing work that can have serious consequences for health and safety if not done correctly. This work must have a permit from the Plumbing Permit Authority, inspections by the Plumbing Surveyor at mandatory stages and will often have ongoing maintenance requirements that the owner must meet.

High risk plumbing work includes onsite wastewater management systems, backflow prevention devices, and most commercial plumbing.

Demolition work

For demolition work, low risk work like demolishing a garden shed is something that a licensed builder will be allowed to do.

Demolishing a house is medium risk work and must be done by a licensed builder or demolisher. The Permit Authority must be notified, but the work can proceed with authorisation from a building surveyor.

Demolishing a multi-storey building is high risk work so will need a full permit process managed by the Permit Authority.

More information

More detail on the type of work in each risk category can be found in the Director's Determinations at www.justice.tas.gov.au/building/building2016

Low Risk Building

Medium Risk Building

High Risk Building

National Construction Code 2016

The NCC Volume One Disability Access Resource Kit and the Online Seminar Series about changes to the NCC 2016 and Australian Standards are both available on the ABCB website www.abcb.gov.au

National Construction Code 2016 Adopted

On 1 May 2016 all States and Territories adopted the National Construction Code (NCC) 2016. The new Code replaces the NCC 2015. Download a free copy of all the Volumes and the Guide from the ABCB website at www.abcb.gov.au

Free education material and training

To help practitioners, there is free educational material available on the ABCB website (in the Resources tab). This includes resource kits on Energy Efficiency, Disability Access, Fire Safety and Performance Requirements. There are also online seminars presented by the ABCB and Standards Australia about the NCC 2016 changes.

Three year amendment cycle

The NCC is now on a three-year amendment and publication cycle. This means that the next edition will be released in 2019 and is a departure from the former one year cycle. The intention is to reduce the frequency of changes and provide industry with higher levels of certainty.

Performance solutions

The NCC 2016 has an increased emphasis that a Performance Solution (formerly known as an Alternative Solution), a Deemed-to-Satisfy Solution or combinations of both are all equally acceptable. To help, the ABCB has developed a handbook called 'Consolidated Performance Requirements'. Download a free copy from www.abcb.gov.au

New technical changes

Some new technical changes at a national level have been introduced including:

- New verification methods for structural robustness and acceptable indoor air quality
- New provisions allowing mid-rise timber buildings
- Provisions clarifying multi-level car parking fire protection requirements
- Provisions giving concessions for farm buildings and farm sheds
- Acceptable construction practices for stairways and ramps.

Tasmanian appendices – slip resistance

The Tasmanian appendices have been amended by deleting the Tasmanian-specific provisions for slip resistance. This now brings Tasmania in line with national requirements. Implementation of the national standards in Tasmania was delayed in response to local needs. This also allowed time for a full range of pre-tested materials and products, which satisfy the national requirements, to become available in Tasmania.

Tasmanian appendices – temporary structures

Tasmania has now adopted the ABCB 'Temporary Structures' handbook resulting in clarification of standards relating to temporary structures. The intention is to enhance national consistency and will also help travelling events such as circuses, concerts and sporting events coming to Tasmania.

Consumer, Building and Occupational Service (CBOS) would like to remind people that under the *Building Act 2000* (the Act), underpinning is building work.

This includes injection and other stabilising methods. Underpinning work is to be performed by accredited practitioners.

The Act defines building work as work relating to:

(a) Erecting, re-erecting, constructing, altering, repairing, underpinning, demolishing or removing a building; or
(b) Adding to a building; or
(c) Excavating or filling incidental to an activity referred to in (a) or (b); or
(d) Any other prescribed work

Accreditation

CBOS has received reports that practitioners have been operating without having the appropriate level of accreditation. A practitioner must have full accreditation and insurance before performing underpinning work.

Practitioners working in this area without the appropriate accreditations and insurance are in breach of the Act and may face actions such as prosecution and a fine, or an infringement notice.

If you are already working in this area without the appropriate accreditation, you should contact CBOS on 1300 65 44 99 to discuss accreditation requirements.

Mid-rise timber buildings

A New Era – Innovation in design, improved sustainability, construction advantages

From 1 May 2016, the National Construction Code allows the construction of mid-rise timber buildings up to an effective height of 25 metres (approximately 8 storeys) under the Deemed to Satisfy provisions (DTS) for Class 2 (apartments/flats), Class 3 (hotels/motels) and Class 5 (office buildings).

Prior to these changes a building could only be built from timber up to an effective height of three storeys using the DTS provisions of the National Building Code in Class 2 and 3 buildings and two storeys in Class 5 buildings.

Any proposals for buildings constructed of timber over 25 metres needed to develop a specific performance-based solution for the building, which added additional cost to the development and provided a disincentive to the use of timber in mid-rise buildings. The new DTS represents a breakthrough for modern design thinking and brings Australia in line with many other developed economies which already encourage this method of mid-rise construction. These include Canada, England and Norway.

The use of timber products in this way opens up new innovative ways of designing buildings, with many of the benefits of the use of timber, including the light weight nature of the material, the thermal and acoustic values achieved compared to the traditional use of steel and masonry.

Other advantages are the benefits of being able to manufacture off-site, and then transport the components to the site during low traffic periods, realising a reduction in erection and assembly times and reduced disruption to neighbours.

Because the elements can be computer designed and precisely engineered then marked for ease of assembly, construction time and therefore costs can be greatly reduced. These methods also reduce issues that arise through such things as inclement weather and traffic delays.

These changes are also welcomed in a carbon constrained economy with a premium being placed on environmental values and the use of renewable building products.

The increased use of timber in this sector of the construction industry is seen as a win for sustainability and innovation in this area.

These new arrangements follow rigorous assessments by building, fire and other authorities around Australia to ensure these new methods meet the performance requirements of the National Construction Code.

Forte Building Melbourne

Forte is Australia's first timber high rise apartment building, and until recently, the tallest in the world. The building offers 23 residential apartments, along with convenient ground floor retail. Four luxury townhouses that are part of the development compliment the tower.

The new changes to the National Construction Code will now allow this type of construction up to 25 metres to be constructed using the Deemed to Satisfy provisions only.

Electrical recalls

TasNetworks Cable PI

Due to a manufacturing defect, TasNetworks is voluntarily recalling all Cable PI devices made in 2013 and distributed between December 2013 and June 2014. It was found that the defect may cause the device to melt, smoke or ignite.

