

Gas Safety Factsheet – Maintaining Gas Equipment

The Law

The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulation's 1998 place a number of duties on employers to ensure that The Gas Installation is used and maintained safely, they state:

"Every employer or self-employed person must ensure that any gas appliance, installation pipe-work or flue installed at any place of work under his control, is maintained in a safe condition so as to prevent risk of injury to any person"

In order to comply with the law, as a business you should;

- Have your gas installation (the building including pipe work) inspected by a gas safe engineer, and; (*This is usually an annual inspection*)
- Have your gas appliances (cookers, grills, heaters, boilers etc) inspected by a gas safe engineer; and; (*This is usually an annual inspection*)
- Keep all records of inspection for at least two years, to demonstrate that you are having the checks undertaken.

Who can inspect my gas appliances?

Only qualified gas safe registered engineers can inspect gas installations and appliances, and undertake any remedial measures or repairs required.

You can find a gas safe engineer by going to <u>www.gassaferegister.co.uk</u> or by calling 0800 408 5500.

See Gas Safety Factsheet "Find a gas safe engineer", for more information on selecting the right gas engineer for your business.



REMEMBER: If you allow an unqualified person to work on your gas installation or gas appliances, you too will commit an offence and a Health and Safety Inspector may choose to prosecute you as well as the person undertaking the work.

What checks does the Gas Engineer undertake?

For a gas safety check or a service, essential safety checks are done to make sure gas fittings and appliances are safe to use. These checks include;

- checking the flue or chimney to make sure the products of combustion (harmful fumes) are being safely removed to outside;
- checking there is an adequate supply of fresh air so the gas burns properly;
- checking the appliance is burning the gas properly;
- checking all safety devices are working properly and shutting the appliance off if a fault occurs.

What information does a gas safety record or certificate contain?

As a minimum, the record of a gas safety check must contain:

- The name, registration number and signature of the engineer who carried out the check;
- The description and location of each appliance and/or flue checked;
- The date on which the appliance and/or flue was checked;
- The address of the property at which the appliance and/or flue is installed;
- The name and address of the landlord (or his agent where appropriate);
- Any defect identified and any action required or taken to fix it;
- Confirmation of the results of operational safety checks carried out on the appliances.

What do gas safety certificates look like?

The gas safety certificate can vary depending on the company the gas engineer works for and the type of premises the engineer is checking. They can also have different logo's such as gas safe, corgi or their own businesses logo printed on them. Below are some examples:

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An example for a domestic premises, these are sometimes used in small commercial premises

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Some reports may be more than one page long, especially if you have a number of appliances.

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Mobile caters can be issued with a bespoke certificate.

What happens if there is a fault with my appliances or installation?

The Gas Engineer will explain to you what you need to do. They may be able to correct the fault at the time of the visit, or arrange to return and fix the fault.



If the gas engineer is very concerned that the appliance is <u>Immediately Dangerous</u> it is very likely they will disconnect the appliance and label it with a sticker, similar to the red and yellow triangle. Should you reconnect the appliance and use it before the fault(s) have been fixed, you will commit an offence.

If the Gas Engineer finds a fault that they think will become serious, then they will label the appliance as \underline{at} <u>**risk**</u>, but are unlikely to prevent you from using the appliance.

Health and Safety Inspectors will ask to see copies of the gas safety records on inspections. If any appliances have been listed as immediately dangerous or at risk then the inspector will ask for you to demonstrate that these appliances have been fixed or replaced. This means you will have to keep copies of invoices or other paperwork relating to the works that are undertaken.

If you cannot demonstrate that you have you have had the appliances fixed, and they are now safe, then it is likely that inspectors will take formal action to ensure the safety of the gas installation & appliances, this may mean serving prohibition or improvement notices, and in some cases prosecutions may occur.

