



An Coimisiún
um Rialáil Fónas
**Commission for
Regulation of Utilities**

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Essential Learning Outcomes / Key Understandings of the Accepted Irish Professional Qualifications for entry to the RGI Scheme

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
1. BACKGROUND	3
2. ACCEPTED IRISH QUALIFICATIONS	4
3. ESSENTIAL LEARNING OUTCOMES/KEY UNDERSTANDINGS	7
3.1 THE DOMESTIC GAS SAFETY (DGS) AWARD	7
3.2 PLUMBING ADVANCED CRAFT CERTIFICATE	8
3.3 PIPEFITTING ADVANCED CRAFT CERTIFICATE	8
3.4 REFRIGERATION AND AIR CONDITIONING ADVANCED CRAFT CERTIFICATE	9
3.5 ELECTRICAL ADVANCED CRAFT CERTIFICATE	9

Supporting CRU documentation

You must read this document in conjunction with the below:

- Gas Recognition Process Application Form (International Qualifications) - Registered Gas Installer Scheme
- The Guidance Notes Document for the Gas Recognition Process for International Qualifications.

1. Background

The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) has the statutory function to regulate the activities of gas installers with respect to safety. The CRU carries out this function through the Registered Gas Installer (RGI) statutory regulatory scheme. The CRU's regulatory objective with regard to the implementation and operation of the RGI scheme ("the scheme") is to protect the safety interests of customers with respect to domestic gas works¹.

The statutory registration scheme is fundamental to the delivery of quality and accountability in the provision of domestic gas works in Ireland and ensures that members of the public availing of the services of RGIs can be confident that they are properly regulated and qualified for the job. The scheme for gas installers is operated by the Register of Gas Installers of Ireland (RGII) on behalf of the CRU. Access to the scheme is conditional upon the possession of certain fixed Irish professional qualification(s) (outlined in Section 2).

The European Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC² ("the Directive"), obliges the CRU to put in place a system of recognition for eligible persons with relevant non-Irish Member State qualifications applying for registration to the scheme. The CRU is the Competent Authority for gas installers in Ireland.

The Directive applies to qualifications which have been obtained/recognised in 30 Member State countries³ but does not create any obstacle to recognising qualifications which have been obtained outside of these Member States. Once the recognition process **is fully in place for Member State qualifications**, the CRU has made the policy decision to make similar provision for applicants with relevant non-Member State qualifications. If your qualification(s) are not from a Member State, **your application may be delayed**.

¹ Please see parts 4 of S.I. 225 of 2009 (natural gas - click [here](#)) and S.I. No. 299 of 2011 (LPG - click [here](#)) for further information.

² [Directive 2005/36/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council. [S.I. No. 8/2017](#) - European Union (Recognition of Professional Qualifications) Regulations 2017.

³ The 27 Member States of the European Union and Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein. It must be noted that specific rules apply for Switzerland with regard to the recognition of professional qualifications.

Note: If you hold professional qualification(s) gained outside the ROI you must first have these qualification(s) recognised by the CRU's Panel of Experts ("the Panel") before you can make a valid application for registration in the scheme.

2. Accepted Irish Qualifications

The Gas Criteria Document⁴, sets out how the RGI scheme operates. The current qualification requirements to become an RGI are as follows:

- a. An Advanced Craft Certificate in Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Refrigeration, or Electrical Level 6 (NFQ⁵).

And

- b. A Domestic Gas Safety (DGS) award or equivalent.

The entry requirements to the scheme were decided in consultation with industry stakeholders. Requirements are set at a level to ensure scheme members have the appropriate training and knowledge to safely carry out the regulated gas works.

The Advanced Craft Certificate is a four-year apprenticeship programme in ROI which prepares the participant for their specific occupation. The DGS is a supplemental award and takes 16 days to complete. The purpose of this award is to provide participants with the knowledge, skill and competence to safely carry out domestic gas works in accordance with applicable standards, legislation and guidelines.

In August 2019, the CRU published a decision paper⁶ on the recognition processes for professional qualifications. The decision paper set out that the CRU would establish a Panel to review applications from people with relevant non-Irish professional qualifications.

⁴ The Gas Criteria Document is subject to amendment from time to time. The [Gas Safety Supervisory Criteria Document Version 1.6](#) was published by the CRU on 26 July 2016.

⁵ The National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) is a system of ten levels used to describe the Irish qualifications system. The NFQ is based on standards of knowledge, skill and competence and incorporates awards made for all kinds of learning.

⁶ [CRU/19/094](#): Decision Paper on the Recognition Processes for Professional Qualifications for entry to the Safe Electric and RGI Schemes.

You will be required to fill out the application form with the relevant details relating to your qualification(s) and professional experience. The panel will decide if the profession you are qualified for is the same as the profession of gas installer in Ireland. **If not, your application will be rejected.** The Panel will review your application and assess if you have demonstrated an appropriate level of competence to become registered in the scheme.

The Panel will map your qualification(s) against the list of essential learning outcomes/key understandings of the relevant accepted Irish qualification(s) (see Section 3 below). If there are any substantial differences (deficits) between your qualification(s) and the essential learning outcomes/key understandings, the Panel will assess if your professional work experience addresses these deficits. The Panel will then decide what compensation measure needs to be applied, namely by either sitting an aptitude test or completing an adaptation period.