Electrical contractors should remind their customers that there has been a Cable PI product recall recently undertaken by TasNetworks.

What is a Cable PI?

The Cable PI device is an electrical safety sensor designed to detect a potentially life-threatening fault known as a high impedance neutral and has been in use in Tasmania for almost five years. Cable PIs have the added bonus of detecting under and overvoltage.

The Cable PI was developed in response to the high safety risk posed by broken neutrals that can cause fire and electric shocks. Over 3400 electrical faults have been reported since the device was first launched – 190 of which were potentially life-threatening.

The Cable PI device is provided free of charge to TasNetworks' customers and has been distributed to over 240,000 small businesses and households.

What should you do?

Please advise your customers to check if their device is from the defective batch by reviewing the serial number on the bottom of the device.

If the serial number ends in 13 customers should immediately stop using the device and contact TasNetworks on 1300 361 811 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday to receive a free replacement.

Please remind your customers that to ensure their continued protection from broken neutrals, the Cable PI device must be plugged in, switched on and the green light illuminated.

To report a Cable PI alarm call 13 2004.

DC isolator model HGN4-32 DC used with Photo-voltaic Arrays

A product recall notice has been placed on the Tasmanian supplier of the DC isolator Model HGN4-32. This recall is the result of an investigation by the Electricity Standards and Safety team within Consumer, Building and Occupational Services into a number of house fires in Tasmania where it was determined that the fire had originated at the DC isolator.

Approximately 1600 isolators are to be replaced.

The initial investigations undertaken by TechSafe Australia and Tasmania Fire Service identified the isolator was failing, causing fire damage to property.

The fires involved isolators installed either at the roof top near the solar panels or the wall mounted isolator adjacent to the inverter.

With the assistance of the Tasmanian supplier who provided a list of all the isolator locations, TechSafe Australia electrical inspectors were able to undertake additional inspections of the isolators to try and identify those isolators displaying any early signs of failure.

Various isolators were identified as having heat/fire damage with one isolator found to have very early signs of heat damage at the internal contacts. One isolator was found totally burnt out on the rooftop of a medical centre without the knowledge of the owner.

Note

A number of different brands of DC isolators have been recalled. Visit www.recall.gov.au for more information.

Self-balancing scooters (hoverboards)

There has been an increasing issue around the safety of hoverboards. There are currently 21 published recall notices for hoverboards or self-balancing scooters.

The majority of the hoverboad recalls relate to its associated power supply/ charger.

The findings of an investigation into a recent house fire in Hobart identified a self-balancing scooter (commonly referred to as a hoverboard) was located at the origin of the fire. The supplier of the hoverboard has since

Book a Tool Box Presentation

Do you have questions about electrical safety and legislation? Do you need advice on Continuing Professional Development for electricians?

Why don't you invite Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) Electrical Safety Officer Tony Millhouse to come along to your next Tool Box meeting? Tony will provide a presentation as well as answer any questions you may have.

Tony Millhouse has already undertaken a number of Tool Box meetings with electricians to discuss electrical safety, legislation and Continuing Professional Development (CPD). These presentations have been well received with discussions relating to CPD alleviating concerns raised by the electricians.

Ring CBOS on 1300 65 44 99 to arrange a booking.

undertaken a voluntary product recall.

Power supplies and chargers

In accordance with the Tasmanian *Electricity Industry Safety and Administration Act 1997,* power supply/chargers supplied with hoverboards are required to be certified and identified as being approved for sale. (Other interstate electrical regulatory authorities have similar requirements).

In addition to the requirements for power supply/chargers, Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) has from I July 2016 imposed requirements on the supply of self-balancing scooters in Victoria to ensure all self-balancing scooters provided for sale meet specific safety requirements including scooters that operate at extra low voltage.

Requirements for suppliers selling hoverboards

Suppliers who wish to sell these products in Victoria will need to apply to ESV for a Certificate of Compliance (also known as a Certificate of Suitability) that, when granted, will indicate that their product is approved and meets the safety requirements specified by ESV.

Lithium ion batteries have a mind of their own

We are seeing more and more consumers using a variety of battery options as power sources.

Batteries

We are all accustomed to the various characteristics of different battery types on the market:

- Nickel Cadmium has their issues with an inherent memory and rapid drop off at the end of their life
- Lead acid work very well in our cars because they are charged and discharged in a way that suits them
- Lithium ion batteries are appearing everywhere from compact small button size to large scale storage within an electrical installation but they are different again, especially when it comes to charging and discharging.

Chargers and overcharging

Overcharging can create unsafe situations and permanent battery damage that results in greater internal pressure and can cause copper particle build up in the cell creating a short circuit.

Recent hoverboard fires have been attributed to the quality of the battery and/or the use of non-compliant chargers.

