

Outline of Individual Type A Gas Devices Scheme

The purpose of the Individual Type A Gas Device Approval Scheme is to provide a cost effective and practical pathway for approval; allowing manufacturers and importers to produce or import one-off or low quantities of Type A gas devices, ensuring an acceptable level of safety while still allowing for market testing and gas device (appliance) design innovation without the financial burden of laboratory based type testing.

A Code of Practice has been developed to attach conditions to the appointment of certifiers of individual Type A gas devices to ensure that a robust, transparent and consistent approach to the approval process. A copy of the Code of Practice is available at <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/building-construction/gas/approving-authorities>

What is a certifier?

Under s733 of the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* (P&G Act) all *Type A gas devices* must be *approved* before they can be supplied, installed or used.

Section 733 (1)(a)(ii) of the P&G Act provides for a person or body to be approved (“appointed”) by the *Chief Inspector* to be someone who is permitted to approve *individual Type A gas devices*.

For the purposes of this Outline and the *Code of Practice* a person who is appointed to approve *individual Type A gas devices* is referred to as a *certifier*.

A certifier’s appointment to approve Type A devices may be subject to conditions which require the certifier to:

- (i) comply with the Code of Practice
- (ii) Comply with the P&G Act
- (iii) Comply with the *Rules*
- (iv) Obtain and maintain registration with the *Device Standards Body* and carry out any professional development and technical training required by the Device Standards Body as a condition of that registration.

A certifier who meets those requirements may approve an *Individual Type A Gas Device* (whether new, second-hand, repaired, altered or modified).

How do you obtain and maintain an appointment as a certifier?

A written application must be made to the *Chief Inspector* Petroleum and Gas. Applicants must clearly demonstrate appropriate experience, knowledge and competency.

During the consideration of the application the *Chief Inspector* (or delegate) may form a panel or board to ensure a consistent and transparent process. The applicant may be required to attend an interview and/or undertake a technical assessment by verbal, written or practical examination.

Although the Chief Inspector will consider each application to become a certifier on its merits the department’s policy is that a certifier’s appointment to approve Type A devices may be subject to conditions which require the certifier to:

- (v) comply with the Code of Practice for persons appointed to certify Type A Gas Devices
- (vi) Comply with the P&G Act

- (vii) Comply with the *Rules*
- (viii) Obtain and maintain registration with the *Device Standards Body* and carry out any professional development and technical training required by the *Device Standards Body* as a condition of that registration.

Failure of the *certifier* to comply with the conditions of appointment may result in the *Chief Inspector* withdrawing that appointment to be a *certifier* or imposing additional conditions on the appointment.

What are the Rules?

The *Rules* have been developed in consultation with the *Device Standards Body* and provide the methodology and 'tools' for compliance with the Code of Practice. The *Rules* require:

- persons wishing to supply, install or use an *Individual Type A Gas Device* to complete a standard application form;
- *certifiers* to use checklists and test criteria when assessing whether or not to approve the supply, installation or use of an *Individual Type A Gas Device*;
- *certifiers* to use a template *certificate of approval* and an *Approval Mark* when approving *Individual Type A Gas Devices*;
- *certifiers* to record and maintain details of all *Individual Type A Gas Device* approval undertaken.

The *Device Standard Body* provides and maintains a secure, backed up and publicly accessible web-based register of all *Individual Type A Gas Devices* which have been approved by the *Chief Inspector* or *certifiers* under s.733(1)(a) of the Act. The database identifies approvals which have been made and approvals which have been rejected.

The *Rules* and the web-based register maintained by the *Device Standards Body* are living documents. Following consultation between the *Chief Inspector*, the *Device Standards Body* and *certifiers*, the *Rules* may be updated with a view to ensuring the highest possible standards of safety.

The *Rules* address the following matters:

1. *Certifiers* may only approve the supply, installation and use of *Individual Type A Gas Device* in Queensland. Applications received for appliances intended to be supplied, installed or used in another jurisdiction must be refused and referred to the gas technical regulator of the appropriate state or territory.
2. The application form for approval to supply, install or use an *Individual Type A Gas Device* requires the relevant information to be recorded by the applicant. An application must be assessed by a *certifier* to ensure each application meets the criteria for approval as an *Individual Type A Gas Device*. All information provided for the purpose of carrying out the approval work shall be treated as confidential. The application must be retained as part of the approval documentation.
3. A test regime which applies for all *Individual Type A Gas Device* assessments and approvals in line with the essential safety requirements detailed in Appendix 1 of the Code of Practice. The test regime is structured as a formal checklist and all test results are recorded in detail.
4. Details of any non-compliance identified during the assessment process must be recorded on the approval checklist. The appliance must be re-inspected after any rectification to confirm compliance before a certificate of approval may be issued. The checklist must be retained as part of the approval documentation.
5. The development and maintenance of a *certificate of approval* and a method to identify approved *Individual Type A Gas Devices*. The identification includes a device approval number and a unique '*approval mark*'. The *Rules* require a *certifier* to provide an approval

certificate to the gas device owner on completion of the approval process. The gas device approval number and the *approval mark* must be displayed on the approved gas device.

Note: For the purpose of this document words in italics are defined in the Individual Type A Gas Device Code of Practice for certifiers.