



Commission for Energy Regulation  
An Coimisiún um Rialáil Fuinnimh

# Extension of Registered Gas Installer Scheme to include Non-Domestic Gas Works

## Information Paper

Reference:	CER/16373	Date Published:	15/12/2016	Closing Date:	NA
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*Regulating Water, Energy and Energy Safety in the Public Interest*

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# Executive Summary

The CER has decided to extend the Register of Gas Installers of Ireland (RGII) scheme to include gas works that are carried out in a non-domestic setting. The CER will progress a new regulation in consultation with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment to give effect this change.

When the required regulation is in place, works that fall under the definition of non-domestic gas works can only be legally carried out by a non-domestic Registered Gas Installer (RGI).

The definition of non-domestic gas works is:

- all works relating to Natural Gas and LPG installations in commercial and public access buildings at maximum operating pressures not exceeding 5 bar and industrial gas installations at maximum operating pressures not exceeding 0.5 bar, from the point of delivery up to and including the appliance(s) in non-domestic premises. This includes all works related to the installation, removal, repair, servicing, maintenance or replacement (or any combination of the foregoing) of gas fittings covered by I.S. 820<sup>1</sup>.

This definition was decided upon by the CER following public consultation and discussions with industry stakeholders.

A number of exemptions from the definition of non-domestic gas works were identified in the CER Decision Paper (CER/15/244). These will be kept under continuous review when the regulatory scheme becomes operational.

The approach to the definition of non-domestic gas works above aligns with the methodology previously used in defining domestic gas works. The gas works will relate to an I.S. standard. In this case it will be I.S. 820 – Non Domestic Gas Installations.

The CER Decision Paper (CER/15/244) stated that the CER will create four registration categories of installer in the non-domestic scheme for those working in the following areas:

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<sup>1</sup> This standard covers all works relating to Natural Gas and LPG installations in commercial and public access buildings at maximum operating pressures not exceeding 5 bar and industrial gas installations at maximum operating pressures not exceeding 0.5 bar, from the point of delivery up to and including the appliance(s) in non-domestic premises. This includes all works related to the installation, removal, repair, servicing, maintenance or replacement (or any combination of the foregoing) of gas fittings.

- Gas Pipework;
- Heating Appliances and Boilers;
- Catering and Laundry; and
- Power Generation.

The CER is now publishing this information note to update stakeholders regarding the steps leading to the implementation of the non-domestic regulatory scheme and to provide an indicative timeframe for the introduction of the scheme.

In summary the steps that have been, or will be, taken by the CER are as follows:

1. The creation of a working group, and subcommittees, to engage with industry stakeholders on appropriate entry requirements and competency assessment;
2. The development of a core training qualification, with separate modules for each installer category, and a five year assessment methodology;
3. The development of an inspection and assessment program;
4. The creation of a non-domestic gas works certification system;
5. The extension of the CER's remit to include regulation of non-domestic gas works by progressing the new regulation in consultation with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment as required by Section 9(G) under the Electricity Regulation Act 1999, as amended.

The above steps will be progressed between now and the proposed implementation of a voluntary register in 2017. See high level Project Timeline Section 4.0 Fig 3.

## Public/ Customer Impact Statement

The regulation of non-domestic gas installers will improve public safety. It will give confidence to consumers that the installers are competent, insured and subject to inspection to ensure their work is undertaken to the required standards.

The regulation of non-domestic gas installers will also have a positive impact on installers as it will provide them with a mechanism to demonstrate that they are competent, insured, and trained

to carry out non-domestic gas works safely. It will also standardise the training requirements to become a non-domestic Registered Gas Installer.

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# Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

Abbreviation or Term	Definition or Meaning
<b>CER</b>	Commission for Energy Regulation.
<b>HSA</b>	Health and Safety Authority
<b>LPG</b>	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
<b>NSAI</b>	National Standards Authority of Ireland
<b>QQI</b>	Quality & Qualifications Ireland
<b>RGI</b>	Registered Gas Installer
<b>RGII</b>	Register of Gas Installers of Ireland
<b>NDCF</b>	Non-Domestic Gas Installer Communication Forum

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background – The Development of Non-Domestic Gas Works

The Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) is Ireland's independent energy and water regulator. The CER was established in 1999 and now has a wide range of economic, customer protection, and safety responsibilities in energy.

The CER's core focus in safety is to protect lives and property across a range of areas in the energy sector. This includes safety regulation of electrical contractors, gas installers and gas pipelines. In addition the CER is the safety regulator of upstream petroleum safety extraction and exploration activities, including on-shore and off-shore gas and oil.