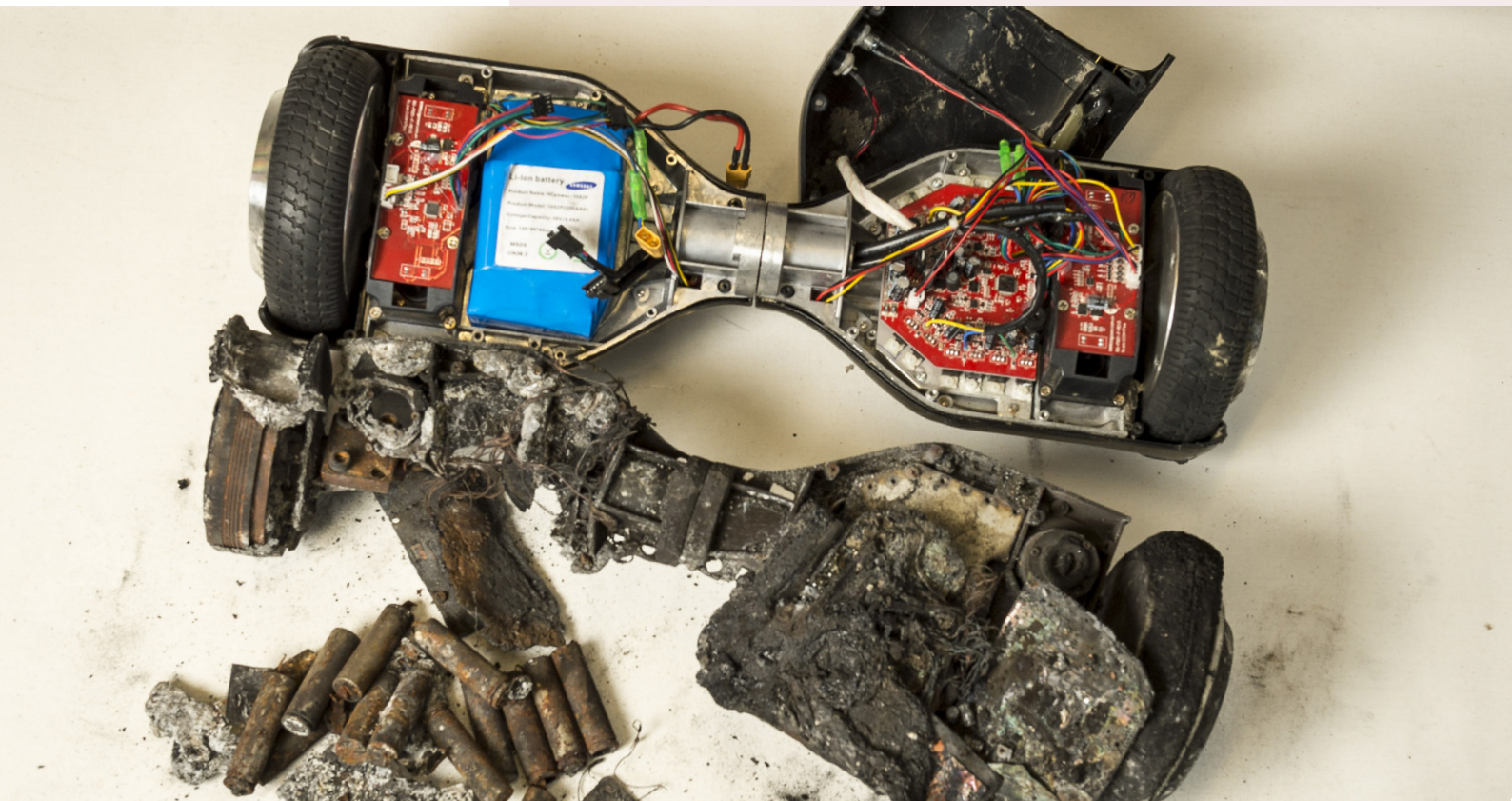
As we move closer to time-of-use metering, consumers will look at different ways to generate, store and consume electricity. Installations of the future will undoubtedly be designed to include storage back up and the use of lithium ion batteries.

If the charger is not appropriately designed and used correctly then overcharging can occur potentially resulting in an unsafe situation.

Please ensure you use quality products backed by a reputable supplier.

Preparing and training for the future

For those who would like to venture more into this field, national units of competence are being drafted for the design, installation, maintenance and fault finding of battery storage systems connected to photo-voltaic systems and the grid. So keep an eye on this space.



Everything you ever wanted to know about CPD

What is CPD?

Continuing Professional Development – or "CPD" – is the recognition that learning does not end when you finish school or a trade course.

Standards change, new products appear in the marketplace, new techniques and different ways of doing things emerge, so what you learned at TAFE 20 years ago – or even 10 years ago – may no longer be sufficient to allow you to carry out your role to the standard required and in compliance with current legislation.

Most professions in the building and construction industry understand this and have been undertaking CPD since 2004. This includes builders, designers, architects, engineers and building surveyors, who need to demonstrate they've completed between 12 and 30 hours of professional development per year before they can renew their licence.

Since 1 July 2016, plumbers, electricians, gas-fitters and automotive gas-fitters have also been required to start doing professional development to keep their skills up to date. These practitioners need to do 12 points of CPD a year.

Usually, one hour of professional development will earn you one CPD point, so you need around 12 hours of CPD. If you do more than 12 points in one year, you can do a little less next year. It averages out at 12 points per year over a 3 year licence period.

Sometimes, CPD activities that the Director of Building Control considers to be particularly important may be assigned double points, so you may get 2 CPD points for attending a 1 hour briefing.

What counts as CPD?

You can claim a wide range of activities as professional development.

Professional development doesn't have to involve face-to-face training or a high cost. You might undertake a course online, or do some private research into a tricky work-related problem that you need to deal with. You may keep up to date by reading trade journals and regular newsletters sent out by CBOS.

Or perhaps you'll enrol in a course delivered by a registered training organisation, or attend a seminar, or go to a briefing delivered by CBOS.

You may improve the way you operate your business by going to WorkSafe Month activities or learning more about business management software.

You might go to an approved industry training event or trade event (there has to be some component which allows you to improve your knowledge, not just a sausage sizzle!)

We want you to undertake a range of activities, so sometimes there's a limit to how many points you can claim for one particular activity. For example, you can only claim up to three points for reading trade magazines because it's important that you get your knowledge from more than one source.

You'll find the current table of activities and points on the CBOS website: www.justice.tas.gov.au/licensing_and_accreditation/cpd

How do I know what's approved?

CBOS publishes a list of approved activities on our website: www.justice.tas.gov.au/licensing_and_accreditation/activitiescpd

If the activity you want to do is not listed, you can contact CBOS on CBOSinfo@justice.tas.gov.au or 1300 65 44 99 and request approval for the course of study you want to undertake.

If you or your organisation offer a course that you'd like to be considered as eligible for CPD, you can follow the instructions on the website to have your course approved, and CPD points awarded. http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/licensing_and_accreditation/cpd

Recording CPD

You need to keep track of any activities you do that might count towards CPD. If you're a member of an industry association, they may do this for you. For example Master Plumbers Association Tasmania has a special web-based portal – available to both members and non-members – that allows you to record your CPD.

If you work for someone else, your employer is required to keep this record.

You can also keep your own record. CBOS may ask to see this at any time.

CPD responsibilities for employers

As an employer, it's your responsibility to keep a register of each of your employees and any approved course of training they are undertaking. (see Section 98 of the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005*).

This register should include full details about the employee, their occupation and classes of prescribed work, qualifications, competencies and continuing professional development.

You need to make this register available for inspection on request from an authorised officer.

But what if…?

Q: Michael is a maintenance electrician working on a mine site 110km north of Queenstown. He lives in Rosebery.

A: Michael could get 1 CPD point for subscribing to and reading a trade journal, and another point for reading the regular Connections magazine from CBOS (up to three points for this sort of activity).

