

Obtaining a gasfitting authorisation

The requirement to hold a (gasfitting authorisation)

In Western Australia, the *Gas Standards Act 1972* outlines that gasfitting work may only be carried out by a person who holds a Certificate of Competency, permit, or authorisation issued by the Director of Energy Safety.

Gasfitting authorisations are typically issued to enable persons to carry out gasfitting work which is restricted to minor servicing activities, in the case of a breakdown, limited to the like-for-like exchange of components and adjustment of parameters back to predetermined, original commissioned (approved) settings.

Gasfitting authorisations are not intended to replace the need for gas fitters who hold a gasfitting permit. However, they may be issued to enable competent people to maintain and repair on-site gas equipment when it would be otherwise impracticable to keep the plant or appliance operating safely.

Conditions and restrictions are applied to gasfitting authorisations. Gasfitting authorisation holders are required to fully familiarise themselves with those conditions and restrictions and must not carry out any works that are contrary to those conditions and restrictions.

New technology that falls within the scope of Western Australian gasfitting legislation may also be covered by a gasfitting authorisation. This allows for innovation and for research and development of gas-fuelled technologies within Western Australia.



Legislation

Gasfitting work

Gasfitting work is defined as an operation, work or process in connection with the installation, removal, demolition, replacement, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a gas installation. Exceptions include:

- the replacement of LPG cylinders, compressed natural gas cylinders, or liquefied natural gas cylinders;
- any operation, work or process in relation to a mobile engine that does not involve or affect any fitting line or apparatus;
- an adjustment of the air-fuel ratio of a mobile engine that does not involve the disconnection or dismantling of any fitting line or apparatus; or
- an operation, work or process carried out in connection with a reticulated supply system for the gas supplier.

Gas appliance

The gas appliance as defined in the *Gas Standards Act 1972* is any appliance that consumes gas for any purpose.



A gas appliance includes all the associated apparatus from the appliance isolation valve to the primary flue or exhaust (for example on a stationary engine).

Any work affecting the safe operation of the gas appliance or system is considered gasfitting work and may include all types of servicing and maintenance work carried out on the gas installation, including work on the:

- the gas appliance;
- combustion chamber;
- combustion air supply;
- apparatus such as any valves and gas pressure regulating equipment;
- flues, gas pipework, ventilation and ductwork; and
- any work associated with the safe operation of gas systems (e.g. work on burner management systems and electrical work).

Piping systems associated with a Type B gas appliance

The consumer's piping system associated with a Type B gas appliance starts from the outlet of the billing meter, tank, cylinder valve or designated point of transfer from where a pipeline licence ceases and the consumer's pipe commences to the Type B appliance isolation valve.

Servicing

Servicing, in relation to a consumer's gas installation, includes:

- a) maintenance involving the adjustment and cleaning of any appliance or apparatus in the installation in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer; or
- b) repairs involving the exchange of components that do not require modification of the installation.

Servicing also includes cleaning and/or replacement of components in accordance with the manufacturer's maintenance schedules. When components are replaced, the new components shall be of the same model and brand as the originals. Additionally, replacing components must not alter the system's operational parameters or change the appliance's approved state.

The replacement of an assembly of components, such as a boiler body, turbine hot section, kiln or valve train, is considered new work or modification to an installation and would not be typically covered by a gasfitting authorisation.

Supervised gas fitter

A person working under the supervision of a gasfitting authorisation holder while carrying out prescribed gasfitting work.

Supervising gas fitter

The gasfitting authorisation holder is a person registered with the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) as a gas fitter and authorised under the Regulations to oversee supervised gas fitters.

Gasfitting authorisation holder's responsibility

The gasfitting authorisation holder is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the gasfitting work completed is safe and compliant with the Regulations and conditions set out in the gasfitting authorisation schedule ¹.
- Ensure all the persons being supervised understand the conditions of the gasfitting authorisation.
- Ensure all workers under the gasfitting authorisation are competent to perform the work.
- Identify and provide necessary training for individuals working under the gasfitting authorisation.
- Document all training activities and retain copies of relevant training certificates for audit purposes.
- Determine the level of supervision that is required to supervise the supervised gas fitters.

There can only be one gasfitting authorisation holder responsible for the specified gasfitting work.

A gasfitting authorisation holder is fully responsible for all gasfitting work conducted under their authorisation. Delegating responsibility for gasfitting work to other trades is not permitted. For example, a gasfitting authorisation holder with an electrical trade qualification is accountable not only for electrical work but also for all gasfitting work performed under their gasfitting authorisation.

