

RGINews

ISSUE 3 DECEMBER 2008



New Building Regulation on Boiler Efficiency

On December 24th 2007 the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government introduced new regulations, the Building Regulations (Amendment) Regulations 2007, in relation to boiler efficiencies.

The regulations require that after March 31st 2008, oil and gas fired boilers in new dwellings must meet a minimum seasonal net efficiency of 86% and where oil and gas fired boilers are being installed as replacements in existing dwellings, those boilers must meet a minimum seasonal net efficiency of 86% where practicable. For further information refer to the *Building Regulations 2007 Technical Guidance Document L* and *Guide to the Condensing Boiler Installation Assessment Procedure for Existing Dwellings*. (These documents can be downloaded from: www.environ.ie/en/TGD).

Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) maintain a register of boilers and their seasonal net efficiency; the Home-heating Appliance Register of Performance (HARP). This database may be viewed at www.sei.ie/harp.

Standards

- I.S. 813 : 2002, Domestic Gas Installations
- I.S. 820 : 2000, Non-Domestic Gas Installations
- I.S. 265 : 2000, Installation of Gas Service Pipes

To purchase any of these standards contact the National Standards Authority of Ireland (N.S.A.I) on 01 857 6730 or visit www.standards.ie

Message from the Commission for Energy Regulation

CER Appoints RECI as the Gas Safety Supervisory Body

Background

Since 2006 the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) has been working with the gas industry to put in place a new regulatory system to supervise the work of gas installers with respect to safety. This new statutory-based regulatory system will replace the current voluntary registration scheme that has been operated by Bord Gáis Networks (BGN) since 2006, in compliance with its Natural Gas Licence obligations.

The CER has appointed the Register of Electrical Contractors of Ireland (RECI) as the Gas Safety Supervisory Body (GSSB). RECI will form a company limited by guarantee called the Register of Gas Installers of Ireland (RGII) with the sole purpose of operating as the GSSB. The RGII will be a wholly owned subsidiary of RECI and will be responsible for registering gas installers and regulating their activities with respect to safety. RGII will carry out this function on behalf of the CER. RGII will initially be responsible for regulating Domestic Gas Works as set down in the Criteria Document.¹

Transitional Arrangements

The RGII will be operational and able to take applications for registration from January 5th 2009 onwards. Contact will be made with installers on the current Bord Gáis Networks voluntary register in the very near future regarding their transfer from the voluntary register to the new RGII regulatory register. Transfers will be facilitated between January and April 2009.

The April 2009 deadline will also apply to installers who wish to be considered for inclusion in the 'Provisional Membership' category. The Provisional Membership category will be a temporary measure only and the category will cease to exist on the December 18th 2009.

Gas Installers seeking inclusion in the Provisional Membership category should pay close attention to the requirements for Provisional Membership as set out in the Criteria Document. Gas Installers who are registered under this category must obtain the Gas Installer Domestic (GID) qualification. Failure to acquire the GID qualification prior to December 18th 2009 will result in the removal of a Gas Installer from the register and as such the Gas Installer will be unable to undertake domestic gas works thereafter.

Appropriate non-domestic membership categories will be enshrined in regulations in due course after the CER's gas works consultation process.

The new regulatory regime will officially commence on June 26th 2009. From this date it will be an offence for any person to carry out domestic gas works unless he/she is a Registered Gas Installer.

The current Bord Gáis Networks voluntary register will remain in place during the transitional period until commencement of the new regime, to ensure that current safety standards are maintained.

Next steps

The CER will approve a number of processes and procedures to be rolled out by the RGII throughout 2009.

A communication plan focusing on publicising the new regulatory regime to gas installers is currently being developed. Further information in relation to the new regulatory regime will be made available to gas installers and the industry in the near future.

