



## Gas safety and your responsibilities factsheet

### What does the Law require me to do about the safety of gas appliances?

The Gas Safety (installation and Use) Regulations 1998, require an **employer or self employed person** to ensure that any gas appliance (including mobile or portable cylinders), flue or installation pipe work installed at a place of work they control is **maintained in a safe condition**.

Owners of premises used for residential accommodation **MUST** ensure that all gas appliances and flues are **checked for safety every 12 months** and **keep records**.

### What type of premises come under these Regulations?

Certain domestic premises for example Bed and Breakfasts and commercial premises like offices, shops, warehouses, hotels, and Holiday homes, chalets, caravans, mobile homes and boats, restaurants (including those floating), public houses and mobile food 'stalls'.

### What does the term "Gas Appliance" mean?

"Gas appliance" means an appliance designed for use for **heating, lighting or cooking**. It includes portable or mobile space heaters and appliances supplied with gas from a cylinder.

Types of appliances using gas include: central heating system, boiler, water boilers, hob, commercial and domestic oven, fridge, Chinese cooker, tandoori oven, fryer, griddle etc (All appliances should have a flame failure device and a gas governor. Bunsen burner type heaters should have an on/off switch)

### What should be done to Maintain my gas appliances and how often?

Maintenance should be in-line with the manufacturers' recommendations or appliance instructions and is usually on an annual basis. (Records should be kept, as these will provide proof of servicing). Proprietors must have good reason not to have serviced their appliances at these intervals.

In general:

- Dismantle and clean burners and other immediately removable components that may become blocked if dirty
- If there are safety devices installed i.e. in ovens, these will need checking at intervals.
- Inspect and clean combustion fans
- Ensure that ventilation is working adequately and is clean

**Where inadequate maintenance could cause failure in a dangerous way i.e. with some flexible pipe work and certain protective devices, formal planned preventative maintenance may be necessary. E.g. Replacement or refurbishing components before the end of their useful life (this will depend on manufacturers advice).**

## What do I need to look out for?

- Missing knobs
- Spark generator not working
- Clogged or blocked burners or jets
- Leaking gas (in which case there would be flames leaking from the casting body not just the jets)
- Yellow or orange flames (they should be clear blue)
- Visible smoke / fumes or odours
- Soot around the appliance
- Signs of corrosion

**(If any of these occur the appliance should be checked by a competent person)**

## Who should service or maintain my appliances?

Anyone carrying out work on gas appliances or fittings must be competent and registered with CORGI (Council of Registered Gas Installers). It is illegal for anyone to attempt to install, service or repair gas equipment **without** CORGI registration.

The CORGI ID card is renewed annually, gives key information in Braille and the reverse of the card details different types of gas work the operative is competent to undertake.

Do-it-yourself work on gas appliances or fittings could be dangerous, is likely to be illegal and may result in prosecution.

## In order to protect the general public, CORGI-registered installers are:

- Given an identification card which should be shown upon request. Call CORGI on 01256 372300 to check if you are not sure.
- Required to obtain competency certificates in areas of gas work they carry out, for example: Gas fires, cookers, central heating boilers (check they are qualified for the work you want them to do)
- Required to update their proof of competence regularly
- Subject to regular work inspections carried out by CORGI Inspectors

*Further information can be obtained:*

By phoning the Corgi general enquiry office on 01256 372300 or you can look for an installer in your area using the Internet [www.corgi-gas-safety.com](http://www.corgi-gas-safety.com)

Information is also available from the HSE gas safety advice line on 0800 300 363 or Environmental Services, Health and Safety Team on 01386 565015.

## If you smell gas or suspect there is a gas escape you should do the following:

- Open all doors and windows
- Shut off the gas supply at the meter control valve

If gas continues to escape call TRANSCO on the Gas Emergency Freephone number 0800 111 999

Contact: Health & Safety team, Environmental Services, Civic Centre,  
Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, WR10 1PT

**Tel: 01386 565015 Fax: 01386 561826**

Email: [environmental.health@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.health@wychavon.gov.uk)

[www.wychavon.gov.uk/es](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/es)