Eligibility for a gasfitting authorisation

Applicants are required to demonstrate appropriate experience and qualifications relevant to the class and type of gasfitting work that is to be undertaken.

Applicants are required to demonstrate that they have adequate skills and knowledge to carry out gasfitting work in compliance with the

¹ The Gasfitting Authorisation Schedule is a document enclosed with the Gas Authorisation and outlines the conditions that must always be met for the authorisation to remain valid.

Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999 (the Regulations).

Regulation 12 prescribes that the Director of Energy Safety may issue a gasfitting authorisation to an applicant if the Director is satisfied that the applicant:

- a) has adequate theoretical and practical knowledge and adequate skills, to carry out the gasfitting;
- b) has an adequate knowledge of the Act and these Regulations; and
- c) is otherwise a fit and proper person to carry out the gasfitting.

A way of demonstrating skills and knowledge includes providing a written submission that demonstrates the applicant has relevant skills and knowledge that relates to the scope of work they are applying for.

Applicants are assessed on an individual basis by the DEMIRS and are **not** automatically granted.

The Director of Energy Safety reserves the right to issue an authorisation that the Director considers appropriate in the circumstances.

Gasfitting authorisation conditions

A gasfitting authorisation authorises the holder to do specified gas fitting work for a specified employer at specific sites.

Authorisations can be issued for a maximum of twelve months.

Applying for a gasfitting authorisation

The application must be accompanied by the following:

- Non-refundable application fee.
- Proof of qualification as per the gasfitting authorisation application form.
- Management plan (if applicable).
- Letter of Nomination.
- Proof of identification.

Letter of nomination

A letter of nomination is to be provided by the applicant's supervisor or manager identifying why and how long the Gasfitting Authorisation is required.

The letter must also specify the applicant's authority to supervise the work as well as what qualifies the applicant to carry out the work specified on the application.

The nomination letter will also need to include brief details regarding:

- The nature of the gasfitting work that will be performed, including a list of all appliances intended to be maintained and the operating pressure of the pipework.
- Appliances' certification details together with the details of the certifying Inspector.

Qualifications and experience

The applicant is to provide evidence of completing training relevant to the type or scope of work being applied for and or a summary of their experience that covers the proposed work.

Examples of this could include:

- Copies of training courses completed.
- Resume or CV.
- Statements from previous employers, indicating that the applicant is experienced in the work specified on the gasfitting authorisation.
- Appliance-specific training provided by the appliance manufacturers.

Management plan

A management plan is required when there is more than one gasfitting authorisation holder on the same site.

The management plan will need to outline a hierarchy of responsibility within the organisation, identifying who is responsible for what, when and where the gasfitting work is done.

It must be clearly identified in the management plan, which gasfitting authorisation holder is responsible for what site and what work.

Employer responsibility

Regulation 34 in the Regulations requires the employer to keep a record of each gas fitter employed to do gasfitting work, including supervised gas fitters. The employer must keep the record for at least two years after the gas fitter stops being an employee.

The records must contain:

- the name and address of the gas fitter; and
- the identifying number and grade of the gas fitter's certificate of competency, permit or authorisation and any restrictions, limitations, conditions, or restrictions on the certificate, permit or authorisation.

If a person does not apply for a gasfitting authorisation on completion of training or the gasfitting authorisation has expired

Where a person does not apply for a gasfitting authorisation on completion of training, or the gasfitting authorisation has expired:

- Within two years – a gasfitting authorisation can be issued on receipt of the gasfitting authorisation application.
- Between two and five years – the person is required to:
 - Complete successfully the assessment on the Gas Standards Legislation, Gas Safety, and Basic Combustion training modules.
 - Provide evidence of completing a nationally recognised training course in industrial gasfitting or other appropriate course depending upon the class of gasfitting being applied for, within two years.

What is the penalty for working without a gasfitting authorisation or gasfitting permit?

A person who carries out gasfitting work without an appropriate permit is liable for prosecution and a fine under the *Gas Standards Act 1972*.

Application Submission

Online

Submit your application and pay online: [Gasfitting Authorisation \(form R024\)](#).

By post

Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
Licensing Services Branch
Locked Bag 100
East Perth WA 6892

In-person

Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
Level 1, 303 Sevenoaks Street
Cannington WA 6107
Office Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Mon to Fri

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Building and Energy | Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

1300 489 099

8.30am – 4.30pm

Level 1 Mason Bird Building
303 Sevenoaks Street (entrance Grose Avenue)
Cannington Western Australia 6107

M: Locked Bag 100, East Perth WA 6892
W: www.demirs.wa.gov.au/building-and-energy
E: be.info@demirs.wa.gov.au

Regional Offices

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