

England, Wales and Scotland

The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974

The general duties of the Act cover work on gas fittings in factories, mines, quarries, agricultural premises, construction site huts, sewage works and gas-fitting testing premises. In these premises, work on gas fittings must be carried out by a competent person. If any part of these premises are used as domestic, residential or sleeping accommodation, work on gas fittings must be carried out by someone on the Gas Safe Register.

Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998

These Regulations cover work on gas fittings, both natural and LPG in other premises, such as domestic properties, shops, restaurants, schools and hospitals. In these premises the work on gas fittings must be carried out by someone on the Gas Safe Register.

Northern Ireland

The Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978

The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 2004



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Gas Safety

If gas appliances, such as ovens, cookers and boilers, are not properly installed and maintained, there is a danger of fire, explosion, gas leaks and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Employers need to comply with the gas safety regulations to help ensure worker and public safety.

What do I have to do?

Gas

- If you suspect a leak, turn off the supply and immediately call the emergency gas service for your area. In Great Britain, call the National Gas Emergency Service at 0800 111 999. In Northern Ireland, call the Northern Ireland Gas Emergency Service at 0800 002 001. For liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), call your LPG supplier.
- If in doubt, evacuate the building and inform the police as well as the area emergency gas service or your gas supplier.
- Do not turn a gas supply back on until a leak has been dealt with by a competent person.

Appliances and pipework

- Use a competent engineer to install, maintain or repair your appliances.
- Ensure that your gas pipework, appliances and flues are regularly maintained.
- Don't use any appliance you know or suspect is unsafe.
- Check that all rooms with gas appliances have adequate ventilation. Don't block air inlets to prevent draughts, and don't obstruct flues and chimneys.

Industrial and commercial plant

Explosions can be caused by the ignition of unburnt gas.

- Consider explosion relief and/or flame-failure protection as necessary.
- Make sure that the gas supply is interlocked with the ventilation of the appliance.
- The equipment should be designed, operated and maintained to make sure dangerous levels of CO are not produced. It should not be used in poorly ventilated spaces.
- There should be enough ventilation to remove combustion products.
- Make sure equipment operators are fully trained.
- Use a safe procedure for purging, lighting up and shutting down the plant.

Who can work on gas fittings?

Domestic properties

In domestic properties and workplaces such as shops, restaurants, schools and hospitals, work on gas fittings must be carried out by someone on the Gas Safe Register who is qualified to work on gas appliances.

It is illegal for an unregistered person to carry out work on any domestic gas appliance. All those who are registered carry a Gas Safe ID card, which shows the type of work they are qualified to do and whether their qualifications are up to date.

You can check for qualified engineers on the Gas Safe Register by visiting www.gassaferegister.co.uk or by calling 0800 408 5500.

Industrial properties

In factories, mines, quarries, agricultural premises, construction site huts and sewage works, work on gas fittings must be carried out by a competent person. It is your responsibility to check that the person is competent. If the engineer is on the Gas Safe Register, with the qualifications to do the work required, then he or she will be a competent person.

Work in any parts of these premises used as domestic, residential or sleeping accommodation must be carried out by someone on the Gas Safe Register.

Case Study #1

Scenario	How to Prevent the Incident
A plumber who was not Gas Safe registered, and who had previously been served with a prohibition notice by HSE, persisted in carrying out illegal gas work in a shop. He was caught on CCTV and prosecuted for two breaches of health and safety law. He was sentenced to two concurrent terms of six months in prison.	Working with gas appliances is difficult, specialised and potentially very dangerous. Only competent engineers should attempt it. If unregistered workers try to bypass the law, they are not only putting themselves at risk of prosecution and a large fine or even imprisonment, they are also putting their customers' lives at risk.



Case Study #2

Scenario	How to Prevent the Incident
<p>Twenty-five pupils and two teaching staff members were evacuated from a classroom in a primary school when they were overcome by dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.</p> <p>The investigation found that carbon monoxide was being produced by an inadequately maintained boiler and was leaking into the classroom above. The employer was fined a total of £10,000 and ordered to pay costs of £6,830.</p>	<p>The employer did have a maintenance system, but had allowed poor practices to creep in, which they did not identify until after the incident. The consequences could have been much more serious.</p> <p>It's important that employers make sure their gas appliances are maintained in a safe condition by a competent person and in line with manufacturers' instructions and appropriate standards.</p>

