

# 2020 GAS HEATER SAFETY WEBINAR

## Frequently Asked Questions

This list of FAQs will be updated each week following the scheduled webinar. Please check in regularly to keep up to date with the latest responses.

### Heat Exchangers

During service work, you should check for cracks in the heat exchanger. A crack in a heat exchanger does not mean the appliance is immediately unsafe. The presence of combustion products at the outlets (nearest outlet) is the trigger to isolate the appliance.

If the owner/occupier refuses to allow you to isolate the appliance, call ESV 24/7 Emergency Hot Line on 1800 652 563 – select option 5. It is strongly recommended that if you have located crack in a heat exchange you advise your client that they should have the heat exchange replaced or the heater replaced.

### Isolation of a dangerous gas installation

With consent from the owner/occupier, it is recommended that you physically isolate gas supply from the appliance and tag the appliance off.

If the owner/occupier refuses to allow you to isolate the appliance, call ESV 24/7 Emergency Hot Line on 1800 652 563 select option 5. Without consent, cutting either the power lead or thermocouple may leave you liable for the damage to a person's property.

### Conducting a Carbon Monoxide Test on a Type A appliance

You must hold a gasfitting licence or registration to carry out tests on a Type A Gas Appliance installation. To carry out service work on a Type A gas appliance you are required to hold the specialised class of Type A appliance servicing work.

It is not recommended to just complete a carbon monoxide test on a Type A Gas Appliance without servicing the appliance.

### Q: Can a ducted heater have an effect on the open-flued gas heater (OFGH)?

A: The short answer is yes.

Clause 6.3.1 Adverse effect of air movement systems reads:

Gas appliances shall not be installed where the operation of any ventilation system, air distribution system, fan, or air blower could, under any circumstances—

- (a) deprive the gas appliance of the air required for combustion and draught diverter dilution; or
- (b) otherwise adversely affect the operation of the gas appliance.

Where there is an open-flued gas heater (OFGH) and a ducted heater in the same dwelling, the testing scenarios are installation specific.

One scenario to be mindful of is that extraction fans (bathrooms and rangehoods) require all doors to be open with fans leading back to the OFGH; whereas, the worst-case scenario for a ducted heater would be the return air in the room with the OFGH and the door shut.

One approach would be to complete the negative pressure and combustion spillage test as per the ESV VBA test report sheet, and then re-test taking into account the location of the return air and adjusting the tests to replicate the greatest risk. The appliance and flue system must be allowed to cool down before repeating the smoke test with the ducted heater in operation.

**Q: I repair a leak in a gas consumer pipe. On restarting appliances, do I need to conduct a CO test on any internal heating appliances?**

A: The gasfitter has an obligation to leave a safe gas installation. During the relight process, it would be expected that if they noticed a situation that would leave them of the opinion the installation is unsafe, they would need to action that matter. Negative Pressure and CO tests would not be expected unless you had concerns due to your observations.