¹ Criteria Document Version 1, Regulation of Gas Installers with respect to safety, July 25th 2008, available on www.cer.ie

European Energy Skills Centre (ERS) 'GID on wheels'

In response to the increase in demand nationally for GIS and GID certification, as an essential requirement for registration as a 'Registered Gas Installer', European Energy Skills (ERS) will be carrying out competence assessments at various locations around the country, early in 2009. The ERS GID mobile unit will be visiting many locations throughout Ireland, including Waterford; Wexford; Cork; Kerry; Clare; Limerick; Galway; Mayo; Sligo and Donegal. Dates will be arranged to suit demand.

'Gas Installer Non Domestic - GIND'

In anticipation of the registration of Non Domestic Gas Installers, ERS is also offering, from early January 2009, GIND (Gas Installer Non Domestic) competence development programmes covering the requirements of the Irish Standard I.S:820 at its facility in Finglas.

For further information on 'GID on wheels', GIND or other programmes please contact:

Aidan McGrath,
ERS European Energy Skills Centre,
4A, Century Business Park,
St Margaret's Road, Finglas, Dublin 11.

Tel: +353 (0)1 811 0607
Fax: +353 (0)1 811 0608

Recalled Appliances Technical Bulletin

A technical bulletin is available on recalled appliances which need to be reported to Bord Gáis Networks and taken out of service when identified. These appliances are:

1. Flueless over sink water heaters (without an oxygen depletion device)
2. Open flued water heaters located in bathrooms
3. Flueless hall heaters.

A copy of this technical bulletin can be downloaded from www.bordgais.ie/networks or you can get a copy by calling the Safety & Quality Department on 01 602 1169.

Message from the Installer Representatives

In May 2008 the Installer Representative Panel informed all installers of the changes due to take place in the gas industry over the coming year. Following this communication it became apparent to the Representative Panel that there was widespread confusion amongst installers in establishing whether they are in fact a Registered Gas Installer or not. The function of the Installer Representative Panel is to represent installers in industry. The Panel would like to take this opportunity to clarify matters for all installers.

How do you know if you are a Registered Gas Installer or not?

- **You are not a Registered Gas Installer just because you have an installer/fitter number.** All installers/fitters who work in the industry have a reference number. This reference number is used for tracking purposes and does not mean you are a Registered Gas Installer.
- **You are not a Registered Gas Installer because you are a qualified gas installer/service engineer.** All installers/fitters who work in the industry need safety qualifications i.e. GI 1, GI 2, GI 3, GI D or equivalent. However having these qualifications does not automatically make you a Registered Gas Installer.
- **You are not a Registered Gas Installer simply because Bord Gáis Networks has accepted Declarations of Conformance from you.** Bord Gáis Networks currently accepts safety certificates (Declarations of Conformances) from

all installers. The fact that they have accepted safety certificates (Declarations of Conformances) from you does not mean that you are a Registered Gas Installer.

When the Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 comes fully into operation on June 26th 2009, it will become illegal to work on gas installations if you are not a Registered Gas Installer. The penalty provided for anyone who works on gas installations without being registered is up to €15,000 and/or up to 3 years in prison.

If you are unsure whether you are a Registered Gas Installer, you can:

1. Contact the Bord Gáis Networks Registration Department.
Tel: 01 602 1115
2. Visit www.bordgais.ie/networks/rgi
3. Email register@bge.ie
4. Call Bord Gáis Networks
1850 200 694
5. Contact an Installer Representative below.

Note: after January 5th 2009 you may also contact the RGI directly.

If you have not already applied to Bord Gáis Networks or have not completed the registration process to become a Registered Gas Installer by January 5th 2009 (but have an installer number) you will receive an information pack from Bord Gáis Networks early in 2009. The pack will include relevant details previously submitted to Bord Gáis Networks.



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Gas Installers (GI) Training Programme

The purpose of this training programme is to enable people with the relevant craft skills and knowledge to:

1. Install gas equipment and appliances safely
2. Obtain GI 1 and GI D Certificates that meet the required industry standards, and
3. Qualify to apply for registration on 'The Register of Gas Installers'.