He might do an approved two hour online course (2 CPD points) or attend a meeting run by his employer where industry standards are discussed (1 point per hour up to a maximum of 6 points).

He can get 1 point for belonging to one of the industry associations for electricians.

So through reading, online courses and employer based training, Michael could undertake all of his CPD without travelling.

Q: Julie is a trainer with an industry based training company. She delivers a range of safety and post trade industry training to electricians and plumbers in Tasmania. While Julie no longer works on the tools, her company requires her to maintain her electrical licence to keep her position.

A: Julie will easily be able to accrue 12 CPD points by ensuring she stays up to date with all the new developments in the electrical and plumbing industry, and relevant safety legislation.

She could subscribe to an electrical journal, a plumbing journal and join an electrician's industry association (3 points).

She could attend a number of the free events in WorkSafe Month (1 point per hour up to a maximum of 6 points). She could seek approval to claim CPD points for attending a conference or training course related to industry-based training (up to 6 points).

She might attend an approved Trade Event (2-3 points), or undertake some private research (up to 4 points), or she might undertake an on-line or face-to-face update on the wiring rules.

Q: Steve is a plumber working on commercial jobs and some light industrial projects, mostly in Launceston. He lives in Devon Hills. Most of his work is associated with the installation of new plant rooms which involves high pressure gas systems, large diameter pipe work and chilled water cooling systems. In between plant room jobs, Steve installs the firefighting systems in large industrial sites, which involves installation of 150mm pipes and the associated specialist fittings for the hydrants and the testing and commissioning of these systems.

A: Steve is working in a highly specialised field. He should aim to attend sessions on new or emerging technologies or changes to installation rules (1 point per hour for this type of training).

He may also subscribe to the relevant trade journals (plumbing, gas) to stay up to date in his field (2 points), and read the newsletters produced by CBOS (1 point).

He might choose to attend a firefighting course or other safety course (up to 6 points).

He might also spend some time doing research, such as accessing and reading the Standard for testing and commissioning of systems, or other similar information publicly available online (up to 4 points).

Private owned poles and wires – **new guide for installers**

The Electrical Safety and Standards (ESS) branch of CBOS is drafting a guide for electrical contractors regarding the inspection and maintenance of private power poles and lines. CBOS expects to release the guide later this year.

Electrical contractors will be able to use this guide when performing electrical work associated with overhead private installations, including vegetation management near powerlines.

Other topics covered will include:

- licensing
- standards of work
- the staking of private poles
- straightening of leaning poles
- the latest advice about eight-gauge galvanized steel and other older conductors.

This guide will relate to the technical safety aspects but it is important that you also uphold all the necessary work health and safety obligations when performing the electrical work. These obligations include safe work practices and safe work method statements. Safety is everybody's business!

The contractor's register

Section 98 of the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005* requires that the contractor maintains a contractor's register.

A contractor's register is to contain full particulars of the following:

- each person employed or engaged by the contractor to carry out prescribed work
- the occupations and classes of prescribed work undertaken by each practitioner or person undergoing an approved course of training
- the qualifications, competencies and continuing professional development (CPD) of each practitioner or person undergoing an approved course of training.

Sample forms are available

The sample contractor's register form is available at www.justice.tas.gov.au and search for 'contractor register'.

CPD logs

With the implementation of CPD for electricians on 1 July 2016, practitioners must keep a log of their CPD and audits will take place to ensure compliance.

The practitioner's CPD log, is in addition to the contractor's requirement to manage and maintain the 'contractor's register'.

Keeping it up to date

It is important that both the contractor's register and the practitioner's CPD log are kept up to date.

For more information

Further information regarding CPD is available on the CBOS web page at www.justice.tas.gov.au/licensing_and_accreditation/continuing_professional_development

Natural disasters – repairs and reinstatement

Tasmania has copped a hammering over recent years from fire and more recently from wind and flood. We are often asked: 'when is a repair a repair?' and 'what Standard applies?'

Repairs

A repair is when rectification or reinstatement takes place with essentially the same type and size of cabling and equipment ('like for like').

'Like for like' does not mean the same brands must be used but the specifications must be as close as practicable to the original.

Repairs, in general must only meet the Standard applicable when the original install was done however some replacements such as switchboard must meet current requirements (see AS/NZS 3000:2007 clause 1.9.3).

Upgrades and alterations

It is always good practice to discuss with your customer the additional safety of new Standards and to use the opportunity to upgrade. If an upgrade of any installation takes place as part of the reinstatement then that is deemed an alteration and must comply with current Standards.

Fire damage

In cases of fire, the damage is usually defined and replacement is often ok as a repair but if an installation is totally destroyed, the replacement is deemed to be a new installation.

Flood damage

If damage was as a result of flood, repairs can include just drying out equipment but make sure there is no degradation that may cause failure in the long-term.

Standards are silent on flood prone areas so if an area has been rezoned as a result of recent floods or likely to flood again, then you should discuss alternative options with your customer to avoid future damage.

Reporting unsafe electrical equipment

One of the important functions of the Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) Electricity Standards and Safety team, is to investigate reports of electrical equipment and appliances that have failed and are unsafe.

Reports of failed equipment and appliances come to us from various sources, including TechSafe Australia electrical inspectors, complaints raised with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), electrical contractors, Tasmanian Fire Service and the general public.

Our counterparts within other electrical regulatory authorities regularly share incidents reported in their jurisdiction. These reports help create history with failed products that may result in future action being taken with the importer or supplier of the equipment.

Investigations can result in a 'prohibition of sale' or a 'recall notice' being placed on the importer or supplier.

The investigation into reports of unsafe electrical equipment may also identify an issue that needs to be raised with the relevant Australian Standards committee that maintains the electrical safety standards for that particular equipment.

Unsafe electrical equipment is where the failure has resulted in fire damage or created a risk of electric shock.

Electrical contractor obligations

Electrical contractors need to be aware that the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005* and in particular the Occupational Licensing (Standards of Electrical Work) Code of Practice 2005 sets out the obligations for a practitioner to report a dangerous electrical installation that poses an immediate danger to life or property.

For more information go to www.justice.tas.gov.au and search for 'standards electrical work'.

Where an electrical practitioner believes that an electrical installation poses an immediate danger to life or property, they must immediately advise the site owner where the danger exists, and recommend to the site owner actions to control or remove the immediate danger.

