

Managing property properly

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT GAS INSTALLATIONS

- excerpt courtesy of itinews.co.za

The rapidly increasing cost of electricity has resulted in a growth in popularity among many South African homeowners to utilise gas installations in their homes.

However, most homeowners are unaware that there are specific regulations that they must comply with, when installing gas equipment in their homes, to ensure that their insurance policy remains valid.

According to the regulations that were introduced in 2009, all gas installations must have a Certificate of Conformity according to the Pressure Equipment Regulations that have been promulgated under the Occupation Health and Safety Act (No 85 of 1993).

While this may sound like a complex, legal document - essentially it is a certificate that states that the installation has been properly inspected and is determined to be safe and leak free.

It is critical that this certificate is also issued by an authorised person who is registered with the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Safety Association of Southern Africa (LPGAS).

According to the regulation, any homeowner who has a liquid gas installation in their home must have this certificate, which is usually obtained during the installation phase.

However, all homeowners considering gas installations need to know that the onus is on them, the homeowner, to ensure that they have this certificate in their possession, not the installer.

If your home is damaged or destroyed, as a result of a defective gas appliance and you do not have a valid certificate issued by someone registered with LPGAS, the insurance implications could be significant.

The types of gas installations that require this certificate include, gas fires or braais, gas stoves and ovens, as well as hot water systems.

It is vital for all homeowners to realise that such an inspection is not only essential for their insurance policy to remain valid, but more importantly, that it is conducted to ensure that the installation is safe and their family is not put at risk.

It is also important for homeowners to know that if they wish to sell their home and they have a gas appliance installed, they are required to obtain the certificate and deliver a copy thereof to the new purchaser.

LPGAS provides the following useful tips regarding gas safety:

- Always use a registered installer
- Always use a qualified gas dealer
- Always use a verified and tested gas product
- Always check the seal on a cylinder matches the brand of the cylinder
- Always check gas appliances before use

If you suspect your gas appliance is unsafe it is best to turn the appliance off immediately and do not touch it until it has been checked by a registered gas engineer.

For all homeowners with gas installations already installed on their property or for those planning on doing so in the future, it is vital to ensure compliance with all of the above regulations. This not only ensures you adhere to stipulations within your home owners' insurance policy but to also make sure that you and your precious family are safe from any gas-related disasters.

Footnote from Compeg: please ensure that you have applicable gas appliances and the required certificates and to let us have copies. It is vitally important that you are aware of the insurance implications for which you could be personally liable.

Good for
a Giggle



"Some problems are so complex that you have to be highly intelligent and well informed just to be undecided about them." - Dr Laurence J Peter



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