Course Objectives for Gas Installer 1 Safety (GI 1)

On successful completion of this course the craftsman will have acquired the knowledge and skills to enable them to work safely at domestic and non-domestic gas installations under supervision.

Course Objectives for Gas Installer Domestic (GI D)

On successful completion of this course the craftsman will have acquired the knowledge and skills to enable them to install and admit gas safely to domestic gas installations. The course involves in-course assessments and end of course tests.

Course Duration

GI 1 – Six Days
GI D – Twelve Days

Candidate entry requirements

1. For GI 1 have evidence of trade or work experience in domestic gas installations (e.g. letter of introduction from a gas utility).
2. For GI D have a GI 1 Certificate.

Course Content: GI 1 (Gas Safety)

1. Safety Standards
2. Combustion
3. Flues & Ventilation
4. Installations
5. Pressure & Flow
6. Gas Appliances

Course Content: GI D (Domestic)

1. Gas installation level one safety review
2. Electricity and electrical control
3. Gas meter installation and isolation
4. Combustion analysers, flame protection devices and combustion safety
5. Customer relations and commissioning installations
6. End of unit written and practical tests.

How to Apply For a Course

For details of course dates, fees, application forms, availability etc. contact the relevant training centre :



FAS Training Centre,

Rossa Avenue,
Bishopstown, Cork.
Tel : 021 485 6249 or 021 485 6274



FAS Training Centre,

Gas Energy Centre,
Chapleizod Hill Road, Dublin 10.
Tel: GI S (Evenings) 01 605 5837
GI D (Day) 01 605 5813



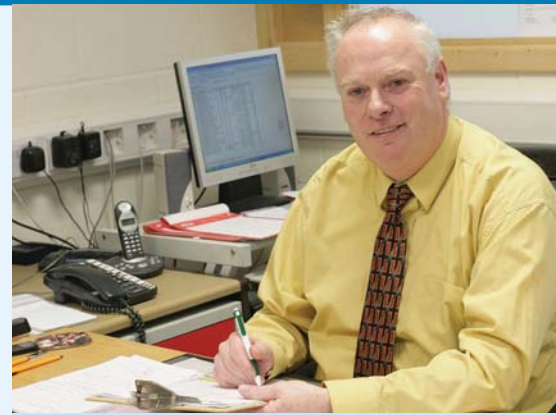
European Energy Skills,

Unit 4A Century Business Park,
St Margaret's Road,
Finglas, Dublin 11.
Tel: 01 811 0607
Fax: 01 811 0608
Email: energyskills@aol.com



METAC-Midland Energy Training and Assessment Centre,

Unit 3-4 Mountrath Enterprise Park,
Portlaoise Road, Mountrath, Co. Laois
Tel: 057 875 6540 Fax: 057 875 6539
Email: info@metac.ie
www.metac.ie (for online booking)



Business award for METAC founder

Dominic Dunne, founder and Managing Director of Metac Ltd. (Midlands Energy Training & Assessment Centre), was recently voted Laois Chamber Business Person of the Year 2008. The prestigious award was presented at a Gala Awards Night in The Heritage Hotel in Portlaoise.

The award recognised the outstanding achievement of establishing in Co. Laois the largest Energy Training & Assessment Centre in Ireland or Britain. The centre, based in Mountrath, has grown substantially since its opening and now offers a wide range of courses, many of which were created to meet the specific requirements and demands of the energy industry.

In addition to the **GIS (Gas Installer Safety)** and the **GID (Gas Installer Domestic)** courses the centre also offers the following courses:

Domestic Service Course (GAS)

Metac Ltd. successfully launched its new comprehensive Gas Domestic Service Course in early 2008. The course is an extensive 'hands on' programme covering a substantial range of gas boilers along with an extensive syllabus covering all areas of domestic gas boiler servicing.