If the dangerous electrical installation has not been made safe or planned to be rectified as soon as possible, then the practitioner must as soon as possible verbally advise the electrical safety inspection service provider, TechSafe Australia.

The immediate danger may be unsafe electrical equipment (other than portable electrical equipment/ appliances) that forms part of an electrical installation.

Carbon Monoxide Kills

Boats, caravans and recreational activities

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a silent killer. CO may be quietly waiting to join you and your family on your next holiday or adventure, especially if you don't expect it and you don't understand its dangers.

Carbon monoxide kills, so please, don't be complacent.

Boats, caravans, recreational vehicles (RVs) and even tents are our great Australian get-away options. Sadly, sometimes memorable adventures can end up in tragedy.

What is Carbon Monoxide (CO)?

CO is a colourless, odourless and tasteless gas that is slightly less dense than air. In an enclosed space like a boat or caravan, it will slowly rise to the top.

CO is produced when any hydrocarbon fuel – LP gas, diesel, petroleum and natural gas just to name a few – don't burn properly. These hydrocarbon fuels require a lot of air and the right gas supply pressure to burn safely.

When the fuels burn safely, CO is generally not produced in harmful concentrations. However, when a fault happens during the combustion or burning process these fuels don't burn at their optimum levels, which results in CO being produced. Incorrect fluing, not enough air, the wrong supply pressure or dust blocking gas ports can all affect the combustion process.

You can't see, taste, feel or smell Carbon Monoxide

If a gas appliance or other fuel burning device, such as a generator, develops a fault during your next boating or camping trip, you will not notice the CO.

The effects of Carbon Monoxide (CO) on the body

Low level CO exposure

Even at low levels, CO will cause significant health problems. Children, the elderly and individuals with existing heart problems are typically more likely to experience more severe effects from CO poisoning. The effects of low level CO inhalation can include the following symptoms:

- headache
- nausea
- tiredness
- weakness
- sleepiness
- confusion
- dizziness
- vomiting
- tightness across the chest
- trouble breathing
- changes in senses

High level CO exposure

If you have inhaled high levels of CO, it is likely that you will experience more severe symptoms. These may include:

- impaired mental state and personality changes (intoxication)
- vertigo – the feeling that you or the environment around you is spinning
- ataxia – loss of physical co-ordination, caused by underlying damage to the brain and nervous system
- breathlessness and tachycardia (a heart rate of more than 100 beats per minute)
- chest pain caused by angina or a heart attack
- seizures – an uncontrollable burst of electrical activity in the brain that causes muscle spasms
- loss of consciousness.

Very high CO exposure

In cases where there are very high levels of CO, **death may occur within minutes.**

What can be done to prevent Carbon Monoxide (CO)?

Regular servicing

Gas appliances and other portable equipment fueled by hydrocarbons require regular servicing to ensure:

- they are operating correctly
- flues are in order and installed correctly
- they are not damaged, dirty or out of calibration
- they are burning at their optimum.

The Director of Gas Safety recommends that in particular all gas installations in boats, caravans and RVs should be checked annually by a licensed gas-fitting practitioner.

Keep vents clear

Your boat, caravan or RV's permanent vents to the outside must never be covered or closed for any reason what so ever. Vents ensure a free flow of fresh supply air to your gas appliances and also to you. Covering these vents with any type of material could result in CO poisoning.

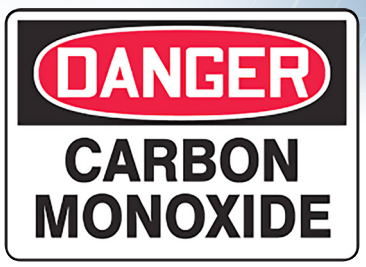
Always ensure the vents are dust and lint free to allow the right amount of air to flow to your sleeping quarters.

Always vent to the outside and away from open windows

Free standing generators or other fuel burning devices or engines must never be positioned inside, and likewise for fixed items, exhaust or flue outlets must vent to the outside.

Also be aware that fuel burning devices should not be positioned near any vents or opening windows that may lead the combustion gases to drift back in to your sleeping quarters from the outside.

Gas appliance flue terminals must always terminate and discharge



outdoors. A flue terminal cannot be terminated indoors – such as inside an annexe.

For outdoor use only

'Approved for outdoor use only' means an appliance should only be used outdoors. Portable gas appliances such as barbecues, fridge/freezers, butane cartridge 'lunch box cookers', gas lanterns and the like are **approved for outdoor use only.**

The CO emissions from appliances designed for outdoor use can be far higher than that of approved indoor appliances and they do not generally contain the CO safety devices of indoor appliances.

Enclosed annexes also pose a risk. Do not set up outdoor appliances within annexes and make sure they are positioned well away from windows or doors of enclosed areas.

Never use gas appliances, including portable gas heaters, in unventilated spaces. If the appliance is not ventilated properly, it might not operate properly and can result in CO being produced.

Always use a gas appliance in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and never for anything other than its intended purpose.

You must only use a gas appliance for what it's designed for – for example, a gas cooker is for cooking, it's not designed to be a space heater.

LP gas

LP gas installations are the most common fuel burning appliances used in the recreational environment.

Check the installation date

If the LP gas installation in your boat, caravan or RV has been installed by a licensed gas-fitting practitioner within the last six years, then it is likely that the ventilation requirements meet the relevant Australian Standard.

Check the installation date. If the gas installation and appliances have been installed for longer than six years, you should contact a licensed gas-fitting practitioner to ensure that the installation, appliances, fluing and permanent ventilation requirements are in safe working order.

Compliance and testing

AS/NZS 5601.2 - 2013 mandates the requirement for gas installations in boats and RVs. Combustion product spillage testing shall be undertaken when commissioning and servicing any gas appliances. This should be conducted in accordance with Appendix R of AS/NZS 5601.1 - 2013. Appendix "R" in that Standard is classified as normative and thus mandates the requirement to conduct combustion product spillage testing on flued appliances.

Appendix R is a useful tool that guides gas-fitters through a step by step process in determining the adequacy or otherwise of ventilation. It takes into account worst case scenarios where operating extraction fans or range hoods and the like may cause adverse combustion product flows.

It's better to be Carbon Monoxide safe than sorry!

Be mindful of the signs of Carbon Monoxide poisoning.

