

**Standards Consultation Forum  
Notes and Actions  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 10.00am  
Webinar**

**1. Attendance**

Trevor Smallpeice (TS)	TS Enterprises (Chair)
Ian Moss (IM)	Energy & Utility Skills (Secretariat)
Richard Harper (RH)	Energy & Utility Skills
Malcolm Greetham (MG)	Energy & Utility Skills
David Smith (DS)	Gas Safe Register
Neill Ovenden (NO)	LCL Awards
Reuben Smith (RS)	GILG (Chair)
Tony Ganner (TG)	Plumbers Teachers Association
Martyn Raine (MR)	SNIPEF
David Whitehead (DW)	NCC
Joanne Bone (JB)	IGEM
Peter Hurst (PH)	IGEM
Neil Macdonald (NM)	HHIC
Ella Cooper (EC)	ICOM
Paul Hull (PH)	Commercia Group

**2. Minutes from previous SCF meeting (11.12.19)**

Matters arising not included on the Agenda.

**Note 1 (Item 6.3)**

**Write an industry process regarding non-accredited assessments and submit to the SCF for comment:**

This item is outstanding but will be discussed in the coming months

**3. Standard Setting Body**

**3.1. Gas Industry Standard Setting Body.**

IM confirmed to the group that Energy & Utility Skills have been awarded the SSB contract for the next four years i.e. April 2020 to March 2024. He also confirmed that he would be leaving Energy & Utility Skills at the end of March 2020 and that Richard Harper would be taking over the role of Contracts Manager Gas.

**4. ACS Entry Routes and Changeover requirements**

**4.1. Guidance Note 8 'written understanding' for all CB's concerning Gas engineering Trailblazer / 4 Appliances.**

Further to the issues raised by Paul Smoker regarding the difficulty apprentices from 'Knowhow' experience in gaining the required four appliances when undertaking the Apprenticeship in Gas engineering. IM has written a 'Change Proposal' for a variation to the assessment plan that would reduce the number of appliances. Currently the requirement is set at a minimum of four appliances, this can prove difficult for employers who have limited scope of work e.g. only install cookers. IM circulated a paper prior to the meeting outlining the Change Proposal that will be submitted to the Institute of Apprentices via Energy & Utility Skills. The SCF members are to be asked to comment and the paper and feedback to Ian Moss.

**Action SCF members: feedback to Ian Moss on the change proposal paper by Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

**5. Standards Update**

**5.1. IGEM (Joanne Bone)**

See attached presentation from IGEM regarding the status of IGEM Standards currently under review.

**5.2. BSI (Richard Harper)**

RH to provide feedback to the SCF regarding the status of BSI standards currently under review.

### 5.3. Liquid Gas UK (Richard Hakeem)

RH to provide feedback to the SCF regarding the status of Liquid gas UK Codes of Practice currently under review.

### 5.4. National Occupational Standards – LPG

IM updated the SCF on the review of the LPG National Occupational Standards, the final Standards which have been circulated to the SCF members include all the changes requested by industry.

Changes requested included:

- The suite should only focus on the parts that are specific to LPG. Any aspects that apply to any type of gas (including LPG) should be removed and the appropriate downstream standards used instead. This leaves 4 LPG specific units in the suite.
- All remaining standards in the suite were edited to:
  - make sure the overview is a clear summary of what the standard is for, what it covers and who might use it
  - make sure each performance criteria contains a measure of quality
  - make sure the knowledge underpins the performance aspect of the standard.
- The Key Purpose was changed to: “To install, service, maintain and repair liquified petroleum gas (LPG) systems in industrial, commercial and residential properties and leisure accommodation in line with industry requirements”.

**Action SCF member: If you do not agree with the proposed changes notify Ian Moss by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

**Action TS: Write to Energy & Utility Skills confirming sign-off of the proposed changes**

### 5.5. Heat Pumps (Neil Macdonald)

IM updated the SCF members regarding discussions that had taken place regarding the UK's Net Zero challenge and in particular whether existing Registered Gas Engineers would have the necessary skills and knowledge work on Heat Pumps. The SCF appreciates that the Plumbing and Heating Skills partnership have introduced the necessary competences in the new and existing Plumbing and Heating apprenticeships, but the question to the group is whether existing engineers who install gas fired boilers would be able to learn the necessary competencies for Heat pumps and other green technologies.

HHIC have requested help from the SCF to produce a road map to help establish if there is a skills gap and the necessary training and assessment necessary to provide a competent workforce.

Therefore, as a way forward it has been agreed that the subject is to be raised with the SMB and a proposal is put forward to discuss the possibility of putting a working group together to assess the skills gap and the necessary competencies required for Green Technologies.

**Action IM/RH: to raise at the next SMB (24<sup>th</sup> March 2020)**

## 6. Changes to MoGS.

### 6.1. Change Document summary

MG updated the group regarding the following Industry Standard Updates for the new consultation period:

- ISU 093 BS 6891: 2015: specification for the installation and maintenance of low-pressure gas installation pipework of up to 35mm (R1 ¼) on premises.
- ISU 094: BS EN 721 – Industry standard update to Leisure Accommodation Vehicles - Safety ventilation requirements.

MG will provide proposals regarding the implementation of the changes to the standard into the MoGS criteria.

## 6.2. Safe Electrical Isolation.

Following discussions at the recent TWG meetings the following documents are under review:

- Self-Declaration form
- Q&As
- TB118

The self-declaration and Q&A documents have been sent out for comment but now need to be finalised and implemented.

Neill Ovenden outlined a proposal from the Certification Bodies to introduce a trade test for Safe Electrical isolation into the ACS centres. This proposal is to be tabled at the SMB meeting by Neill on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The view from the CBs is that a consistent approach is required to enable Safe Isolation to be successfully introduced in the ACS centres.

It was also agreed that a TWG would be arranged in the near future to finalise the documents and agree the proposed changes to TB118.

**Action NO: table CB proposal at SMB (24.03.20)**

**Action RH/MG: arrange TWG to discuss outstanding issues regarding Safe Electrical Isolation**

## 6.3. RIDDOR – 11 (2)

Discussions have taken place regarding the interpretation of RIDDOR 11 (2) and how the regulations are detailed in the IGEM/G/11 (Gas Industry Unsafe Situations Procedure). It is understood that some RIDDOR 11(2) reports do not meet the RIDDOR criteria and this could be made clearer in IGEM/G/11. Further discussions are to take place between the G/11 working group and the HSE to ensure the reporting of RIDDOR and unsafe gas work is understood by Gas Safe Registered engineers and reported in a consistent manner.

**Remove from the agenda, changes will be detailed in IGEM/G/11**

## 6.4. Low Pressure working group report

The final report is still to be agreed, however, Neil Macdonald offered the following comments:

- A minimum working pressure of 18.5mb is to be specified
- Modulating boilers are to be tested at FULL output where an engineer holding the appropriate competencies (i.e. CENWAT) is on-site
- Emergency Response Engineers are expected to operate to above requirements

IGEM will provide updates at future meetings.

## 7. Biogas and Hydrogen

Discussions have taken place at previous meetings regarding the use of Biogas and Hydrogen in the supply network and in particular how it would affect competences for engineers. The general consensus was that these fuels are covered by the Gas Safety Installation and Use Regulations and that engineers would need to prove their competence. Biogas is currently used in the supply network but does not necessarily affect the gas safety process adopted by Gas Safe registered engineers. However, the introduction of Hydrogen will affect competence but will be dependent on the percentage mixture.

Energy & Utility Skills are involved in discussions with BEIS regarding training and assessment criteria and will provide regular updates at future SCF meetings. Richard Harper and Lucy Ritchie will provide regular updates at the SCF meetings.

**Action RH/LR: provide updates regarding the development of training and assessment criteria to future SCF meetings.**

## **8. IGEM/IG/1: update**

### **8.1. IGEM Governance**

IGEM held a workshop with the Recognisers of Training and Independent Training Providers to discuss the audit results gathered in 2019. IGEM will be sending out notes from the meetings and will discuss necessary changes with the SSB as required. IGEM also notified the SCF that the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage audits with the Recognisers of Training and the Independent providers have been completed and that an audit plan for 2020 is being finalised.

### **8.2. LPG Training Specification**

IM notified the group that following several meetings with representatives of the LPG industry, the draft LPG training specification has now been produced to meet with industry demands. The draft standard has been discussed and finalised at several panel meetings held jointly with representatives from LPG and Training organisations. The next steps are for the SCF members to provide final comments.