The CRU considers the following qualifications awarded outside of Ireland as relevant to the RGI scheme:

- Any gas qualification(s);
- Any plumbing qualification(s);
- Any fitter or pipefitting qualification(s);
- Any refrigeration qualification(s);
- Any electrical qualification(s). **Note:** Applicants with electrical qualification(s) will need additional relevant qualification(s) and experience related to gas.

and/or

- Any qualification(s) which have qualified you to practise as a gas installer in the country where it has been awarded.

Note: If you have any combination of the above qualifications, you should include them in your application.

Section 5 and 6 of the application form will allow you to demonstrate that your work experience meets the essential learning outcomes/key understandings of the relevant accepted Irish qualification(s). You must review which of the above qualification(s) you have and fill out the corresponding table(s).

Section 3 below sets out the essential learning outcomes/key understandings for the accepted Irish qualifications, knowledge of which is essential in order to act as an RGI within the scheme. All applications to the gas recognition process will be assessed against these essential learning outcomes. Applicants must demonstrate to the Panel that their relevant professional qualification(s) and work experience meets the relevant essential learning outcomes/key understandings. Evidence must be provided as part of the recognition application process.

3. Essential Learning Outcomes/Key Understandings

3.1 The Domestic Gas Safety (DGS) Award

Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following through their qualification(s) and experience:

No.	The Domestic Gas Safety (DGS) Award - Essential Learning Outcomes
1	Identify the relevant legislation and standards appropriate to domestic gas works
2	Explain gas combustion in terms of requirements, flammability, measurement, ventilation and associated hazards
3	Describe the installation process for domestic gas systems to include specification, selection, construction, commissioning, de-commissioning, inspection and testing of meters, appliances, pipework and chimneys
4	Describe liquefied petroleum gas storage, with respect to the siting and connection of storage bottles, bulk tanks and appliances
5	Outline the process for the maintenance and repair of domestic gas appliances including the completion of relevant paperwork
6	Explain the electrical requirements associated with the installation of domestic gas appliances including electrical theory, component installation, connectivity, test equipment and testing methodology
7	Perform a range of calculations associated with domestic gas appliance installation including complete and partial combustion, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide ratios, and ventilation requirements
8	Assess the suitability of new or existing chimneys for a gas installation
9	Perform a safety assessment on a domestic gas installation to include leak detection, and production of a safety report
10	Install a domestic gas appliance taking all required steps including specification, selection, installation, commissioning, and testing, of all gas and electrical components in accordance with relevant legislation and manufacturer's guidelines
11	Maintain a range of domestic gas appliances including fault analysis and reporting, and making appropriate recommendations for problem resolution on a range of domestic gas appliances
12	Remove a domestic gas installation taking all required steps for decommissioning and disposal of gas and electrical components.

3.2 Plumbing Advanced Craft Certificate

Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following through their qualification and experience:

No.	Plumbing Advanced Craft Certificate - Essential Learning Outcomes
1	Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the design, installation, commissioning and maintenance procedures used in the trade of plumbing.
2	Evaluate key theoretical concepts used in the planning, design, installation and diagnostics of water and heating systems pertinent to domestic and industrial environments.
3	Demonstrate comprehensive range of specialised plumbing skills using all commonly used plumbing hand and power tools in compliance with all relevant health and safety legislation and best practice
4	Exercise appropriate judgement in planning, design, diagnostics and delivering all services, installations and maintenance processes relating to the plumbing trade
5	Transfer and apply theoretical understanding and technical know-how to inspect, diagnose faults, maintain and repair piping systems in a wide variety of domestic and industrial contexts.

3.3 Pipefitting Advanced Craft Certificate

No.	Pipefitting Advanced Craft Certificate - Key Understandings Outcomes
1	Can demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of thermal processes including welding (various types) and cutting.
2	Can demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of pipe processes including materials, components and fittings, preparation, jointing, bending, and testing.
3	Can demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of pipe installation including rigging, assembly, components, ancillary piping equipment, services, and bracketing.
4	Can demonstrate comprehensive range of specialised fitter/pipefitting skills using all commonly used hand and power tools in compliance with all relevant health and safety legislation and best practice.

3.4 Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Advanced Craft Certificate

No.	Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Advanced Craft Certificate - Key Understandings
1	Can demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of pipe processes including installation, commissioning and testing procedures used in the trade of refrigeration - including pipework, brazing, tubing, pressure and leaking testing.
2	Can demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of electrical installations relating to refrigeration and air conditioning - including earth/bonding and testing, cabling, controls, solenoid valves and thermostats, transformers, and wiring components.
3	Can demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the maintenance and repair processes used in the trade of refrigeration and air conditioning.
4	Can demonstrate a comprehensive range of specialised refrigeration skills using all commonly used hand and power tools in compliance with all relevant health and safety legislation and best practice.

3.5 Electrical Advanced Craft Certificate

Applicants with electrical qualification(s) will need additional relevant qualification(s) and experience related to gas. As stated in the decision paper, if an applicant holds a relevant electrical qualification(s) only, he/she will need to demonstrate electrical competence via the electrical recognition process. Once an applicant has demonstrated competence in the essential subjects/learning outcomes of the Electrical Advanced Craft Certificate (Level 6 NFQ), he/she will be eligible to attend the DGS award before registering in the scheme.