Transporting and storing LP gas safely

With the correct gas air ratio and an ignition source these examples highlight the capabilities of 1 cubic metre of LP gas vapour from a leaking bottle stored within the shed.

Transporting and storing LP gas safely is essential to ensure your safety, and the safety of family, friends and the general public.

Since the 1950s, Australians have been using LP gas as an efficient fuel for ovens, stoves, hot water systems and space heating.

Today, around one million Australian households use LP gas for these purposes.

Another seven million households use LP gas for barbeques and outdoor heating and around 100,000 Australian businesses use LP gas for a range of industrial uses, including heating and power generation.

With LP gas usage so high, we also see frequent incidents including deaths through LP gas being transported and stored unsafely.

LP gas is a volatile product. You should follow these important safety rules for its storage and transport.

Safe storage of your gas bottle

- Store gas bottles outdoors in a well-ventilated space
- Never store gas bottles indoors
- Always store gas bottles upright
- Do not store gas bottles near an ignition source
- You may choose to store your patio heater indoors, however you should always detach the gas bottle first and store that outdoors.

Storage Standards

AS/NZS 1596:2014 table 2.1 should be used for reference for Maximum Quantities for Minor Storage and Usage. (e.g. Residential Property : In Australia, indoors: 10kg per dwelling. Inc balconies).

Transporting your gas bottle safely

When transporting LP gas cylinders for private or domestic use, consider the following:

- Before transporting any cylinder, regardless of its condition, check for leaks by either:
  - ◊ checking for odour; or
  - ◊ applying a non-corrosive soapy solution around the cylinder valve and neck area, and checking for bubbles.
- Safeguard against damage to control valves by using a valve protection ring or protective caps. Use an outlet plug if one is available.

Note

LP gas can cause drowsiness or asphyxiation if released in a confined space.

- Disconnect the cylinder from any regulator, hose or appliance. The total quantity of LP gas transported inside any enclosed vehicle compartment should not exceed 33 litres water capacity equal to a

13kg bottle. (8.5kg bottle = 20 litres)
- The total quantity of LP gas transported by the vehicle should not exceed 65 litres water capacity.
- Secure cylinders in an upright position during transport.

Note

This is to ensure that any relief device is in direct contact with the vapour space of the cylinder. An 8.5 kg bottle fits into a milk crate perfectly which helps achieve securing a lot easier.

- When transporting a cylinder in the passenger compartment of a vehicle, it should be in the rear compartment. Restrain the cylinder to prevent movement or physical damage to the cylinder or the vehicle's occupants.

Note

Unrestrained cylinders can cause serious injury if the vehicle suddenly brakes or is involved in an accident.

- When transporting a cylinder in the boot of a vehicle, secure it so that it cannot fall over. You SHOULD NOT leave cylinders unattended inside a vehicle, particularly during hot weather.

Note

A moderate change in temperature in this situation can cause the gas pressure inside the cylinder to rise, causing an abrupt discharge of LP gas vapour within.

- Always have a window open while transporting.
- Discharge any personal static build-up by touching a grounded (earthed) metal object (e.g. the body of the car) with your bare hands immediately before handling the LP gas cylinder.
- As soon as you have arrived at your destination, unload the cylinder straight away.

Transporting LP gas in trade or closed-type vehicles

This includes closed-type vehicles, such as vans, utilities and the like, that have cargo areas with restricted natural air movement and ventilation and vehicles where gas cylinders are stored under canopies, inside service bodies toolboxes, and vehicles where cylinders are covered by tarps or tonneau covers.

If you cannot avoid a closed-type vehicle, fit a separate gas storage cabinet that is:

- Vapour tight from the rest of the vehicle
- Secured to the vehicle and of sufficient size to store all cylinders carried in the vehicle, including empty cylinders
- Designed and installed to ensure it is vented to outside the vehicle
- With one or more permanent vents or drains located in the bottom of the cabinet (either floor, door or side) and with an internal diameter of at least 25mm that cannot be blocked when the cylinders are in the cabinet
- Fitted with a method of securing cylinders in an upright and stable position (e.g. straps)
- Fitted with a visible 'flammable gas' label on the outside of the cabinet door
- Securely sealed whenever cylinders are stored in the cabinet.

More information

AS/NZS 1596: 2014 Storage and Handling of LP Gas

Appendices O and P of AS/NZS 1596:2014 are both informative and are great reference points relevant to:

- Appendix O: Transport of portable LP gas cylinders
- Appendix P: Transport of portable LP gas cylinders for trade use
- Appendix C: For cylinder sizes and water capacities

Avoid transport in passenger compartment

DO NOT transport loose or laying down - keep secure

Always keep cool and away from flames, sparks & heat

DO NOT leave LPG bottles in enclosed vehicle unnecessariy

Ensure valves are turned off firmly when not in use. Do not over tighten

Maximum two bottles in enclosed vehicles. Do not exceed.

Change to the variation for positioning of LP gas storage

The National Construction Code (NCC) adopted in 2016 no longer includes the variation that allowed LP gas to be located within a building.

Those already involved in gas installation design, and the location of LP gas storage cylinders in particular, should already be aware that cylinders need to be stored in compliance with prescribed Standard AS/NZS 1596 The storage and handling of LP Gas.

Most will also be aware that there have been Tasmanian specific variations allowable in the past pursuant to the Australian Building Code and National Construction Code (NCC). These variations from the requirements of AS/NZS 1596 applied to the construction or alteration of all buildings in Tasmania and specifically authorised dangerous goods such as LP gas to be located within a building in accordance with Tas Part H120 provided that:

- the room or space located within a building was separated from the remainder of the building by walls having an fire rating level not less than 240/240/240; and
- the side opposite the cylinder safety valve must allow for the unimpeded discharge of gas from a safety valve.

The NCC is produced and maintained by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) on behalf of the Australian Government and each State and Territory government. The code also allows for state variations in climate and geological or geographic conditions.

Everyone engaged in the locating of LP gas cylinders should now be aware that this variation is no longer allowable. The NCC 2016 was adopted by States and Territories on 1 May 2016 and this version of the code does not contain the variation detailed above that allowed LP gas to be located within a building.