The CER, in previous documents (CER/09/083 and CER/11/022), outlined that works on gas fittings designed to be used by commercial gas customers would be designated as Gas Works, when the following conditions exist:

- a) The new regulatory system had operated successfully in the domestic sphere for a reasonable period of time;
- b) Appropriate training courses and award(s) which relate directly to commercial Gas Works are widely available in the commercial arena for a reasonable period of time; and
- c) A competency assessment process is in place which enables the competence of an individual to be formally assessed against the provisions of the standards applicable to the non-domestic gas work (I.S. 820 and other relevant standards).

The CER concluded that the above conditions either exist or are capable of being achieved in its October 2015 Extension of Registered Gas Installer Scheme to include Non-Domestic Gas Works Decision Paper (CER/15/244).

With the above in mind the CER is of the view that, in general, the domestic scheme has worked effectively to regulate gas installers from a safety perspective. The number of RGIs registered with the Register of Gas Installers of Ireland (RGII) scheme has remained constant despite the economic downturn. The CER investigates illegal activity and prosecutes where appropriate. The number of people being prosecuted has risen in recent years which indicate that the CER's process for the investigation of reports received is working satisfactorily. This also demonstrates the CER's commitment to continuous improvement to address any issues. Surveys show

increasing awareness amongst the general public of the regulatory scheme and the benefit of using a RGI.

## 1.2 Related Documents

The CER has published documents on matters related to the regulation of gas installers previously. A non-exhaustive list of these documents can be found below:

- A Natural Gas Safety Regulatory Framework for Ireland (ref. CER/07/172);
- Vision for the Regulation of Gas Installers with Respect to Safety (ref. CER/07/225);
- Criteria Document for the Regulation of Gas Installers with respect to safety (ref. CER/08/130);
- Safety Regulation of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Industry in Ireland – Policy Paper (ref. CER/09/082);
- Gas Works Final Decision Paper (ref. CER/09/083);
- Extension of the Registered Gas Installer Scheme to include Non-domestic Gas Works (ref: CER/14/425) – Consultation Document;
- Regulation of the Gas installer Industry with Respect to Safety from 2016 – Decision Paper (ref: CER14/791);
- Extension of Registered Gas Installer Scheme to include Non-domestic Gas Works – Proposed Decision Paper (ref: CER15/104);
- Extension of Registered Gas Installer Scheme to include Non-domestic Gas Works Decision Paper (ref: CER15/244);

Related NSAI publications:

- I.S. 813 Domestic Gas Installations; and;
- I.S. 820 Non-domestic Gas Installations.

*Information on the CER's role and relevant legislation can be found on the CER's website at [www.cer.ie](http://www.cer.ie)*

## 1.3 Structure of Paper

This paper is structured as follows:

- Section 2.0 outlines the current developments in the key areas related to the introduction of the non-domestic scheme;
- Section 3.0 outlines the next steps in the introduction of the non-domestic scheme; and;
- Section 4.0 sets out the Commission’s high level project timeline.

## 2. Developments with regards to the introduction of the Non-Domestic Gas Works Scheme

### 2.1 Creation of Working Groups and Subcommittees

The CER is mindful of the need to communicate effectively with the gas industry so that they are kept fully aware of, and can contribute to, the developments taking place to introduce the non-domestic gas regulatory scheme. To facilitate this the CER, on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016, chaired a workshop with industry stakeholders regarding the introduction of the non-domestic regulatory scheme. At this meeting it was decided that three stakeholder groups should be established see Fig 1.

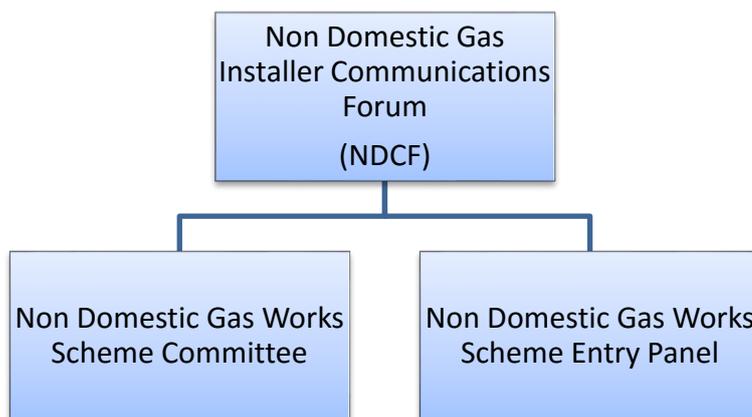


Fig 1 - Non-domestic Gas Works Stakeholder Groups

### 2.2 Non-Domestic Gas Installer Communication Forum

The CER invited the attendees of this January workshop to form the 'Non-Domestic Gas Installers Communication Forum' (NDCF). The CER is open to the involvement of additional industry stakeholders in the NDCF and interested parties can contact the CER's Safety Supervision Team for further information in relation to joining the NDCF.

