



GAS APPLIANCES

Get them checked
Keep them **safe**

**This leaflet contains
important new information.
Please read it.
It could save your life.**

hсени
CONTROLLING RISK TOGETHER

For further information:
(028) 9024 3249



The Problem

Every year some 30 people die in the UK from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by gas appliances and flues which have not been properly installed or maintained. When gas does not burn properly, excess carbon monoxide gas is produced, which is poisonous.

You can't see it. You can't taste it. You can't even smell it. But carbon monoxide can kill without warning in just a matter of hours. You are particularly vulnerable when you are asleep.

The early symptoms of poisoning include tiredness, drowsiness, headache, pains.

You are at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning if:-

- your appliance was poorly installed;
- your appliance is not working properly;
- your appliance has not been checked for safety or maintained regularly;
- there is not enough fresh air in the room;
- your chimney or flue gets blocked up;
- you allow unqualified people to install or maintain your appliance.

There is particular risk if you sleep in a room where an appliance, which is not of the room-sealed type, is left burning at night. (Flue outlets for room-sealed appliances are commonly located on an external wall at a low level protected by a cage rather than at or above roof level.)



The Answers

NEVER use a gas appliance if you think it's not working properly. Signs to look out for include yellow or orange flames, soot or stains around the appliance and pilot lights which frequently blow out.

NEVER cover an appliance or block the convection air vents.

NEVER block or obstruct any fixed ventilation grills or air bricks.

NEVER block or cover outside flues.

CAUTION whenever draught exclusion, double glazing or a conservatory extension is fitted to a room containing a gas appliance, the appliance should subsequently be checked for safety.

All gas consumers are advised to have appliances checked for safety *at least every 12 months* by a CORGI registered installer.

If you need further advice about any of the gas safety issues mentioned in this leaflet, ring the

**Health and Safety Executive for
Northern Ireland**

t: (028) 9024 3249

f: (028) 9023 5383

e: hсени@detini.gov.uk

w: www.hse-ni.org.uk

The Law*

The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1999 place duties on gas consumers, installers, suppliers and land-lords. For your own protection remember:

- * **by law anyone carrying out work on gas appliances or fittings as part of their business must be competent and registered with CORGI (the Council for Registered Gas Installers).**

Always check your installer is registered by asking to see a current CORGI registration certificate or ringing CORGI on (01256) 372300;

- * **by law only a competent person can carry out work on gas appliances or fittings.** Do-it-yourself work on gas appliances or fittings could be dangerous and is likely to be illegal;
- * **by law you must not use any gas appliance or fittings you know or suspect to be unsafe.** Through CORGI, HSE has asked all registered installers to disconnect any gas appliance or fittings which are so dangerous as to be a threat to life if they are used. If your installer asks your permission to disconnect such an appliance or fitting it will be in the interests of your own safety, and that of others, to agree. Before you use this appliance or fitting again, have it repaired by a CORGI registered installer;

The Law* (Cont'd)

- * **by law, landlords are responsible in certain circumstances for making sure that gas fittings and flues are maintained in good order, and gas appliances and flues are checked for safety once in a period of 12 months. They must also keep a record of the safety checks for at least two years and issue it to existing tenants and any new tenants before they move in.** If you own the appliance, you are responsible for its maintenance and safety checks;
- * **by law, with the exception of the room-sealed type, there are restrictions on the installation of gas appliances in sleeping accommodation. These restrictions apply only to appliances fitted after 1 January 1996.** Non room-sealed appliances of less than 14 kilowatts may be fitted as long as they have a device which automatically turns the gas supply off before a dangerous level of fumes builds up. However, non room-sealed appliances above this threshold are prohibited in such accommodation;
- * **by law, since 1 January 1996, it has been illegal to install instantaneous water heaters which are not room-sealed or fitted with a safety device which automatically turns the gas off before a dangerous level of poisonous fumes builds up.**

Further information

If you would like more detailed information on the subject, you'll find the following HSE publication useful :
"Safety in the installation and use of gas systems and appliances" Approved Code of Practice L56 HSE Books 1998 ISBN 0-7176-1635-5.

HSE priced and free publication are available by mail order from:

HSE Books
PO Box 1999
Sudbury
SUFFOLK
CO10 6FS
Tel: (01787) 881165
Fax: (01787) 313995

HSE priced publication are also available from good booksellers.

HSE Gas Safety Home Page on the World Wide Web:-

<http://www.open.gov.uk/hse/gas/index.htm>

This leaflet contains notes on good practice which are not compulsory but which you may find helpful in considering what you need to do.

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