

Dear Tara,

Thank you for your quick response to my request for a time extension.

Unfortunately It did not allow time to meet with the RGI's in this area to finalise a proper submission. However the ones to whom I did manage to are broadly in agreement with the submission from the APCHI to which my name is also attached.

The main issue the installers in the western area have at the moment is the five year assessment. The installers feel that there is no requirement under law for this assessment other than to ensure the competency of those involved. They feel that this can be best served by CPD courses or on line tutorials and that from a practical level the annual assessment should suffice. That this assessment can be enhanced if necessary and that the criteria document should be modified along those lines. 2.2 of the document states that the CER "is committed to the continuous improvement in safety for the gas installation industry" everybody involved especially the installers feel likewise. The RGII is a basic safety standard not a quality mark, most RGI's strive to operate at a much higher level, particularly those with many years experience. They pride themselves on the quality of their work but the quality of workmanship does not appear to be an issue with the RGI once an installation is safe. It must be remembered that most RGI,s are manual operatives not academics and they are not comfortable in a classroom environment. There were also questions regarding the make up of the committees advising on this and similar matters and the bodies represented.

Many smaller installers feel that a lower membership fee is a fairer system given that that gas work would only be a smaller portion of their work and that handwritten certs would suit them better, the busier installers favour an on line cert system or preferably that it be incorporated into their invoices. As a not for profit organisation charges and fees should be reduced to reflect the running costs.

Many installers in the area queried the amount of certs returned for LPG work since that work became part of the scheme. and the policing in general of gas works by the RGII

The question of the discrepancy between boiler certs returned and boiler sales is also an issue. There are various views on this, some installers feel that there should be an onus on the merchant to only release a boiler on foot of an RGI number and cert number or that there should be a cert similar to the new connection cert where a copy would go to the merchant and back to the RGI. Another installer suggested that a security type difficult to remove label be supplied with each new boiler cert to be affixed to the boiler casing. On a related topic it was suggested that in the interests of safety every installation should get a safety check by an RGI preferably every year but at least every 2/3 years and that a date label would be fixed to the meter that could be ticked off as in date by the meter reader.

The question of further regulation of the industry was also raised and Rgi's wondered if there would be any provision for incorporation of the RGII register into the new Construction CIRI register which will soon be mandatory for many contractors Many installers have issues and queries regarding commercial works but I understand that these will be dealt with separately

Regards

Pat Jordan