Renewable Energy Courses

Since its launch in late 2007 the Renewable Energy Training Programme (Heat Pump, Solar & Biomass Courses) in Metac Ltd. has been completed by in excess of 800 installers who are now Fetac certified and registered with Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI).

Building Energy Rating

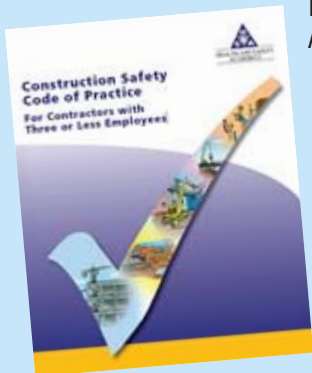
Metac Ltd. recently commenced its Building Energy Rating (BER) training programme. The 5 day course covers an extensive syllabus, leading to SEI Registration following successful completion.

Contact Details

METAC, Units 3-4, Mountrath Enterprise Park,
Portlaoise Road, Mountrath, Co. Laois.
Tel: 057 87 56540 Email: info@metac.ie
www.metac.ie

Construction Code a safety statement for small contractors

The Construction Safety Code of Practice for Contractors with Three or Less Employees is a safety statement for small contractors.



The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) launched the Construction Safety Code of Practice on March 11th 2008. The Safety Code will enable smaller construction contractors (those employing three workers or less,

including the owner of the business) to comply with the requirements of the Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 without having to complete a safety statement. The Code came into force on April 2nd 2008.

The purpose of the Code is to help smaller construction contractors to improve health and safety across their activities and reduce the risk of accidents at work.

The Code is based on the HSA's Safe System of Work Plan (SSWP). In order to comply with the Code, a contractor must use the SSWP together with the entire Code.

Copies of the Construction Safety Code of Practice are available from the Health and Safety Authority website at www.hsa.ie

On the Web

Now available on www.bordgais.ie/networks

- The latest Technical Bulletins
- Listings of Registered Gas Installers
- Downloadable Technical Manuals
- Training Information and Application Forms
- RGI Registration Agreement
- And much more!

Crossword Competition

Sponsored by **ANTON**

Win a Sprint V intuitive flue gas analyser from Anton

With ever changing industry requirements, monitoring CO, CO² and appliance efficiency has never been more important. Essential for servicing, a flue gas analyser will assist your business in staying ahead.



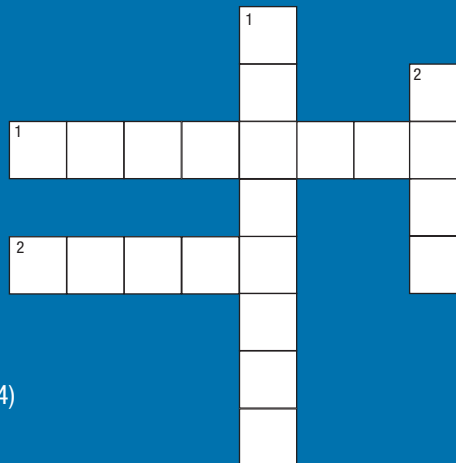
Please submit your completed entry with your Installer Number and contact details to:

**Register of Gas Installers,
Donmoy House, St. Margaret's Road, Finglas, Dublin 11.**

Entries must be received by Friday, January 30th 2009. The winner will be drawn from the correct entries.

Across:

1. Document which sets out the requirements for the Gas Safety Supervisory Body (8)
2. Founder of METAC (5)



Down:

1. Installer Representative based in Dublin (8)
2. Register of boiler efficiencies (4)

Competition sponsored by Anton.

Contact: Mike Windsor on 0044 7769 682699 or mike@anton-group.com



Mike Windsor (Anton) and Liam Nolan (Bord Gáis Networks) present an Anton flue gas analyser to Tony Stirrat, previous competition winner.