

# Domestic Gas Services

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## FEBRUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER

### WATER HEATERS AND BOILERS - A CHANGE TO THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

With effect from 01 April 2011 Water Heater (WAT1) and Central Heating Boiler (CEN1) assessments will be combined into one (CENWAT) assessment. For those engineers who already hold both assessments this will mean that upon renewal you will complete one CENWAT re-assessment, rather than two re-assessments.

Those engineers who hold either CEN1 or WAT1 will still be able to take the CENWAT assessment, however knowledge about specific details and operating principles relevant to the other appliance will be needed. If required we will be able to offer a training session prior to assessment to enable them to "upgrade" their CEN1 or WAT1 to CENWAT. Under these circumstances it is also classed as an initial assessment.

At the moment CPA1 is a pre-requisite to all CEN1 assessments, and this will continue to be the case for all CENWAT assessments.

**Full details about this change can be found in the February Issue of the Registered Gas Engineer Magazine.**

## Fact or Fiction?

We are getting enquiries on a frequent basis about two initiatives introduced over the past year. The first surrounds the MOT style of renewing ACS assessments, and the second is to do with CPA1.

**MOT style Assessments** – It has been agreed that engineers can take their assessments up to six months BEFORE the expiry date. This extra time will then be added to the expiry of the new qualification. This means that in theory the assessment could be valid for 5 years 6 months! By taking advantage of this change you no longer need to risk having your assessments expire by leaving it until the last possible moment to take the re-assessments.

**CPA1** – It is still the case that the full picture regarding this assessment has not properly been communicated to the engineers on the ground. While it is correct that this assessment is not compulsory until April 2012, if it is not completed by this date any CEN1, HTR1 or WAT1 category will be suspended until CPA1 is completed. However it is not fully appreciated that in order to use an analyser as part of the servicing or commissioning procedure (if specified in manufacturers instructions) an engineer **must** have completed CPA1. Additionally CPA1 is a pre-requisite for any CEN1/CENWAT or HTR1 assessment (initial or re-assessment), this means that it must be taken and passed before any CEN1/CENWAT or HTR1 assessment can be undertaken. At the moment we have around **250** engineers that require CPA1, but have yet to undertake it.

So to beat the rush book your assessments as soon as possible during the last six months of the assessment life, and consider doing your CPA1 before the April 2012 deadline.

## CHANGES TO BUILDING REGULATIONS – G3

Some of you may be aware that earlier last year Part G of the building regulations was updated. However engineers may not be aware that **VENTED** cylinders are now covered by this update along with unvented. The 15 litre limit previously adopted has also been removed so that all unvented cylinders now come under G3.

The fact that vented cylinders are now covered by G3 means that it is not permitted to install a vented cylinder without the appropriate safety controls that are commonplace with unvented cylinders. There is no requirement to hold certification to install/service or commission a vented cylinder, and they do not require notification. However they all must be installed in accordance with the current regulations.

The building regulations are all available as a free download from the Planning Portal website for you to look at and study:

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/buildingregulations/approveddocuments/downloads>

Alternatively attendance on an Unvented course will provide you with the knowledge and understanding about the controls, which can then be adopted for use with a vented cylinder.

Please contact us for details of our Unvented courses.

### **EVENING COURSES - For the Busy Engineer who cannot afford to lose time in the day.**

We can now offer CCN1 Re-assessment Training from 7-9pm over two weeks total 4 evenings with 2 days Assessment.

We can also offer the CPA1 Training and Assessment over two evenings.

We offer regular Training and Assessment dates for all Natural Gas & LPG courses, Please do not hesitate to contact us for availability.

Training is not a pre-requisite to assessment,

### **ESSENTIAL ELECTRICS**

This course will provide the minimum level of competence required to work on gas appliances and electrical controls in accordance with the Electricity at Work Regulations. This applies to any work carried out on any appliance connected to the mains electricity.

### **NEW COURSE**

HE & Combi boiler fault finding course. Please contact us for details.

If you would like to receive our Newsletters Electronically, please email: **domesticgasuk@aol.com**