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## **GAS CONFORMITY CERTIFICATES**

New Pressure Equipment Regulations have been promulgated under the Occupation Health and Safety Act, which bring gas appliances installed in property more or less in line with electrical installations.

According to the regulations that were introduced in 2009, all gas installations must have a Certificate of Conformity according to the Pressure Equipment Regulations that have been promulgated under the Occupation Health and Safety Act (No 85 of 1993).

The certificate is issued by an authorised person registered as such with the LIQUIFIED PETROLEUM GAS SAFETY ASSOCIATION of SOUTHERN AFRICA (LPGAS), after he has inspected the installation, and is satisfied that it is safe, and leak free.

Gas installations for which certificates of conformity are required would include built in gas fires or braai's, gas stoves and hot water systems and the like.

Regulation 17(3) of the Pressure Equipment Regulations, regulates that any person disposing of a property on which such gas appliance is installed, must obtain a Certificate of Conformity in respect thereof. It is irrelevant if the installation of the gas appliance predated October 2009; if an appliance is present, so is the need for a Certificate of Conformity on the sale of the property.

The requirement is applicable to liquid petroleum gas (LPGAS) as well as natural gas.

### **Is the certificate transferrable?**

No, the regulations state that for each change of ownership, a new certificate must be issued.

### **Can the gas cylinder be removed without invalidating the certificate?**

Unless the sale agreement prohibits the removal of the gas cylinder, this will not invalidate the certificate.

Regulation 6 states the responsibilities of each user and Regulation 6(e) states that each user shall:

*(e) ensure that a gas system has a valid certificate issued by an authorised person*

The definition of a "gas system" in the regulations reads:

"gas system" means an assembly of tubes, pipes or similar ducts, fittings and valves, for the reticulation, circulation and conveyance of a gas **excluding a pressure vessel or transportable gas container connected to the system**

### **Regulations for gas installations:**

Gas bottles may not be installed:

- Less than 1 metre sideways from doors and windows
- Less than 2 metres from drains and air vents
- Less than 3 metres below windows (unless a non-combustible roof is installed)
- Less than 1 metre from the property boundary wall (unless it is a fire wall)
- Less than 5 metres sideways away from a switchable electric point or plug switch;
- Light bulbs cannot be less than 1.5 metres above a gas bottle.

### **What additional requirements apply when keeping more than 100 kg/ liters of gas on a residential property?**

Building plans would need to be submitted with flammable liquids fire stamp if there is more than 100 kg / liters of gas stored on a residential property. Architects for the fire department will draft these plans, indicating the layout of the property and the whereabouts of the cylinders. These plans must then be registered and approved by the Fire Department as they have to have record of these sites for fire hazard purposes.

South African National Standard 10087 – 1: 2013 Edition 6 regulates further that a manifold gas installation in excess of 100 kg shall be approved by and registered with the local authority. Plans shall be submitted to the local authority for approval prior to commencing the installation

### **Other installation rules:**

- Only class 1 or 2 copper pipes, or other approved gas piping, may be used (Note: This is not the same copper piping as used by plumbers)
- Copper pipes going through a wall must be sleeved
- Approved flexible gas hose may not be more than two meters long and may not go through any partition (including wood, dry wall, cupboard wall etc)

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