

Australian Standard[®]

**Essential requirements for gas
equipment**

STANDARDS
Australia



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee AG-001, Gas Appliances. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 6 November 2009. This Standard was published on 1 March 2010.

The following are represented on Committee AG-001:

- Appliance and Component Testing
 - Association of Accredited Certification Bodies
 - Australian Gas Association
 - Australian Greenhouse Office, Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
 - Consumers' Federation of Australia
 - Energy Networks Association
 - Energy Safety (New Zealand)
 - Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association of Australia
 - Gas Association of New Zealand
 - Gas Technical Regulators Committee
 - Gas Utilisation Institute
 - LPG Australia
 - Master Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers New Zealand
 - New Zealand Employers and Manufacturers Association
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Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee AG-001, Gas Appliances, in response to a proposal from the gas technical regulators. After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this Standard as an Australian Standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

The objective of this Standard is to provide a set of safety and performance outcomes-oriented criteria applicable to products for which regulatory approval is required before sale.

Gas technical regulators developed requirements in 2001 (list Item (c) to provide an agreed set of principles to maintain high standards in gas appliance safety. Specifically, they provide a uniform set of requirements that would have to be addressed under any appliance certification scheme. A prime reason for developing the requirements was to assist in achieving a harmonized scheme of gas appliance certification between the various jurisdictions within Australia.

In the preparation of this Standard, consideration was given to the following publications:

- (a) European Council Gas Appliance Directive.
- (b) AS/NZS 3820 Essential safety requirements for low voltage electrical equipment.
- (c) Guideline of essential safety requirements for Type A appliances sold in Australia issued by Gas Technical Regulators Committee (GTRC) December 2001.

The Standard is intended to be consistent with the criteria of the European Council Gas Appliance Directive.

However it does not include other essential aspects included in the European system which are necessary for a complete product compliance system, for example:

- Third party verification of production quality assurance systems.
- Endorsed product specification documentation.
- Endorsed instruction documentation for installation, user and maintenance.
- Compliance testing while using test gases and gas supply and burner pressure that are applicable to the intended installation locality.

This Standard is not a substitute for Standards that set out objective safety requirements based on testing. Rather it provides a high-level generic description of the safety and other outcomes to be achieved and is intended to assist in providing a basis for regulatory uniformity. Specific product Standards provide measurable criteria that are regarded as the means for ensuring that the outcomes described in this Standard will be met.

All Australian States and Territories have laws that require gas equipment known as Type A (e.g. domestic appliances) to be certified by a certifying body before they can be sold or installed. This involves testing and labelling of the gas equipment for compliance with recognized standards, by a certifying body.

It should be noted that where the gas equipment approval is on the basis of type testing of a model of a gas appliance or gas component, the certification may also require monitoring of compliance requirements by a third party endorsed product manufacturing quality assurance process, for the life of the certification.

All gas technical regulators have agreed in principle to call up this Standard in legislation. Because the Standard provides high level performance based safety requirements for gas appliances, it is considered unlikely that changes will be required to the Standard in the short term. The fundamental and broad nature of the Standard matches with the manner in which regulations (legislation) are written. Given the purpose of the Standard and its fundamental basis, it is considered that future changes should be made in consultation with, and with the support of, all gas technical regulators for this Standard.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ are used to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A normative appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an informative appendix is only for information and guidance.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard
Essential requirements for gas equipment

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard sets out requirements for gas equipment to ensure that the equipment—

- (a) is constructed in accordance with good engineering practice in regard to safety and other requirements; and
- (b) does not endanger the safety of persons (particularly children, the elderly and people with disabilities), domestic animals or property when properly installed, maintained and used in applications for which it is designed.

The essential requirements as set out in this Standard represent the minimum safety and other requirements for gas equipment. Other issues related to fitness for purpose, serviceability, installation and certification are covered in relevant Standards.

Gas equipment specifically designed for use in industrial processes carried out on industrial premises is excluded.

1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

2658	LP Gas—Portable and mobile appliances
4551	Domestic gas cooking appliances
4552	Gas fired water heaters for hot water supply and/or central heating
4553	Gas space heating appliances
4554	Gas laundry driers
4557	Domestic outdoor gas barbecues
4560	Gas pool heaters
4563	Commercial catering gas equipment
4565	Radiant gas heaters for outdoor and non-residential indoor use
4566	Flue cowl—Gas appliances
4567	Twin wall metal flues—Gas appliances
4617	Manual shut off gas valves
4618	Gas appliance regulators
4619	Gas appliance thermostats
4620	Thermoelectric flame safeguards
4621	Regulators for use with liquefied petroleum—Vapour phase
4622	Electrical and electronic ignition devices for gas appliances
4623	Jointing compounds and materials for use in gas pipe joints