The NDCF met twice in 2016 and will, going forward, meet once a quarter. The NDCF is the primary group for communication between all of the parties and the industry for the development

and introduction of the non-domestic regulatory scheme. See Fig 2 below for a full list of the current NDCF members.

Commission for Energy Regulation (CER)	SOLAS	National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI)	Gas Networks Ireland (GNI)
Health and Safety Authority (HSA)	Combustion Technicians Association (CTA)	Register of Gas Installers of Ireland (RGII)	Construction Industry Federation (CIF)
Irish Liquid Petroleum Gas Association (ILPGA)	METAC Energy Training	Clarke Energy	Adger Ireland Ltd.
Kinviro Ltd.	Martin Hogan Energy Training	Gordon McCabe (CTA)	Ger O Reilly Non Domestic Gas Installer

Fig 2 - Non-domestic Gas Installers Communication Forum members.

### 2.3 Non-Domestic Gas Works Scheme Committee

The ongoing competence of those carrying out non-domestic gas works within the regulatory scheme is of paramount importance. The CER previously decided (CER/15/244) that

- an annual inspection, and
- a regular completion of a competency assessment

by each non-domestic RGI is key to maintaining and improving, standards of safety.

At the meeting on 21 January 2016, the participants agreed that a scheme committee would be created to set the training and assessment requirements for continued registration to the scheme.

This new Scheme Committee, chaired by the CER, is working on;

- a) the development and implementation of a core gas safety course and four additional modules reflecting the non-domestic categories;
- b) the development of a competency assessment which must be successfully completed by the Registered Gas Installer once every five years. This assessment will be delivered by certified assessment centres;
- c) the creation of a system of certification for non-domestic gas works.

Outlined below is a list of the key areas that this committee has made progress in to date.

### **2.3.1. Development of Training**

The CER held the first meeting of the Scheme Committee in CER offices in June 2016. This meeting was also attended by Quality & Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and training providers.

At present, QQI recognises the Commercial Gas Safety (CGS) course as providing qualified applicants with the skills and knowledge relating to safety regulations, procedures and standards to enable them to carry out gas work safely for all commercial gas installations. As it has been agreed that there will be multiple registration categories of installer in the non-domestic scheme, the CER has decided the most appropriate training and qualification scheme would include a core non-domestic gas safety course with separate modules for each non-domestic installer category type. The Scheme Committee is engaging with QQI to review the existing Commercial Gas Course with a view to developing a set of modules to reflect the competence and knowledge required to carry out work within each installer category.

### **2.3.2. Development of Certification**

The Scheme Committee determined that the certification model to be used would be comparable to the existing certification process for domestic gas installers. A proposal on the number of certificate types and the style of certificates is being developed.

### **2.3.3. Development of an Inspection Program**

It was determined by the scheme committee that the inspection program to be used would be comparable to the existing domestic gas installer inspection program. The structure and content of the inspection program is under consideration by the committee.

### **2.3.4. Development of a Competency Assessment**

The committee supports the introduction of a five year competency assessment. The committee has determined that the assessment should be divided into a core competency assessment and

a competency assessment for each of the installer category modules. The details relating to content and delivery of this assessment is under development.

## 2.4 Non-Domestic Gas Works Scheme Entry Panel

The Scheme Committee is developing the training to be provided to qualified applicants to enable them to carry out gas work safely for the different categories of commercial gas installations. A separate committee, the Non-Domestic Gas Works Scheme Entry Panel, chaired by the CER, has been established to;

- Consider the requirements needed in the initial transition phase to allow those already working in the industry to register with the scheme.
- Determine the entry requirements to the non-domestic register of gas installers.

The first meeting of the Panel took place in June 2016 in CER Offices.

### 2.4.1. Development of Scheme Entry Requirements

The Scheme Entry Panel decided that a review group will be established to assess the applications of those wishing to join the non-domestic register once it has been put in place. The Scheme Entry Panel will also work on the development of long-term scheme entry requirements based on trade qualifications. The qualifications, as well as the scope/structure of the review group, have yet to be determined by the Panel.

For those already working in the industry who don't currently hold trade qualifications, the Panel will develop a means of assessment which may permit them to enter the scheme via a recognition of prior learning and a review of their portfolio of work.

## 3. Next steps

### 3.1 Work of the Committees

The CER will work with the established stakeholder groups to define terms of reference and establish a program of meetings for the duration of the project.

### 3.2 Development of the New Regulation

The CER will engage with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment to commence the process of developing a new regulation to give effect to the extension of the RGII scheme to include work that is carried out in a non-domestic setting.

### 3.3 Additional Considerations

The CER will consider any changes needed in respect of the RGI brand as a result of the introduction of non-domestic regulatory scheme in January 2019. In addition the CER will develop a media plan to promote public and industry awareness of the new regulatory scheme.

