

A simple guide to gasfitting certification under the amended Gas (Safety and Measurement) regulations 2010

What gasfitting requires certification?

From 1 July 2013, all gasfitting work (as defined in section 5 of the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006) requires certification.

Who can certify gasfitting?

Only Certifying Gasfitters or people specifically authorised by the Board to certify can issue any gasfitting certificate.

What types of gasfitting certificates are required?

There are now two stages to certification: **the Certificate of Compliance (CoC)** and the **Gas Safety Certificate (GSC)**.

Certificate of Compliance (CoC)

A CoC is required for all high-risk and general gasfitting. The CoC is issued by the person (certifying gasfitter) who carried out or supervised the work and states that the gasfitting was done lawfully and safely. A CoC may also be issued for low-risk gasfitting.

A CoC may be issued for work on an installation or part installation and CoCs may be combined.

Gas Safety Certificate (GSC)

A GSC is required for all gasfitting work on an installation or part installation once it has been completed and connected to the gas supply. If the gasfitting work is done without disconnecting the gas supply a GSC must be issued on completion of the work. The GSC states that the installation is connected to a gas supply and is safe. The GSC is issued by the person (certifying gasfitter) who did or supervised the connection.

A person connecting the gas installation (and therefore issuing a GSC) is entitled to rely on any relevant CoCs. Connection and issuing the GSC usually happens at the end of each job but may on some occasions happen two or more times over the course of the installation.

What does a gasfitting certificate need to contain?

Certificate templates can be found at www.med.govt.nz/energysafety/forms/certification/gas

What gasfitting has to be entered into the Energy Safety database?

Only high risk gasfitting. This entry is not a certificate; it is a record of the installation.

How do I decide which risk type a gasfitting job fits into?

This work is now broken down into 3 risk types: low-risk, high-risk and general risk. Use the following three step process to determine which risk type the gasfitting is.

1. Decide whether the gasfitting meets any of the low-risk criteria. If so, it is low-risk gasfitting.
2. If the gasfitting is not low-risk, decide whether it meets any of the high-risk criteria. If so, it is high-risk gasfitting.
3. If it is not low-risk or high-risk gasfitting, it is general gasfitting.

Low-risk gasfitting:

If any of the conditions listed below applies, the gasfitting is low-risk.

Low-risk gasfitting determination checklist

1	<p>The (like for like) replacement of a gas appliance with an equivalent gas appliance, provided –</p> <p>(i) the work does not result in any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the repositioning of pipework or flue system components • a change in the installation pressure or the gas type • a significant change in energy consumption • a change in the ventilation • a change to the operation of the installation; and <p>(ii) the appliance is not located in a caravan or boat with sleeping quarters.</p>	
2	<p>Maintenance of fittings and appliances in an installation that involves gasfitting – other than repair work carried out following a notifiable accident.</p>	
3	<p>Replacement fittings that are instrumentation and related controls – provided the work doesn't result in the repositioning or disturbance of pipework that is not instrumentation and related controls.</p>	

Low-risk gasfitting determination checklist continued...

4	Setting of safety devices, combustion conditions and controls that are not designed to be adjusted by a consumer or gas refueller.	
5	<p>Gasfitting in a gas engineering workshop, manufacturing facility, gas test facility, laboratory, hospital, research project, or teaching institution, but only if—</p> <p>(i) the work is the installation of temporary pipework between fittings (or between gas appliances, or between fittings and gas appliances), or the repair of fittings and gas appliances; and</p> <p>(ii) the fittings or appliances are used for experimental, testing, demonstration, teaching, or research purposes.</p>	

Most low-risk gasfitting is gasfitting that before 1 July 2013 did not require certification. Examples of low-risk gasfitting are:

- Servicing a gas appliance e.g. setting burner pressures, adjusting burner aeration controls, replacing thermocouples etc.
- Replacing or swapping a like for like appliance or fitting e.g. a valve or regulator or a flue cowl.

High-risk gasfitting:

If any of the 12 conditions listed below applies and it is not low-risk, then the gasfitting is high-risk.

High-risk gasfitting determination checklist		
1	Alteration of or addition to an existing installation	
2	Work not carried out in accordance with the means of compliance in the Installation Standard	
3	Work on an installation that includes gas pressure raising equipment	
4	Repair work following a notifiable incident	
5	Work on domestic premises where the maximum operating pressure is more than 7 kPa for NG or more than 14 kPa for LPG	
6	Work in a building of more than three storeys which contains three or more separate dwellings	
7	Work done to Part 1 of the installation Standard but where the pressure supply to the installation is greater than 200 kPa	
8	Work done to Part 2 of the installation Standard but where the pressure supply to the installation is greater than 3 kPa	
9	Work done within 20 metres of a hazardous area	
10	Work in a building in which air pressure is controlled by a mechanical ventilation system	
11	Work where air for combustion is provided by mechanical means either at above or below atmospheric pressure	
12	Work in a caravan or boat with sleeping accommodation	

General Risk:

If the gasfitting is not low-risk or high-risk, it is general risk. Examples are:

- A new installation that does not meet any of the high risk criteria
- Replacing an appliance with a different type of appliance
- Installing pipework, flues or ventilation

What is a Safety Verification Certificate used for?

A safety verification certificate issued by a certifying gasfitter or other person authorised to certify in accordance with NZS 5255(Int):2013 is required where an existing gas installation has been disconnected for 6 months and no general or high-risk gasfitting has been done in that period.

Gas certification examples

1. If you install a continuous flow water heater in a new installation that meets the means of compliance in the installation standards:

- The work is not low-risk or high-risk so it is general gasfitting
- The work requires a CoC as well as a GSC

2. If you replace a continuous flow water heater with an equivalent that does not result in a charge to the installation pipework, gas type, gas pressure, energy consumption, ventilation or operation of the installation:

- The work is low-risk gasfitting
- The work requires a GSC

3. If you install a continuous flow water heater in a new domestic installation that doesn't meet the means of compliance in the installation standard:

- There will have to be a certificate design and you may also be following manufacturer's instructions
- The work is not low-risk and high-risk because it meets one of the high-risk criteria
- The work requires a CoC and a GSC, and you will have to register details about the work on the high-risk register.

4. If you install the pipework for a new installation of continuous flow water heater without connecting it to the gas supply, but someone else is going to install the appliances and connect the gas supply:

- The work is not low-risk or high-risk so it is general gasfitting
- The work requires a CoC for the part installation, (it will require a GSC when it is connect by the person who connects the gas supply)
- The person doing the connection can rely on the CoC for the pipework

5. If you install the pipework for a new installation of continuous flow water heater and connect it to the gas supply, but someone else is going to install the appliances and connect the gas supply:

- The work is not low-risk or high-risk so it is general gasfitting
- The work requires a CoC and GSC for the part installation
- The installation of the appliance will require a CoC and GSC when it is connected