

## NEWS RELEASE

26<sup>TH</sup> June, 2009

### **COMMISSION ANNOUNCES NEW LAW FOR IRISH NATURAL GAS INSTALLERS TO PROMOTE SAFETY**

New laws have been put in place today to help ensure the safety of the public from the risk of natural gas incidents. In compliance with its Safety remit, the Commission for Energy Regulation (the “Commission”) today (26<sup>th</sup> June 2009) welcomes into law Statutory Instrument 225 - Gas Works.

This new law underpins the regulatory system put in place by the Commission to regulate the activities of natural gas installers. The Registered Gas Installers of Ireland (“RGI”) is now the body responsible for registering all natural gas installers in Ireland.

Speaking for the Commission, Commissioner Tom Reeves stated:-

*“This is a major step forward in supporting natural gas safety in the Irish home; and its success depends on policing by customers to ensure that they only use a Registered Gas Installer (“RGI”) to carry out Gas Works. Customers should always request that the RGI produces his/her ID card before carrying out any gas work. By making it a requirement to be a Registered Gas Installer (“RGI”), the Commission aims to promote and improve where possible the quality and standard of gas work that customers receive from Registered Gas Installers”.*

Only a Registered Gas Installer (“RGI”) can guarantee that gas works carried out meets the Irish Installation Standard for domestic gas appliances. He/she is required to be fully insured and must issue a Certificate, which will provide assurance to the customer that the work completed is safe.

The new system will facilitate the ongoing monitoring of Registered Gas Installers through regular safety inspections. The system will also aim to remove the potential risk caused by non-registered installers carrying out Gas Works.

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Notes to Editor:

- Visit the CER website for the rules and regulations underpinning SI 225 at [www.cer.ie](http://www.cer.ie).
- Definition of Gas Works: - Installing, removing, repairing, servicing, maintaining or replacing a natural gas appliance in the domestic environment.
- For a list of Registered Gas Installers visit [www.rgii.ie](http://www.rgii.ie) or phone 01- 499-7998.
- There are 590,000 domestic natural gas customers; and there are an estimated 120,000 gas works a year; 2,400 gas installers have registered since January 2009.
- This programme currently does not extend to LPG, or Commercial Gas Works;
- The Commission recommends that appliances should be serviced once a year, to ensure maximum safety; and
- The servicing level should be higher, to ensure maximum efficiency of boilers saving customers around [€150](#) a year.