The following additional actions will be required as outlined in Section 4.0 Fig 3 Project Timeline:

- The introduction of a voluntary register in 2017;
- The introduction of a non-domestic modular training course;
- The commencement of the new Regulation;
- The closure of the voluntary register; and;
- The commencement of the non-domestic scheme with the opening of a mandatory register in 2019.

The CER acknowledges that there will be a cost associated with the introduction of this regulatory scheme, as there is on the domestic regulatory scheme; however such costs will be regulated by the CER.

The CER is committed to working with industry stakeholders to introduce the non-domestic regulatory scheme and will do so via the respective stakeholder groups.

## 4. Project Timeline

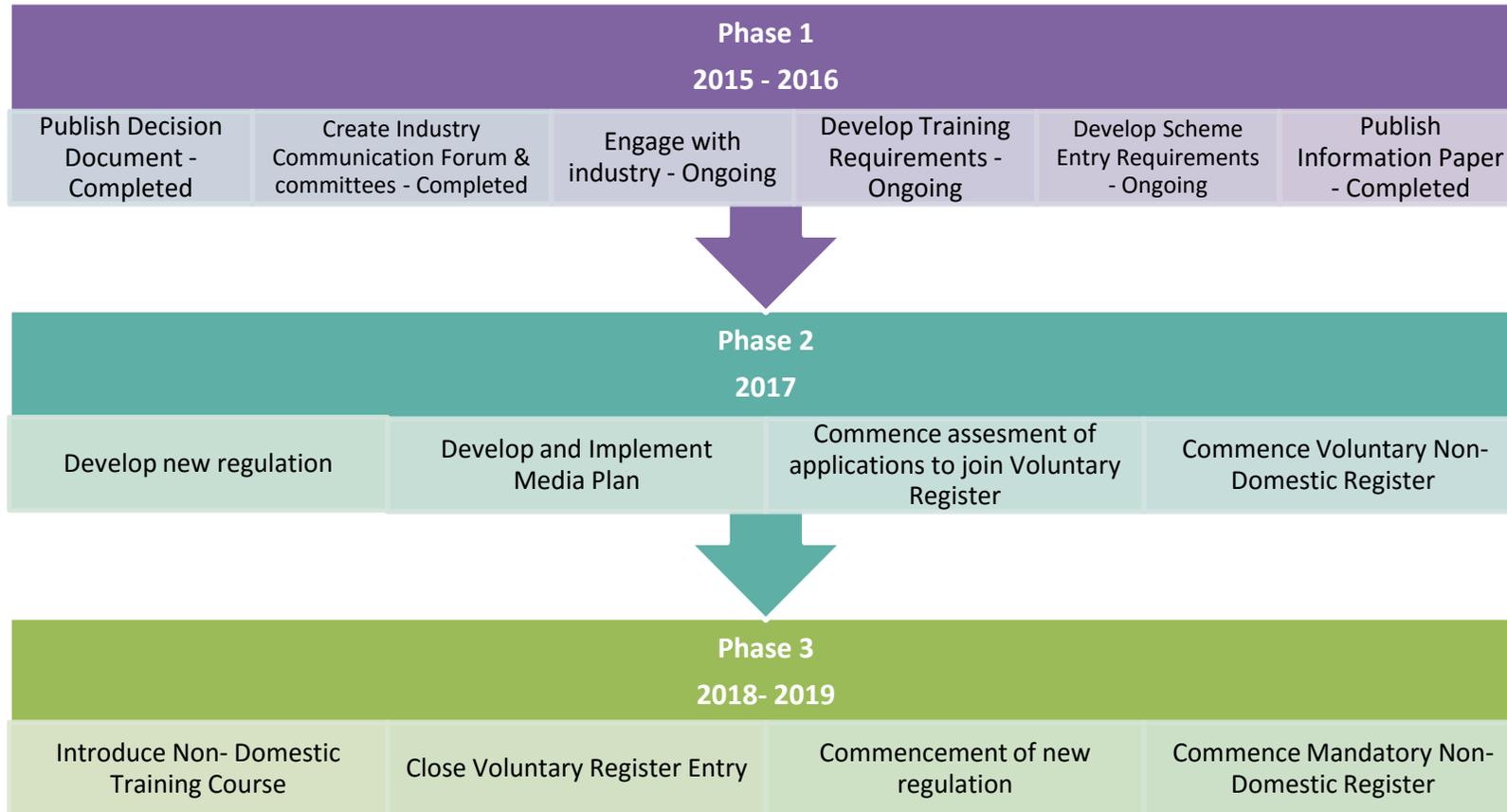


Fig 3 Non-Domestic Project Timeline