Subsequently, and now uniformly with other States and Territories, LP gas cylinders must be positioned primarily in accordance with Safe Work Australia's Model Code of Practice - Managing Risks of Hazardous Chemicals in the Workplace and AS/NZS 1596 available at www.worksafe.tas.gov.au

Important changes to Standards AS/NZS 5601 - Gas Installations

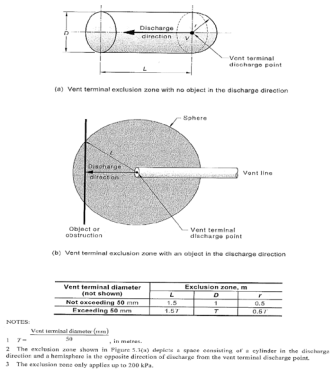
Gas Standards were amended in August 2015 and again in May of 2016 and have been adopted.

All gas-fitters should be aware that AS/NZS 5601.1:2013 Part 1 General installations and AS/NZS 5601.2: 2013 Part 2 LP Gas installations in caravans and boats for non-propulsive purposes have been amended.

The following list captures major changes to the Standards but should not be used as an exclusive list of all amendments to the Standards, which are available for free downloaded from the SAI Global website www.infostore.saiglobal.com

AS/NZS 5601.1:2013 General installations

- PE-XA and PE-XC as consumer piping within Table 4.1 has been included.
- The requirement that a means of disconnection of appliances to be provided immediately downstream of a manual shut-off valve in consumer piping has been removed (Clause 5.2.8). However please be aware that clause 2.6.6 still requires a means of disconnection downstream of a valve train including manual shut off valve.
- The requirement for marker tape to be installed above multi-layer consumer piping when installed in an open cut trench has been included in line with the requirement of plastic piping. Clause 5.4.6 that hose assemblies are of a continuous length - no joins are allowed. Clause 5.9.1
- Figure 5.3(b) for vent terminal location has been included



(a) Vent terminal exclusion zone with no object in the discharge direction

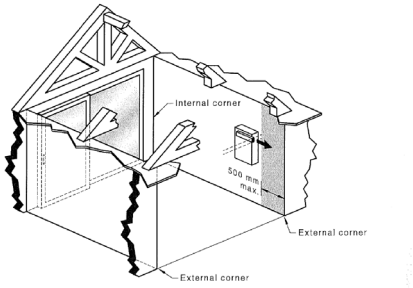
(b) Vent terminal exclusion zone with an object in the discharge direction

Vent terminal diameter/ (not shown)	Exclusion zone, m		
	L	D	r
Not exceeding 50 mm	1.5	1	0.5
Exceeding 50 mm	1.57	Y	0.67

NOTES:
1 $Y = \frac{\text{Vent terminal diameter (mm)}}{50}$, in metres.
2 The exclusion zone shown in Figure 5.3(a) depicts a space consisting of a cylinder in the discharge direction and a hemisphere in the opposite direction of discharge from the vent terminal discharge point.
3 The exclusion zone only applies up to 700 kPa.

FIGURE 5.3 VENT TERMINAL EXCLUSION ZONE

- There has been clarification provided in Clause 6.2.3 to allow the installation of domestic cooking appliances in a combined sleeping/living areas provided they are installed in accordance with Clause 6.10.1.4. Clause 6.10.1.4 requires that the appliance be installed under a rangehood or exhaust ducted directly to outside.
- New Clause 6.6.5 has been added. New requirements for when a gas pressure regulator is to be fitted to a Type A appliance. LP gas appliances must have a pressure regulator fitted to each appliance unless the appliance is certified without a regulator.



(a)

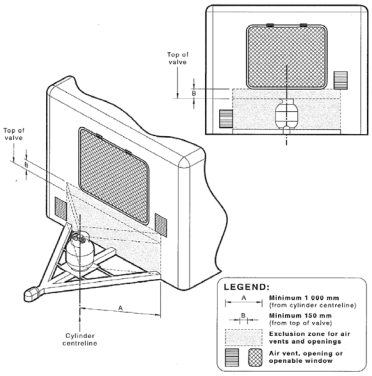
NOTE: There shall be no other flue terminals, gas meters, electricity meters, fuse boxes or openings into the building along the wall within the 500 mm distance as shown by the shaded area.

FIGURE 6.2 (in part) LOCATION OF FLUE TERMINALS OF BALANCED FLUE, ROOM-SEALED, FAN-ASSISTED OR OUTDOOR APPLIANCES

- New Figure 6.2a supporting the requirements of Clause 6.9.4 for terminating flues for balanced flue and room-sealed appliances in a covered area or recess has been added.
- There is a new clause 6.10.1.15, which requires that commercial catering equipment installed in domestic premises must be installed in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and be interlocked with an exhaust system.
- 6.10.19 is a new clause for the installation of gas barbeques and radiant gas heaters, which now must be installed outdoors or in an area complying with the grammatical representation of the existing Appendix I that are considered as outdoors.
- 6.11.14 Appliance commissions has been reworded to include additional commissioning requirements.
- Appendix R Spillage Tests for Flued Appliances has been expanded to include testing procedures for the effect of mechanical extraction and determining if additional ventilation is required when appliances are not running and the testing of appliances and flue operation.

AS/NZS 5601.2: 2013 Part 2 LP Gas installations in caravans and boats for non-propulsive purposes

- Inclusion of new Figure 3.2(b) for cylinder mounting on caravan draw bar



NOTE: The clearances and exclusion zone apply to air vents and openings into the living space of a caravan.

FIGURE 3.2(B) TYPICAL CYLINDER MOUNTING LOCATION ON THE A-FRAME OF CARAVANS

- 6.14 is the inclusion of a new clause for the installation of gas barbeques and radiant gas heaters outlining that they must be installed outdoors or in an area complying with the grammatical representation of the existing Appendix L that are considered as outdoors.
- A major rework of Appendix F Testing Gas Installations to include:
  - ◊ New direction for new and additions and alterations installations
  - ◊ New gas tightness test section
  - ◊ Rework of using bubble leakage detector
  - ◊ New method of locating gas leaks section.
- There is a new requirement of Appendix G Consumer Instructions to include location, accessibility and the need for regulator inspection by a competent person in consumer instructions for hose assemblies.

Using the correct compliance plates

The Director of Gas Safety will no longer be accepting the older micro tags for LP gas installation as being compliant.

As Gas Standards and Safety continually gets enquiries from gas-fitters about compliance plates, we thought a reminder would be useful.

The use of the prescribed compliance plate became mandatory from 1 June 2015. This is under Regulation 56 of the *Gas (Safety) Regulations 2014*. Regulation 56 covers installing or altering a gas installation or gas storage system.

