**Gas Safety (Onshore) – Employee Factsheet**

Working with gas, or working on something that could release gas or affect the ventilation of a gas appliance or ignite gas is high risk. Risk assessment, control measures and the use of competent people is essential. It is an offence to work on a gas appliance or a gas fitting unless you are trained and competent to do so. Those working on gas equipment, other than industrial process plant, are required by law to be Gas Safe registered.

Did you know?

Approximately 7 people die from CO poisoning caused by gas appliances and flues that have not been properly installed, maintained or that are poorly ventilated, every year.

Gas risks include:

**Gas leaks**, which may be caused by faulty gas appliances and pipework. Un-burnt natural gas and LPG are not poisonous in the same way that carbon monoxide is but both can lead to fires and explosions. To aid detection of a leak an odorant is added to gas which makes it easy to smell

**Fires and explosions** as gas is highly flammable. If gas leaks from a faulty appliance or pipework it can spread quickly. There is then a risk of it accidentally igniting - causing a fire or explosion

**Carbon monoxide (CO)** can leak from badly fitted or poorly maintained gas appliances. It is a highly toxic gas and extremely dangerous as you cannot see it, taste it or smell it but it can kill quickly and with no warning. It can also cause serious long term health problems such as brain damage.

Gas controls:

* To avoid a gas leak ensure all gas appliances, fixtures and fittings are fitted, serviced and maintained by a Gas Safe registered engineer. It is illegal for anyone not so registered to undertake any such work. Any damage or signs of corrosion, such as rusting or green discolouration on copper pipework must be checked
* Underground metallic pipework from bulk LPG tanks must be replaced with plastic pipework due to the risk of corrosion, gas leakage and explosion. This does not apply if the metal pipework is readily accessible for regular inspection
* The Gas Safe Register recommends the use of audible carbon monoxide alarms. It should be marked to EN 50291-1:2018 and also have the British Standards’ Kitemark or another European approval organisation’s mark on it. CO alarms usually have a battery life of up to five years and this should be verified before installation
* Ventilation is key to lowering risk, especially when concerning gas safety in catering. A well-maintained ventilation system and good user awareness of risks and proper, documented procedures for using additional ventilation is essential. Ventilation systems should be interlocked with gas appliances and there should be a clear emergency cut off valve provided.

If you are a tenant:

**Make sure your landlord is complying with the law.**

Your landlord has specific legal responsibilities when it comes to gas safety.

Even if a property is only rented for a short time, like holiday accommodation, the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations require your landlord to:

• maintain pipework, appliances and flues provided for your use in a safe condition

• carry out a 12 monthly gas safety check on each gas appliance/flue. A gas safety check will make sure gas fittings and appliances are safe to use. Your landlord is allowed a degree of flexibility on the timing of the annual check and can carry out the annual gas safety check in the two months before and retain the existing expiry date

• provide you with a record of the annual gas safety certificate within 28 days of the check being completed or if you’re a new tenant before you move in. If a property or room is hired out for less than 28 days at a time, it is also permissible for your landlord to display a copy of the current Landlords Gas Safety Record in a prominent position within the property.

What to do in an emergency:

The Gas Safe Register recommends that in a gas emergency you act quickly and take the following safety steps:

• get fresh air immediately. Open all doors and windows to ventilate the room

• switch off the appliance and do not use it again until it has been checked by a Gas Safe registered engineer

• turn off the gas supply if it is safe to do so at the meter

• do not operate electrical switches (including turning switches on and off)

• call the National Gas Emergency number 0800 111 999

• if you are feeling ill seek medical advice immediately and tell the doctor that your symptoms may be related to carbon monoxide poisoning

• contact a Gas Safe registered engineer to check and fix the appliance

Carbon Monoxide (CO):

There are signs that you can look out for which indicate incomplete combustion is occurring and may result in the production of CO:

• yellow or orange rather than blue flames (except fuel effect fires or flueless appliances which display this colour flame)

• soot or yellow/brown staining around or on appliances

• pilot lights that frequently blow out

• increased condensation inside windows.

The six main symptoms to look out for are: **headaches**, **dizziness**, **nausea**, **breathlessness**, **collapse**, **loss of consciousness**.

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