



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

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# Regulation of Gas Installers with Respect to Safety Criteria Document version 1.7

## Information Note

<b>Reference:</b>	CRU/20/088a	<b>Date Published:</b>	13/08/2020
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## Context

The CRU regulates installers who carry out domestic gas work through the Registered Gas Installer (RGI) scheme.

Under the European Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive<sup>1</sup> access to register with the RGI Scheme needs to be open to people from EEA Member States with non-Irish qualifications.

In order to facilitate access, following consultation, the CRU published its Decision Paper<sup>2</sup> in 2019 outlining how the CRU would set up [Recognition Processes for Professional Qualifications](#). This involves changes to the Criteria Document, which governs the running of the RGI Scheme.

Applications through the Recognition Process are assessed by an Expert Panel. Where the Expert Panel consider an applicant's skills/knowledge gaps can be bridged, they recommend a choice of 'compensation measures': either an assessment or an adaptation period.

When the applicant completes their choice of compensation measure, they can then go on to apply for full membership of the RGI Scheme.

For the adaptation period, applicants must register in the RGI scheme working under the supervision of an RGI, where they will be subject to inspection of gas works. This can be for a period of up to three years, as decided by the Expert Panel.

[Version 1.6 of the Criteria Document](#) from 2016 provided Trainee membership for apprentices only and does not include inspections. To allow for the adaptation period a new RGI membership category - Trainee (Adaptation Period) - needed to be created: this is the main change to the Criteria Document, updating it to Version 1.7.

The opportunity of revising the Criteria Document was also used to update its terminology and definitions to better reflect the domestic gas works sector in 2020. These changes are summarised below.

## Summary of Changes

The definitions section has been amended to include new terms such as Domestic Gas Assessment (DGA), Domestic Gas Safety award (DGS) and Panel of Experts. Other definitions have been updated to reflect changes to the sector. These include FETAC to QQI and FÁS to SOLAS.

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<sup>1</sup> [2005/36/EC4, as amended by the Directive 2013/55/EU](#)

<sup>2</sup> Decision Paper on the Recognition Processes for Professional Qualifications for entry to the Safe Electric and RGI Schemes ([CRU/19/103](#))

The “Trainee” definition has been updated to include Trainee (Adaptation Period) along with the regular Advanced Craft Certificate apprenticeship route.

The Trainee category, typically of a four-year duration, is available for apprentices that wish to enter the RGI scheme.

The new Trainee (Adaptation Period) category allows for successful applicants that choose the adaptation period as a compensation measure, to bridge any gaps identified in the Recognition Process. For the adaptation period, they must register with the RGI scheme and be supervised by an RGI for a period of up to three years, as decided by the Expert Panel, and be subject to inspections. Following successful completion of the adaptation period, the applicant can apply for full membership to the RGI scheme.

The membership of the Modification Committee has been updated in the Criteria Document to remove reference to the Gas Installer Communication Forum (GICF), as it is no longer operating. It has been replaced in Operational Procedure 2, section 2.2, of the document (as per footnote 16) by relevant gas committees led by the CRU. These relevant gas committees are consulted with on modification proposals of the Criteria Document. These include the Non-Domestic Gas Committee, the Domestic Gas Award Scheme Committee and the Gas Safety Committee. Taken together, these committees have the same membership as the GICF.

## **Consultation**

As outlined above, the main changes to the Criteria Document in Version 1.7 are narrow in focus and mainly around the development of the Trainee (Adaptation Period) membership category to facilitate implementation of the Directive.

Significant consultation with stakeholders and the public was carried out on the Directive itself through the [Decision Paper](#) process. As the changes to the Criteria Document relate to the implementation of the Decision rather than to further policy changes, public consultation was not deemed necessary.