

**Proposed**

**‘Safe Work with Gas Systems and Appliances:**

**Approved Code of Practice’**

This information sheet is not intended to address the full scope of the final ACoP, or reflect any proposed detailed wording to be included, as these will be developed as the consultation process progresses. Instead, it is designed to highlight key areas where it is believed it would be helpful to provide clarity and clear guidance on the standards of best practice within this high risk sector.

## **Key areas to be addressed within the ACoP**

The proposed ACoP will address the recognised dangers from working with gas, including the installation of gas fittings and appliances and their use in work situations. Gas, by its very nature, is highly combustible and presents a serious risk of fire and / or explosion where leaks occur due to poor workmanship or maintenance. There is also a very serious risk of carbon monoxide poisoning from poorly installed or maintained appliances and appliances where flueing is inadequate to safely remove the products of combustion generated.

When considering the minimum standards of good practice required when working with gas, reference has been made to legislation enacted in the UK and Guernsey and the associated ACoP published by the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Authoritative guidance published by relevant trade representatives such as the Gas Safe Register and the Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers (IGEM) has also been referred to. Naturally where there are already relevant prescriptive Regulations in force in Jersey, these will be cross-referenced in the ACoP.

### **Basic principles of safe work with gas**

The ACoP will reflect the basic principles that only people that are competent should carry out work on gas fittings and that work should be carried out safely in accordance with industry practices. Relevant minimum standards for materials and workmanship, installation of fittings, flues and pipework and safety checks to be made by engineers are included in the ACoP. These standards should already be well known to competent and experienced engineers.

In addition to individual engineers and their employers, the ACoP also places duties on those in control of work premises to maintain gas appliances and fittings in a safe condition. Those that are in control of work relating to gas have a duty to ensure that the person carrying out the work is competent.

The ACoP extends the requirement of 'competency' to a requirement that engineers are assessed as competent by completion of an Accredited Certification Scheme and registration with the approved body, currently the Gas Safe Register. This requirement builds on legislation contained in the Public Health and Safety (Rented Dwellings – Minimum Standards and Prescribed Hazards)

(Jersey) Order 2018 for gas safety inspection of a rented dwelling to be carried out by a Gas Safe Registered engineer.

### **What is included in the ACoP**

The ACoP covers 'work' on gas fittings and each of these terms is defined. For example, work includes installing, re-connecting, maintaining servicing etc. of a gas fitting but does not include disconnecting a self-sealing connector or turning off a valve. The ACoP refers to gas used for heating, lighting or cooking and specifically excludes the use of gas for the means of propulsion of a motor vehicle. Small portable items supplied with gas, such as blow lamps hair straighteners etc. are similarly excluded.

### **Legal Status of the ACoP**

Safe work with gas will be enforced under the existing Health and Safety at Work (Jersey) Law 1989. The ACoP exists to provide practical advice on how to comply with the Law when working with gas. It has a special legal status. If you are prosecuted for a breach of the health and safety law to which the ACoP refers and it is proved that you did not follow the relevant provisions, you will need to prove that you complied with the law in some other way or the court will find you at fault.

### **Who should read the ACoP**

The ACoP is relevant to anybody with responsibility for work that may involve gas or gas appliances, such as employers, managers and individual gas engineers. People whose work may affect the safe operation of a gas appliance without actually working on the appliance itself should also be aware of duties on them contained in the ACoP. For example builders carrying out roof work that affects the safe operation of a flue.