Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board

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Gas Information Sheet No. 7

Gas Appliances and the Appliance Database

Aim

The aim of this document to is to provide guidance to help gasfitters understand the requirements of the *Gas (Safety & Measurement) Regulations 2010* (regulation(s)).

In particular, this document discusses the Supplier Declaration of Compliance (SDoC) and the Supplier Declaration Database (database). These relate to the legal requirements when installing a standard domestic/light commercial gas appliance.

The regulations can be accessed through the Board's website or the Parliamentary Counsel Office website: www.legislation.govt.nz.

The regulations

The regulations sit under the Gas Act 1992, just as the Building Code sits under the Building Act 2004. The regulations, along with other requirements, detail what must happen when it comes to installing gas appliances. It is important gasfitters understand the regulations, as they outline legal requirements relating to work they do.

Supplier Declaration of Compliance

Importers or New Zealand manufacturers of gas appliances are required to make a SDoC before they supply the gas appliance.

Appliances supplied before November 2002 and/or an appliance imported for the clients own use does not require the SDoC.

However, all gas appliances must be safe.

Where a gas appliance is required to have an SDoC the regulations require that the manufacturer of the gas appliance must ensure the appliance has the gas safety compliance label (See regulation 66).

In addition, the regulations require that the gasfitter installing the gas appliance must ensure an appliance requiring an SDoC has one, and then has the gas safety compliance label.

Gas Safety Compliance Labels:





When a gasfitter is installing a new gas appliance, a gasfitter should be able to rely on the appliance being safe if it has a SDoC and a compliance label.

As part of the installation procedures, the gasfitter must also carry out the appropriate commissioning tests to ensure the gas appliance is working correctly.

While installing and commissioning a gas appliance, the gasfitter may become aware that it is not working or is missing a part or function that the manufacturer's instructions require. In that circumstance, the appliance should not be able to be used until it is fixed.

Gas Supplier Declaration database

SDoC's must be published on the database which is on the WorkSafe, website: https://portal.worksafe.govt.nz/gasd/

Best practice, especially for appliances a gasfitter has never installed before, is to check the SDoC database to ensure the gas appliance is listed. If the gas appliance isn't listed on the databse, the gasfitter will need to follow the right pathway before installing.

For a new gas appliance:

If the gas appliance is imported for the owners own use, it can be installed however, it must be safe to install. A way of ensuring the appliance is safe is to get an 'Approved Practitioner' to inspect and endorse the appliance. However, the Approved Practitioner can only do this for a small production appliance (21 or fewer).

If the gas appliance requires a SDoC and does not have one, the gasfitter shall not install the gas appliance.

Second-hand gas appliances:

While appliance certification may establish that the appliance was okay when it was new, it may not mean a used or old appliance is still okay.

With regards to second-hand appliances or appliances that fall outside of the SDoC regime, Energy Safety advise the following:

"Regulation 74 deals with the maintenance of gas appliances and states a repaired appliance must comply with the technical requirements of NZS 5266 Safety of gas appliances (NZS 5266). Energy Safety suggests that it would be a good approach to also comply with the technical requirements of NZS 5266 when establishing whether an appliance is suitable for installation if it is second-hand or outside of the SDoC regime."[1]

[1] https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/gas/installations-and-networks/design-and-construction/what-appliances-require-a-declaration/

The technical requirements in NZS 5266 require:

- Freedom from mechanical hazards;
- Adequate means of support and the ability to be stable or remain safe when subjected to external forces;
- Any gas leakage shall not give rise to a hazardous situation;
- Parts shall not reach temperatures which create a hazard;
- Remain safe under New Zealand climatic conditions;
- Operates safely at all specified gas supply pressures;
- The appliance not cause a dangerous situation to develop when subjected to an overpressure;
- Be electrically safe (if appropriate);
- Products of combustion to be of a composition, and to be discharged in such a manner, as to present no health or fire hazard;
- Burners to have reliable and complete ignition, re-ignition and cross-lighting; and
- No flame abnormality (flame lift, light-back, yellow tipping or sooting).

Note: If you think the appliance is unsafe you should not be installing it, regardless of whether it has an SDoC.