



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

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Regulation of Non- Domestic Gas Works:

Information Note

Information Paper

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1. Background

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

As set out in the CRU's Decision Paper¹, it is planned to regulate the safety of Non-Domestic Gas Works through the development of a new category on the Registered Gas Installer scheme. Once the legislation is in place, this means that only gas installers registered in the appropriate category on the RGI scheme will be legally entitled to carry out Non-Domestic Gas Works.

The new rules bringing the non-domestic gas sector into line with the domestic sector were due to come into effect from January 2021. The CRU has now taken the decision to postpone Non-Domestic Gas Works regulation until 2023.

This information note updates the earlier note from 2016² and provides context for the decision to postpone implementation of Non-Domestic Gas Works regulation until 2023.

2. Developments in implementing regulation of Non-Domestic Gas Works

2.1 Registration and membership category

A Provisional Non-Domestic Register was opened in September 2018. The purpose is to allow people to indicate their interest in registering as Non-Domestic RGIs and to facilitate access to training. There are currently over 800 people on the Provisional Register, around two thirds of whom are already registered as Domestic RGIs.

The CRU and RGII have worked to develop the new registration category for RGIs undertaking non-domestic gas works within the existing scheme. An updated Criteria Document was drafted and circulated to the Criteria Modification Committee³ for comment. The draft was then finalised by the CRU and will be published when Non-Domestic Gas Works regulation is implemented.

Reflecting the makeup of the Provisional Register, the intention is to allow three categories of registration (and concurrent registration / subscription fees): Domestic only, Non-Domestic only and Dual membership. As is currently the case for Domestic, for each category there would also be the facility to register as a trainee member in specific circumstances.

¹ CER (2015) [Extension of Registered Gas Installer Scheme to include Non-Domestic Gas Works Decision Paper \(CER/15/244\)](#).

² CER (2016) [Extension of Registered Gas Installer Scheme to include Non-Domestic Gas Works \(CER/16373\)](#)

³ See Operational Procedure 2: Modifications CRU (2020) [Criteria Document 1.7](#)

2.2 Training

Following extensive stakeholder consultation and engagement, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) published the Non-Domestic Gas Safety award in 2017 as a Special Purpose Specification National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) Level 6 Award.

The content of the course is wide-ranging and includes installation and testing, heating and hot water, catering and laundry equipment, and combined heat and power installations.

To register with the RGI Scheme to undertake non-domestic gas works, installers need to complete the Non-Domestic Gas Core Safety and Pipework module and one of the other three specialist units. The breakdown is as follows:

1. Non-Domestic Gas and Pipework Safety (Compulsory)
2. Space Heating and Hot Water Installation (Elective)
3. Catering and Laundry Installations (Elective)
4. Power Generation and CHP Installations (Elective)

The first training provider was accredited by QQI and started offering the Core Safety and Pipework module in 2018. To date, over 150 people have completed the module.

2.3 Certification

Working with RGII, GNI, Liquid Gas Ireland (formerly the ILPGA) and the Installer Representative Panel (IRP) among other stakeholders, the CRU has developed three draft Completion Certificates for Non-Domestic Gas works.

For the ease of both customers and gas installers the Non-Domestic certificates have been modelled on the existing Domestic certificates, however there are certain differences.

It is intended that there will be three certificates:

- **Certificate A:** Declaration of conformance for new gas installations or new meter fit. This is the equivalent of Cert 1 for Domestic Gas Works and similar to the current GNI Declaration of Conformance
- **Certificate B:** Declaration of conformance for appliance installation / replacement where a meter/gas is already supplied. Unlike the Domestic Cert 2, Cert B will be for all new or replacement installations of Non-Domestic appliances, not just boilers.
- **Certificate C:** Declaration of conformance for existing installations with a gas supply/gas meter for repair, safety check and/or service.

For servicing and checks only – unlike Domestic Cert 3, it does not cover non-boiler installations.

2.4 Legislation

The CRU has drafted a Statutory Instrument (SI) to give legal affect to the change in regulation.

This new SI would replace the existing two (SI 225 Gas Works⁴ and SI 299 Liquid Petroleum Gas Works⁵) with one. The new SI would be a consolidated piece of secondary legislation designating all works on domestic or non-domestic appliances (natural gas or LPG) as Gas Works under the Electricity Regulation Act 1999.

Closer to the time of implementing Non-Domestic Gas Works regulation the new draft SI will be forwarded to the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Communications for approval.

3. Implementation Date

The Non-Domestic gas sector comprises around 43,000 commercial gas customers. This covers a wide range of businesses including hospitality and catering; sectors severely affected by Covid-19 restrictions.

There are 6,500 restaurants⁶ and 1,900 hotels, guest houses and B&Bs in Ireland⁷. The most recently available figures available from the Central Statistics Office show that activity in the food and accommodation sectors in August 2020 was 41% lower than in the same period in 2019⁸.

The Irish Hotels Federation⁹ estimate room occupancy rates for July and August to be 54% of that in the same period last year. The Restaurants Association of Ireland warn that up to 50% of restaurants in Ireland face closure without extended Government support¹⁰.

The economic situation for the sector has been poor for the past six months and with restrictions expected to remain in place until at least March 2021¹¹, it is likely recovery will continue into 2022.

The CRU maintains that safety with respect to gas works is paramount. To ensure regulation can be fully operable and effectively increase safety, it is necessary for there to be significant 'buy in' from the sector being regulated. The changes experienced across Ireland in 2020

⁴ [SI. No. 225/2009 - Electricity Regulation Act 1999 \(Gas Works\) Regulations 2009](#)

⁵ [S.I. No. 299/2011 - Electricity Regulation Act 1999 \(Liquefied Petroleum Gas Works\) Regulations 2011](#)

⁶ Jim Power Economics (2020) [A Plan to Stabilise and Re-build the Irish Restaurant Sector](#)

⁷ Fáilte Ireland (2019) [Accommodation Capacity](#)

⁸ CSO (2020) [Monthly Services Index August 2020 \(Provisional\)](#)

⁹ IHF (2020) [Media Statement on Urgent Government Measures Required](#)

¹⁰ RAI (2020) [50% of Restaurants face closure unless Government intervenes with Emergency Grant Aid Package](#)

¹¹ [Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19](#)

due to Covid-19 has led to a significantly different landscape both for those working in the gas installation industry and for commercial gas customers.

Having taken soundings on the best way forward for introducing the new non-domestic gas regulations, the CRU has decided to postpone their implementation to 2023.

The new start date of 2023 has been chosen as it coincides with developments and processes that will be in place for the new designation term for the Gas Safety Supervisory Body, the role currently carried out by RGII.

Pending the implementation of the new regulations, the Network Operator and LPG undertakings will continue to have oversight of new meter fits / new connections for all premises, including both domestic and non-domestic.

In addition, the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) will continue its role in enforcing occupational health and safety legislation in relation to non-domestic gas works covering both natural gas and LPG. In particular, the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act (2005) and the associated regulations place certain responsibilities upon employers with respect to the installation, commissioning, maintenance, repair or removal of non-domestic gas fittings.

The CRU maintains a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), whereby the two agencies acknowledge the responsibilities of each other and commit to working with each other in prescribe circumstances.

4. Next steps

Over the coming months, the CRU will review existing arrangements for non-domestic gas works with a view to improving safety, where needed. We will also revisit the proposed arrangements described above for Non-Domestic Gas Works regulation to determine if any enhancements are needed. Taken together the CRU will then, working with stakeholder develop a roadmap for consultation around and implementation of the new regulations in 2023.