



Gas Appliance Safety

Compliance and enforcement priority 2021/22

Why is Gas Appliance safety a priority?	<p>Non-compliant, damaged or poorly maintained gas appliances or non-compliant installation or misuse of gas appliances can endanger life through the generation of carbon monoxide (CO) in habitable spaces. CO is dangerous to human health even at low concentrations.</p>
Who has the compliance obligation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type A licensed and registered gasfitters. • Certification bodies for household and commercial appliances. • Appliance importers and manufacturers.
How does the risk or non-compliance occur?	<p>The risk of CO poisoning can occur if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified appliances do not meet the combustion requirements of relevant standards. • Open flued gas space heaters (OFGSHs) are generating CO and operating at the same time as exhaust fans in well insulated houses with little ventilation. • Gas space heaters have not been serviced or maintained over time. • Portable outdoor LPG appliances are used indoors or in confined spaces such as camping tents, caravans, cars and small apartments.
What compliance action will ESV take?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad-based public marketing campaigns to raise awareness and encourage community behavior change for routine servicing of gas heaters. • Consistent industry education for gasfitters through a range of channels including seminars/webinars, brochures, information sheets and our technical helpline. • Implement the outcomes OFGSH regulatory impact statement (RIS) including new requirements in Australian Standards. • Support DELWP's RIS to consider mandating the Type A servicing standard and educate gasfitters on the outcome and implementation requirements. • Introduce biennial Safety Critical Testing for high risk gas appliances through the Gas Technical Regulators of Australia Scheme Rules as a condition of ongoing certification. • Audit certification bodies. • Request online providers remove listings of uncertified gas appliances.
What enforcement action may ESV take?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee the voluntary recall of gas appliances that are unsafe and use mandatory recall powers when necessary. • Refer unlicensed gasfitting work or non-compliant gasfitting work to the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) for prosecution. • Review authorisation of certification bodies that certify non-compliant and/or unsafe gas appliances or that fail to comply with the Scheme Rules published by the Gas Technical Regulators Committee.
What are the targets or measures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure effectiveness of public awareness marketing campaigns (consumer surveys). • Measure number of fatalities (zero) and injuries requiring medical attention (zero) from household and commercial gas appliances. • Measure number of referrals to the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) for non-compliant gasfitting work. • Measure number of gas appliance recalls.
Who will ESV work with?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Building Authority (VBA). • Gas Technical Regulators Committee (GTRC). • Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP).