

Standards Consultation Forum
Notes and Actions
Wednesday 24th November 2021 at 10.00am
Teams Meeting

1. Attendance

Trevor Smallpeice (TS)	TS Enterprises (Chair)
Richard Harper (RH)	Energy & Utility Skills (Secretariat)
Tony Ganner (TG)	Plumbers Teachers Association
David Whitehead (DW)	NCC
Neil Macdonald (NM)	HHIC
Graeme Dryden (GD)	APHC
Malcolm Greetham (MGr)	Energy & Utility Skills
David Smith (DJ)	Gas Safe Register
Jessica Jarvis (JJ)	GDN's
Sunendra PV (SPV)	IGEM
Rob Grant (RG)	BESA
Paul Hull (PH)	Commercial Group
Paul Smoker (PS)	GILG
Peter Fawbert	Large Business Forum

Apologies

Gavin Jones	BSI
Martin Garbutt	Homeserve / GCS
Ella Cooper (EC)	ICOM
John Findlay (JFi)	Certification Bodies
Peter Hurst (PHu)	IGEM
Richard Hakeem (RHa)	Liquid Gas UK
John Forrest (JF)	GILG
Martyn Raine (MR)	SNIEPF

2. Minutes and actions from previous SCF meeting (01.09.21)

The minutes were approved by the attendees.

The actions were confirmed as closed or included within today's agenda

SCF Membership List

The membership list was reviewed, and the majority of members had confirmed that their details were correct.

Action TS: Identify a contact that is willing to represent sole traders at the SCF.

3 Standards Update

3.1 IGEM Update

Sunendra PV provided an update on IGEM standards under review, details are contained within document 'IGEM work plan October 2021' circulated with the notes. The low pressure working group have reviewed the industry comments and the plan is to present a final draft to the working group in January 2021.

3.2 BSI

RH said he is not aware of any Natural Gas BSI standards that are due for publication. **RH** asked the group if they knew of any suitable candidates willing to take up the roles of panel convenor/ chair for BS 5440. **DW** informed the group that EN 1949 is awaiting publication

3.3 Liquid Gas UK

No update provided

4 Changes to MoGS

4.1 Summary of changes

RH confirmed that the matters of gas safety for March 2022 implementation had been issued to the Certification bodies and UKAS.

4.2 Safe Electrical Isolation – Feedback from Certification Bodies (CBs)

RH discussed the latest quarterly safe isolation figures provided by the CBs. It was noted that compared to previous data the number of engineers stating they require training has reduced significantly. There was also a significant reduction in candidates booking training. PS mentioned that the GILG were in favour of a trade test being introduced to replace the declaration form. RH informed the group that CBs are in the process of developing a trade test.

5. Low Carbon Heating

5.1 Hydrogen

RH mentioned that BEIS has appointed Energy & Utility Skills and IGEM to develop training and assessment requirements for gas engineers to safely work with hydrogen. Stakeholders have been invited to join a 'launch webinar' hosted by Energy & Utility Skills on 1st December.

5.2 Heat Pumps

TS mentioned that although heat pumps is a standing item on the SCF agenda, the focus should be on the training requirements for gas engineers to cross skill into low carbon technologies and not be limited to heat pumps.

6. IGEM/IG/1 Update

6.1 IGEM Governance

RH provided an update supplied by Peter Hurst:

There are three auditors;

2021 Audit programme

All the audits this year are being conducted virtually via "Teams".

To date eleven audits have been completed with four audits planned to take place by the middle of December and one audit planned for early in the New Year. There are four audits to be planned for completion by the end of the year to complete the programme.

DW asked if future updates could contain details of any issues identified during audits e. g. major/minor non conformance

Action RH: Discuss future updates with Peter Hurst

6.2 Domestic NG Training Specification – Supplement 2

RH Asked the group if they approved the implementation of the revised domestic training specification. This received unanimous approval to submit to the SMB for sign off. RH suggested an implementation date of 1st July 2022. There were no objections to this timescale

Action RH: Submit the revised specification to the SMB for sign off and agree an implementation date.

7. ACS – Operational Document

RH proposed amending the ACS Operational Document (Ops Doc) to strengthen the process for notifying Gas Safe Register when a candidate has failed to demonstrate competency. The current process allows candidates 30 working days to gain additional training before being re-assessed on the areas they failed; however it does not advise them that they should not carry out work until they have demonstrated competence.

The proposal is to add the following note to the re-assessment flowchart for performance criteria:

Note1: Where a candidate holding a valid ACS certificate fails to demonstrate competence the Assessment Centre shall issue the candidate with a letter (advising them not to carry out work in the area they have failed)

and notify their Certification Body (CB). The CB shall notify Gas Safe Register who will suspend registration in the areas that have been failed until competence has been demonstrated.

A number of the group were not aware of the existing process. The amendment was approved by the group and it was suggested adding additional text (blue italics) to ensure the candidate was informed.

Action RH: discuss the proposed change at the SMB meeting

8. **Review of Guidance Note 8**

RH asked the SCF members for their views on the proposed additional statement to be added to Guidance Note 8 (GN8) and the requirement for 12 months (currently 6 months) experience before extending scope or range

Where extension of scope or range training is required the training material shall be taken from the relevant IGEN/IG/1 training specification and upon satisfactory completion the engineer shall be issued with a certificate or validation of training report identifying the training that was undertaken and the training provider

All of the members were supportive of the additional statement. Two members disagreed with the requirement for 12 months experience as they think this will be restrictive to some engineers. **TS** explained that engineers can still extend scope and range within the 12 month period but they will need to complete a Managed Learning Programme for the elements they are undertaking

Action RH: Inform the GN8 working group of the SCF members views.

9. **National Occupational Standards (NOS)**

RH Thanked the SCF members for their contribution to the NOS review if they agreed with the changes that had been made during the consultations. There were no objections to the revised documents but it was mentioned that the SCF did not feel they should be responsible for confirmation that the NOS were fit for purpose.

Action RH: Inform the SMB that there were no objections to the revised NOS and of the SCF concerns.

10. **Any Other Items**

Gas Engineering Operative Apprenticeship

A number of members are not happy with the requirement to pass ACS before completing their End Point Assessment (EPA) and think that ACS should be the final part of the apprenticeship. **RG** mentioned that the apprenticeship is on the list to be reviewed in 2022. **TG** mentioned that an employer panel can request that IFATE carry out a review of the apprenticeship rather than waiting for the review to occur.

Non-Domestic Installations

PS raised the following concern on behalf of a GILG member

Commissioning engineers are finding appliances & installations on a very regular basis with basic gas safety issues and not installed to recognised standards and manufactures instructions. This impacts on the commissioning engineers as they travel to site to find out that they are unable to commission burners and/or appliances.

Action TS: Raise the issue with the Gas Safe Register and the HSE

Future Meetings 2022

TS suggested future meetings of the SCF should be refreshed including feedback from group representatives e.g. CBs, TSG, GSR, etc

2022 Meeting Dates

2nd March

8th June

24th August

23rd November

Actions

Agenda	Actions meeting 50 (24.11.21)	By	Status
2	Identify a contact that is willing to represent sole traders at the SCF	TS	
6	Discuss future updates with Peter Hurst	RH	
6.2	Submit the revised training specification to the SMB for sign off and agree an implementation date.	RH	
7	Discuss the proposed change to the ACS Operational Document at the SMB meeting	RH	
8	Inform the GN8 working group of the SCF members views	RH	
9	Inform the SMB that there were no objections to the revised NOS.	RH	
10	Raise the issue relating to Non-Domestic installations with the Gas Safe Register and the HSE	TS	