**Action SCF: provide final feedback to Energy & Utility Skills i.e. Richard Harper by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020.**

### **8.3. Revised Training specifications**

IM updated on the latest changes to the Domestic and Metering IGEM/IG/1 training specifications, following recent discussions it has been suggested that IGEM and Energy & Utility Skills would arrange a review group to finalise the changes to the Training Specifications for final sign-off by the SCF. This group is to be facilitated by Joanne Bone and chaired by Richard Harper.

**Action JB: arrange training specification review panel.**

### **8.4. Common Assessment Strategy (Gas)**

IM updated the SCF regarding the revised Assessment Strategy for Regulated Qualifications. The document has been developed in conjunction with the following Awarding Bodies i.e. BPEC, City & Guilds, EAL and LCL Awards. The next steps are for the SCF to confirm final agreement on the final draft and also arrange for Energy & utility Skills to forward to SQA to enable its use with regulated Qualifications in the Devolved Nations.

**Action SCF members: confirm agreement on the final draft to Ian Moss by Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

### **8.5. New Entrant Training & Assessment durations**

This agenda item is to be discussed as part of the review panels included in item 8.3 of these notes.

**Remove from future agendas**

## **9. SCF working group – ACS Re-assessment**

### **9.1. JPA Re-assessment proposal**

Richard Harper provided an update regarding the Job Practice Analysis re-assessment proposal in that the changes proposed by the working group have all been recorded on a spreadsheet that includes data for all of the cores. The information includes comparisons with Initial, Re-assessment (current) and the proposed JPA requirements. It was agreed by the SCF that Richard will facilitate a meeting with the appointed working group, the aim of the meeting is to confirm that the proposals are correct and suggest the next steps.

**Action RH: facilitate a meeting with the appointed JPA working group.**

### **9.2. Operations Document revision**

IM updated the SCF regarding the revised Operation Document, the revised document has been reviewed and amended in conjunction with the schemes accredited Certification Bodies. The next steps are for the SCF to confirm agreement to the Final draft to Ian Moss by Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**Action SCF: Provide any queries/comments to Ian Moss by Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

### **9.3. Guidance notes revision**

The Guidance Notes for ACS assessment are currently under review. The discussions with CBs are being led by Malcolm Greetham and will be shared with the SCF once finalised.

**Action MG: facilitate the amendment of the current ACS centre Guidance Notes .**

**10. Other items**

**RS:** enquired to what would happen to Registered Gas Engineers should the re-assessment of their ACS competences not be achieved due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

**Action DS: enquire with the HSE**

**TS:** Thanked Ian Moss for his contributions to the SSB over the last eleven years and wished him the very best in his retirement.

**Date of next meetings:**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Actions**

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Actions meeting 41 (18.09.19)</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>Status</b>
Item 6.3	Write an industry process regarding non-accredited assessments and submit to the SCF for comment.	IM	Open
<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Actions meeting 43 (17.03.20)</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>Status</b>
4.1	Feedback to Ian Moss on the Gas engineering assessment plan change proposal paper by Tuesday 24th March 2020.	SCF	Open
5.4	If you do not agree with the proposed changes to the LPG NOS notify Ian Moss by Friday 27th March 2020.	SCF	Open
5.4	Write to Energy & Utility Skills confirming sign-off of the changes to the LPG NOS	TS	Open
5.5	Notify the SMB of the discussion that have taken place regarding Heat Pumps at the next SMB (24th March 2020)	IM/RH	Open
6.2	Table Safe Electrical isolation proposal to the SMB on behalf of the ABC	NO	Open
6.2	Arrange TWG to discuss outstanding issues regarding Safe Electrical Isolation	RH/MG	Open
7	Provide updates regarding the development of training and assessment criteria for Hydrogen to future SCF meetings.	RH/LR	Open
8.2	Provide final feedback on the LPG Training Specification to Richard Harper by Friday 17th April 2020.	SCF	Open
8.3	Arrange training specification review panel.	JB	Open
8.4	If you do not agree with the proposed changes to the Common Assessment Strategy notify Ian Moss by Friday 27th March 2020.	SCF	Open
9.1	facilitate a meeting with the appointed JPA working group.	RH	Open
9.2	Provide any queries/comments regarding the Operations Document to Ian Moss by Monday 30th March 2020.	SCF	Open
9.3	Facilitate the amendment of the current ACS centre Guidance Notes .	MG	Open
AOB	Enquire to the HSE to establish what would happen to Registered Gas Engineers should the re-assessment of their ACS competences not be achieved due to the Coronavirus outbreak.	DS	Open

