

Licensing of Hydrocarbon refrigerant work in Queensland

Stephen Matheson
Chief Inspector Petroleum and Gas



Presentation Overview

1. Why regulate?
2. Appliance Approval Requirements
3. Current Authorisation process for gas work
4. New Licensing requirements
5. The future?

The power of flammable gas



© The Sta

3



© The State of Queensland, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, 2010

4





Appliance Approval

- Appliances must be approved by a Type B approving authority
- Currently two available
- Form to be submitted
- Approving authority checks against standard requirements (in accordance with Code of conduct/guideline)
 - Labelling and instructions
 - Test report
- Approved appliance register on website



Current authorisation process - Interim

- INTERIM LICENCE
- Trade competency in refrigeration mechanics/air conditioning (based on ARC Licence)
- ARC licence
- Certified training by manufacturer
- Scope of work restricted to appliances from manufacturer
- Wider scope may require passing of P&G Inspectorate in-house exam.



Current authorisation process - Full

- FULL LICENCE
- Same as for interim
- Competency based training of approved course by RTO
- Scope of work to all manufactured appliances
- Wider scope (eg installed devices) may require passing of P&G Inspectorate in-house exam .



Current authorisation process - Scope

- Follow relevant standards
 - AS1677
 - AS1596
- Don't install/service unapproved appliances
- Compliance certificates not needed for installation of plug-in white goods
- Required for units built/installed on site



Move To Licences

- Changes to P&G Act arising from MELA Bill
 - Move to gas work licence (rather than authorisation)
- Transition across over 6 months
 - Existing holders whose licence ends in 6 months (new licence at renewal)
 - Other existing holders (new licence to be provided)
 - Applications treated as application for licence
 - Any individual under a 'group' authorisation must get individual licence within 6 months



Competency based training

- Working with Energy Skills Qld to have an approved competency based course of safe use of hydrocarbon refrigerants
- 8 hour course
- 8 learning outcomes
 - Legislation, Physical properties, Hazardous areas
 - Equipment, Design Safety issues, OH&S issues
 - Servicing procedures and Emergency procedures
- Available soon from RTOs

Future

- Writing to all stakeholders to advise on obligations
- Work with stakeholders to improve compliance
- Work within NLS process to see if competency requirements can be incorporated in other licences

www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines

The screenshot displays the Queensland Mines and Energy website. The page title is "Hydrocarbon Refrigerants - Department of Environment and Resource Management". The content includes a navigation menu, a search bar, and a main section titled "Hydrocarbon Refrigerants".

Hydrocarbon Refrigerants

In Queensland the use of hydrocarbon refrigerants is regulated under the [Occupation and Gas \(Hydrocarbon and Safety\) Act 2009](#).

This includes approval of the refrigerating device and authorisation to undertake gas work on the refrigeration device.

- A device that uses hydrocarbon refrigerants is a type B gas device and as such is required to be approved before it is sold, installed or used. Thus an appliance such as a refrigerator or an air conditioner that uses hydrocarbon refrigerants or R600, must be approved by a recognised Gas & Airconditioning Trade or the Chief Inspector, Petroleum and Gas, before it is sold, installed or used in Queensland.
- Anyone installing, removing, altering, repairing, servicing, testing or certifying the gas system of a device (ie charging, overcharging or topping up) the refrigeration system that uses hydrocarbon refrigerants must hold an authorisation to do so. A Gas Work Authorisation (Hydrocarbon Refrigerants) is required.

These pages detail:

- How to get an appliance approved
- Approval of appliances
- Approval for and authorisation for gas work
- The standards involved
- General safety and use information for the public.

Hydrocarbon refrigerants include:

Refrigerant Number	Name
R600	Hexane
R170	Ethane
R290	Propane
R180	Butane
R600a	Isobutane
R152c	Ethylene
R127c	Propylene
R127	Ethylchloride

Last Updated 30 March 2009



More Information

- Subscribe to newsletter/information - Go to website http://www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/petroleum_gas_safety.cfm
 - Application forms
 - Guidelines
 - Links to legislation
 - Newsletter
 - Information for gas fitters
 - Safety Alerts, Information sheets
- Operations Support Officer, Southern Region – Melissa Spicer
 - Ph 4938 4683 melissa.spicer@deedi.qld.gov.au
- Regional Inspector, Central Region - John Wright
 - Ph 4938 4682 john.wright@deedi.qld.gov.au
- Chief Inspector, Petroleum and Gas, Stephen Matheson
 - Ph 32371389 stephen.matheson@deedi.qld.gov.au
 - Enquiries Email: gassafe@dme.qld.gov.au