Using the compliance plates

A gas-fitter finishing any work must commission and securely attach a completed compliance plate. This must be in an accessible location, as close as practicable to the gas supply point.

The gas supply point is the outlet of a gas entity's meter assembly measuring a customer's gas use or the outlet of the first stage regulator of a liquefied petroleum gas storage cylinder or tank.

The compliance plates have provision for two sets of information to allow for one alteration to the installation. Plates must not be altered or cut to accommodate plates being used for more than one installation.

The required information can be either clearly stamped or engraved into the blank areas provided.

The plates are self-adhesive. They have marked positions that allow for drilling when attaching the plate. Other methods of attaching such as silicon based adhesives are suitable.

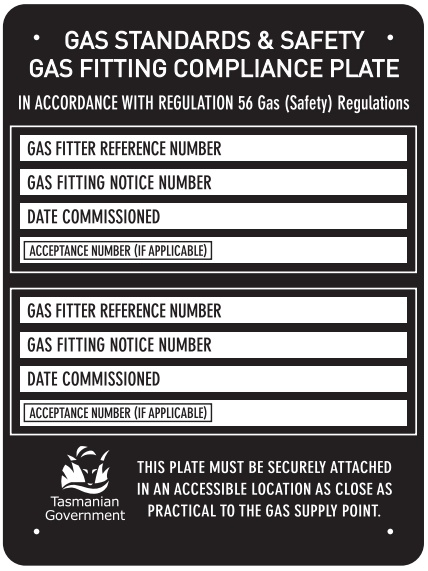
If an existing compliance plate has both sets of information fields completed and an additional plate, attach it next to the existing plate.

Where to buy the new compliance plates

The new compliance plates are available through the same Service Tasmania shops as Gas Fitting Notice books. You can buy these in packs of 10 for $55.00 inclusive of GST.

More information

If you require further information please contact Consumer, Building and Occupational Services on 1300 654 499 or CBOSinfo@justice.tas.gov.au



CBOS takes action against unlicensed plumbers

It is an offence to undertake plumbing work without a licence.

The Consumer, Building and Occupational Licensing (CBOS) Compliance and Dispute Resolution team is out in the field on a regular basis and checking on licences is one of the tasks they perform as part of any workplace visit.

In the 2015-16 financial year **31 complaints of unlicensed plumbing activity were investigated** by our office resulting in **total penalties of $50,658.00**

Approximately **160 licence checks were performed** across the State by Compliance staff who visited active construction sites.

Typically, an infringement notice for a first offence will result in **a fine of $1,570 for an individual or $3,140 for a corporation.**

But repeated offences may result in prosecution with a **penalty of up to $31,400 for an individual or $62,800 for a corporation.**

Section 21 of the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005* requires that any person who carries on a business as a contractor, must be the holder of a contractor's licence of the occupation and class appropriate to the prescribed work carried out in the course of the business.

Section 22 of the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005* requires that a person who carries out any prescribed work must either:

a) hold a practitioner's licence of the relevant occupation and class; or

b) be undergoing an approved course of training and be supervised by a practitioner of the relevant occupation and class; or

c) have completed an approved course of training in the last month and is being supervised by a practitioner of the relevant occupation and class.

If you suspect an offence may have been, or will be committed, please provide that information to CBOS. All information can assist us in profiling certain activities by persons or companies, which helps to ensure that health, safety and industry standards are maintained.

To provide information contact:

Consumer, Building and Occupational Services on 1300 654 499 or CBOSinfo@justice.tas.gov.au

CBOS training initiatives 2016 – Wastewater treatment systems

In late 2016/early 2017 Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) will be rolling out wastewater treatment systems training.

This training initiative will support the building and construction industry and benefit consumers. It specifically targets identified problem areas within the industry and follows on from the successful waterproofing wet area courses held statewide earlier this year.

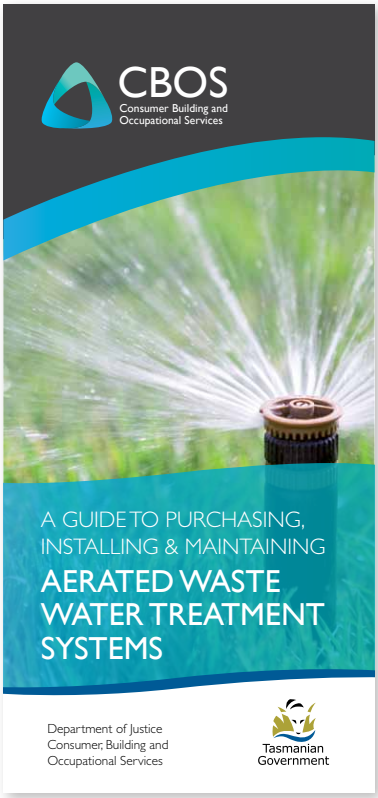
Domestic wastewater treatment and disposal systems continue to be installed across Tasmania in significant numbers. These systems are generally installed where no reticulated infrastructure exists. This enables the development of the land for habitable purposes. These systems have proven to be popular and successful when designed and installed correctly. However, there have been reports of problems associated with these systems and in particular the land application areas. In an effort to address this, CBOS will be providing training assistance to support practitioners and local government officers and to improving outcomes for consumers.

There will be training held in the north and south of the state which will be in the form of classroom and on-site workshops. These training courses will be available to:

- Practising Environmental Health officers from local government
- Practising Plumbing Surveyors
- Accredited Wastewater Designers

Registration

CBOS will send out invitations for eligible practitioners to register for the upcoming courses as soon as arrangements are finalised.



New AWTS Guide

Earlier this year CBOS produced a wastewater pamphlet called A Guide to Purchasing, Installing & Maintaining Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems which was distributed to all Tasmanian Councils. This pamphlet has received very positive responses and again it has been designed to support this sector of industry and consumers alike.

For a copy of the guide go to www.justice.tas.gov.au and search for 'waste water guide'

Continuing Professional Development
CPDTOOLBOX.COM.AU

CONNECTIONS

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Your feedback is important to us.

If you would like to comment on Connections, please contact us at:

CBOSinfo@justice.tas.gov.au OR

PO Box 56, Rosny Park TAS 7018
Ph: 1300 654 499
Fax: 03 6173 0205
Web: www.justice.tas.gov.au

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