

# Gas Safety (Installation & Use) Regulations 1998

These regulations are primarily designed to safeguard the public from the dangers arising from the use of gas. Every year about forty people die and many more suffer ill-health following incidents involving gas. These incidents included carbon monoxide poisoning, fires and explosions. The regulations are intended to reduce this toll by promoting safer installation, maintenance and use of gas appliances and fittings.

## Summary

### What is covered by the legislation?

The term gas in this legislation generally means gas that is piped into premises via the national grid or from LPG tanks. In the main, the regulations apply to domestic or others premises (e.g. shops, offices etc.) which have domestic type gas appliances. However the regulations also apply where gas may be being used for other purposes, e.g. in commercial catering, experimental work etc. The regulations do not apply to gas used to provide motive power to vehicles or gas used from cylinders. Also, the regulations do not apply to factories, agricultural premises or private homes.

### What are the main requirements of the legislation?

- Certain technical details must be incorporated into in the design and installation of gas appliances and associated fittings, e.g. pipework, valves, meters, flues etc.
- Specific tests must be carried out by the installers of gas appliances and systems.
- Anyone who installs or maintains gas appliances and associated fittings must be an appropriately trained and CORGI registered installer or fitter.
- Owners of premises must ensure that gas appliances and associated fittings are maintained in a safe condition and that the appliances and flues are checked for safety by a trained and CORGI registered installer or fitter at intervals not exceeding 12 months. A record of the checks must be kept and a copy given to tenants.
- No one should use a gas appliance if they know it is unsafe to do so.

### Application at the University

- The design and installation of gas appliances and associated fittings must be in accordance with these regulations.
- Only trained and GAS SAFE registered installers or fitters (University and contractors) may work on gas appliances. This includes domestic appliances and other appliances and associated fittings. (E.g. An engineering department wanted to run an engine on mains gas. Advise

was sought from the Health and Safety Executive who advised that anyone who connected the engine to the pipework should be appropriately trained as a gas installer or fitter and CORGI registered.)

- Students and staff who live in rented accommodation should ensure that their landlord gives them a copy of the annual gas appliance safety check. (If the accommodation is University approved the landlords have to show the certificates to Housing Services.)
- Owners of private homes should ensure that gas appliances and associated fittings are regularly serviced and maintained in a safe condition. (This is not a legal requirement.)
- Anyone who knows or suspects that a gas appliance or associated fittings are unsafe should not use the appliance. This may be due to:

1. a fault associated with the appliance or associated fittings;
2. a lack of air; or
3. a blocked flue.

These conditions may lead to an explosion or a build up of poisonous or suffocating gases.