

**Gas Industry Liaison Group  
Notes and Actions  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 10.00am  
Energy & Utility Skills, Friars Gate, 1011 Stratford Road, Shirley.**

**1. Attendance/Apologies.**

Reuben Smith	SWAT Gas (Chair)
Ian Moss (IM)	Energy & Utility Skills (Secretariat)
Malcolm Greetham (MG)	Energy & Utility Skills
Bruce Bennett (BB)	Gas Safe Register
Paul Smoker (PS)	Knowhow
Tony Hopton (TH)	Home Serve
Bill Dyer (BD)	T Brown Group
Michael Ovenden (MO)	Domestic Gas Services
Neill Ovenden (NO)	Domestic Gas Services
John Forest (JF)	GATC
Steve Hughes (SH)	Cadent
Ben Kutcha	Quantic Corporation
Andy Brewer	ENGIE
David Dumaresq-Lucas	Brookhouse Training
Andy Finch (AF)	Murphy Gas Network
Andy Cartidge (AC)	National Grid Metering

**Apologies**

Peter Winnett	Riello Burners
Stephen Simcott (SS)	Scottish Power
Simon Fisher	National Grid Metering
Joe Beesley	Fusion Engineering
Jonathan Kane	Kane International
Mick Hallam (MH)	Royal Mail Property & Facilities Solutions

**2. Minutes from previous GILG meeting (10. 05. 17)**

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and agreed.

**Note 1 Item 3.7: Old Normative references in LPG assessments when NG operatives only get assessed on current references.**

An issue surrounding the use of old normative references in the LPG MoGS had been raised at a previous meeting, a solution would be to replace the references with up to date references from current normative standards i.e. LPG codes of practice, BSI or IGEN standards. This an on-going issue and will be dealt with under the general maintenance of the assessment criteria.

**Action IM/MG: keep on GILG agenda**

**Note 2: Item 4.1: Intermediate pressure**

IM raised an issue on behalf of Simon Fisher (National Grid Metering) of there being a potential qualifications gap for operatives who work on Intermediate Pressure gas installations. It is felt that options need discussing / agreeing in order that this can be analysed via industry consultation. MG agreed to raise the issue at the next GSE 30 committee where BS 6400 will be discussed.

**Action IM: raise issues surrounding operatives working on Intermediate Pressure Gas systems at the next Network Skills Forum (for upstream gas)**

**3. Standards Consultation Forum - update.**

**3.1. ISU 073 - IGEM/UP/10 Edition 4 with amendments – March 2016 and February 2017 Installation of Flued Gas Appliances in Industrial and Commercial premises.**

During February 2017 IGEM published a revision to IGEM/UP/10 Edition 4 with amendments – February 2017 installation of flued gas appliances in industrial and commercial premises.

**3.2. ISU 074 – BS 3632: 2015 Residential Park Homes – Specification.**

During November 2015 BSI published a revision of BS 3632: 2005 – Residential Park Homes. Amendments include: changes to normative references, terms and definitions, design i.e. ventilation requirements, internal equipment i.e. CO detectors.

**3.3. ISU 075 – BS 6172: 2010 with amendments – June 2017.**

During June 2017, BSI published an amendment to BS 6172: 2010. The revision is to reflect a significant change in Europe facilitating the adoption of gas cooker hoses manufactured in accordance with BS EN 14800. Amendments include: changes to scope, ventilation and chimneys and flues.

**3.4. MET4**

Although there has been no change to the associated normative standard, a request has been received from a number of CBs to amend the criteria to meet with potential delivery issues.

**3.5. CCLP 1 LAV + CoNGLP1 LAV**

Although there has been no change to the associated normative standard, a request has been received from a number of CBs to amend the criteria to meet with potential delivery issues.

**3.6. Safe Electrical Isolation**

MG informed the members of a proposal from the SCF re-assessment group to include Safe Electrical Isolation in the MoGS criteria. The SCF have confirmed that this competence is included in the competence criteria used in Oil and Solid Fuel. However, the general consensus is that safe electrical isolation should not be included in the MoGS. Large companies will include this type of training with their employees on a regular basis whereas sole traders will not always have the opportunity to learn Safe Electrical Isolation requirements. The favourable outcome is to include these additional items in the IGEM/IG/1 Training Specifications. However, it was agreed by the group that the proposal would be put on hold and revisited at a later date.

**3.7. Non-Accredited assessments**

IM explained the need for non-accredited assessments in that there are a number of bespoke assessments required that would not meet with the requirements of an ACS business case i.e. proposed certifications etc. Therefore as an alternative non-accredited assessments are utilised. One such example is the Network regulator Maintenance Operatives (Limited Scope). Although the criteria is covered in existing Matters of Gas safety criteria it needs to be a direct match to the work the limited scopes operatives are carrying out. It is also important to state clear what the pre-requisites are and that this activity is limited to the Gas Networks.

**3.8 CMA3**

MG notified the group that a number of issues regarding the CMA3 criteria have been raised by UKAS via the Certification Bodies and that the necessary amendments have been made to the criteria. The delays in the implementation of CMA3 has caused industry major issues in that employers are having to over train and assessments to enable candidates to achieve CMA1. However, following further discussions with the CBs a final version of CMA3 has now been agreed along with a number of CBs requesting an extension of scope with UKAS.

