

Imported Caravans

Certifying the gasfitting on imported caravans can be a tricky field for gasfitters to navigate. When issuing a GSC for work carried out on an imported caravan the certifying gasfitter is making a statement the installation is safe. Even if the work carried out was minor (e.g. replacing a flexi hose and regulator) the certifying gasfitter would need to be satisfied the installation was safe. Given that the caravan was imported that is the trigger to need to check and verify the whole installation is safe; including the gas appliances.

This is because many gas appliances in imported caravans are set up for use on Propane and not use on ULPG (Universal LPG), a mix of propane and butane, as used in New Zealand.

Before certifying the gas installation on an imported caravan gasfitters must ensure the appliances have either been *certified* or *endorsed*.

Certified

Only approved bodies can certify imported gas appliances. These bodies are outlined in schedule 2A of the Gas (Safety & Measurement) Regulations 2010 (GSMR).

In addition, appliances supplied under this regime must have a 'Supplier Declaration'. A Supplier Declaration is a public statement that outlines the appliance complies with section 53 and 71 of the GSMR.

Section 53 of the GSMR requires that gas appliances and fittings are to be safe, whether new or old.

Section 71 of the GSMR requires that a manufacturer or importer of a gas appliance must ensure the appliance has certain data markings and a compliance label.

To find out whether an appliance has a supplier declaration you can search the 'Gas Appliance Supplier Declaration' database on Energy Safety's website.

Endorsed

If an approved body has not certified an appliance, section 57 of the GSMR allows an Approved Practitioner to endorse it. WorkSafe approves Approved Practitioners and a list of them can be found on their website too. The endorsement includes a statement that the appliance complies with the GSMR and NZS 5266 (the standard for the safety of gas appliances).

Certification of gasfitting

Other than a limited amount of maintenance work, most Gasfitting on a caravan with sleeping quarters is considered high-risk gasfitting. Therefore, the work would require a CoC a GSC and an entry on Energy Safety's electricity and gas high-risk database.

Useful links:

WorkSafe guidance

<https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/energy-safety/electrical-and-gas-safety-requirements-for-caravan-motorhome-and-boating/>

WorkSafe Approved Practitioners Register

<https://worksafe.govt.nz/the-toolshed/registers/approved-gas-appliance-practitioner/>

Energy Safety gas appliance supplier declaration database

<https://www.energysafety.govt.nz/gasd-home>

Gas (Safety & Measurement) Regulations 2010

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2010/0076/latest/DLM2359501.html>