**4. Member's items.**

**4.1. Trailblazer Standards (Paul Smoker)**

PS notified the group that 'Knowhow' intended to start a number of apprentices on the new apprenticeship standard in November of 2017. But still had a number of queries regarding the costings and processes regarding the 'End Point Assessment'. Paul confirmed to the group the training for the candidates is to be based on the existing 6014 qualification but needed more information on the 'End Point Assessment' and is due to meet with The Energy & Utility Skills Independent Assessment Service next week (22/11/17).

**4.2. HTR1, HTRLP2 and CoNGLP1 (LAV).**

NO from Domestic Gas Services raised the query to why HTR1 plus CoNGLP1 does not give the individual give HTRLP2 i.e. closed flued gas fires as the HTRLP2 criteria is included in the HTR1 and changeover criteria. It was agreed that this would be looked into.

**Action NO: Produce proposal and GAP analysis.**

**4.3. NVQ Gas Route**

MO raised issues regarding individuals who have previously gained a plumbing based qualifications with gas competences (ACS) added on when applying for an extension to scope not having the basic gas safety competences. There have been a number instances where individuals with these type of qualifications fail basic assessments on gas safety e.g. tightness testing. The discussions led to the fact that this may be a common occurrence but there is not a formalised process to raise the issue and potential for unsafe gas work.

**Action IM: Raise issue at the next SMB.**

**5. Future of the Standard Setting Body (SSB) post April 2019.**

IM updated the meeting regarding the SSB in that it is owned by the industry for the industry. Funding is provided from Gas Safe Register revenue, via a contract between Capita and Energy & Utility Skills which expires on 31st March 2019. The SSB is responsible for the governance and industry consultative structure and associated processes that determine and agree the Matters of Gas Safety criteria relating to the assessment of gas fitting operatives.

Energy & Utility Skills currently facilitates and manages the SSB through the Strategic Management Board, Standards Consultation Forum and the Standards Development Unit

HSE support the continued funding of these functions but as the SSB is not resourced to run a procurement exercise they intend the new provider of the Gas Safe Register to carry out this activity. HSE also wishes to maintain the separation between the SSB and the Register, therefore the functions and services of the SSB will not be brought into the register. To ensure continuity of service Energy and Utility Skills have been asked to consider extending the current contract by 12 months to March 2020, with the contract to be migrated to the new provider. As HSE is directing the application of funding, they will seek assurances that these funds are appropriately used and value for money is obtained.

The GILG are invited to provide comment on the draft Standard Setting Body governance process.

**6. Eligibility to undertake ACS Assessments (Initial) - Proposal**

IM presented a paper outlining a proposal that will restrict the movement of newly qualified operatives with less than six months experience. The proposal in its early stages and IM invited input from the GILG.

**Action All: provide comments on the 'Eligibility to undertake ACS Assessments (Initial) - Proposal'.**

**7. IGEM/IG/1**

**7.1. Implementation Process**

IM provided an update on the implementation of IGEM/IG/1 standard in that, the Awarding Organisations are being independently assessed by an auditor appointed by the SMB, these Audits should be completed by the end of June with full implementation being targeted for the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017. Once full implementation has been achieved then Training providers will have a choice to who shall approve their training, all approved 'Recognisers of Training' are to be listed on the Energy & Utility Skills website, with individual training providers listed on Guidance Note 8.

**7.2. IGEM/IG/1 Governance**

IM notified the group that a proposal for the 'Governance' of IGEM/IG/1 was being worked on by a SMB working group and that it was the intention that an independent body become responsible for the implementation and operation of IGEM/IG/1 by all training providers who offer training for new entrants onto the Gas Safe Register i.e. working under the scope of the GSIUR. The working group is to report their findings at the next SMB meeting (13.06.17).

**7.3. Training Specification (LPG)**

IM updated the group regarding the provision of the Training Specifications and in particular the need for a LPG training specification. To date Energy & Utility Skills have worked with UKLPG but to date have not produced new training specifications. After further discussions it was agreed that Energy & Utility Skills would facilitate a working group and produce Training Specifications for the LPG sector.

**8. Job Practice Analysis (ACS scheme).**

**8.1. ACS Re-assessment criteria update**

Having produced a proposal that includes all four core competences and the appropriate changeovers and subsequent to further discussions by the group agreed that the latest proposal be circulated to the SCF group for comment. Now having received further comments the next steps is to start to amend the criteria with the proposed changes. An important aspect of this is to provide UKAS with a rationale to why changes have been made and therefore not allow UKAS to delay the implementation process, it was agreed that they need to engage with the process prior to implementation.

**8.2 Referral process**

As previously discussed a revised referral process is to be produced by the working group, with the significant change being that on key safety defects operatives will only get one opportunity to pass the assessment. The SMB enquired to what the implications of this move would, therefore, subsequently the CBs have provided data to the number of referrals under the new arrangements. Having discussed the results of the exercise the group were concerned about the high level of failures (63%) and suggested that there needs to be further clarification to how the referral process operates.

To move this project forward it was agreed that a working group would be convened to identify the following:

- Discuss results of referral exercise
- Set parameters for first time failures i.e. key safety defects
- Set guidance notes for the implementation of re-assessment

- Produce amended criteria
- Produce practical provisions
- Write rationale for proposed changes to the re-assessment criteria

**9. AOB**

**MO:** raised the question whether ACoPs should be classed as a Category 1 applicant, IM stated that changes to the Eligibility for ACS have been proposed (see item 6)

**Date of next meetings: to be held at EU Skills, Friars Gate, 1011, Stratford Road, Shirley, B90 4BN.**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018**