

Standards of training in gas work

Criteria and guidance in the
development and delivery
of training programmes in gas work



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FOREWORD

There were several reviews of health and safety commissioned by the UK Government in 2009 named: Common Sense, Common Safety; Good Health and Safety Good for Everyone; and Reclaiming health and safety for all (led by Professor Löfstedt). Approved Code of Practice 'Standards of training in safe gas installation' CoP 20 was withdrawn by HSE following a review of 'Safety in the installation and use of gas systems and appliances' L56 and 'Standards of training in safe gas installation' CoP 20 in 2012/13. The main clauses 8, 13 and 14 from CoP 20 were amended and inserted into L56 to embed the requirement for training into the revised Approved Code of Practice 3(1).

This gas industry document 'Standards of training in gas work', referenced in L56 paragraph 87 has been prepared by a Working Group which included representatives from the Strategic Management Board (SMB) and Standards Consultation Forum facilitated by the Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers (IGEM) and Energy & Utility Skills with industry stakeholder support.

The document has been approved by the SMB and IGEM's Technical Coordinating Committee and published after consultation with industry, Gas Safe Register and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

This gas industry document provides criteria and guidance to training providers, trainee gas engineers and employers on the scope, standards and quality of training required to enable a gas engineer to achieve competence. The training provider is required to design and develop training programmes to meet the needs of the trainee, taking account of their level of skill, knowledge and experience of gas work.

The objective of the document is to provide the gas industry with an agreed structure for those entering and continuing to work in the industry, along with those providing training, a clear, robust route to achieve well trained and knowledgeable persons able to undertake safe gas work.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document provides for the application of standards of training for the gas industry under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Regulation 3(1)-(2) of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 (GS(I&U)R), as detailed in the supporting Safety in the installation and use of gas systems and appliances; Approved Code of Practice and Guidance L56.

In the context of this document the term “shall” identifies a requirement by law in Great Britain (GB) at the time of publication and the term “should” identifies a requirement of this document intended to be complied with in full.

2. LEGISLATION, APPROVED CODE OF PRACTICE AND GUIDANCE

2.1 Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (HSWA)

The Act states:

2(1) It shall be the duty of every employer to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all his employees.

3(1) It shall be the duty of every employer to conduct his undertaking in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in his employment who may be affected thereby are not thereby exposed to risks to their health or safety.

3(2) It shall be the duty of every self-employed person to conduct his undertaking in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that he and other persons (not being his employees) who may be affected thereby are not thereby exposed to risks to their health or safety.

The matters to which the duty in Section 2(1) extends include in particular:

2(2)(c) the provision of such information, instruction, training and supervision as is necessary to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety at work of his employees.

2.2 The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 (GS(I&U)R)

There is a requirement in these Regulations for work to be carried out only by competent persons.

The Regulations state:

3(1) No person shall carry out any work in relation to a gas fitting or gas storage vessel unless he is competent to do so.

- 3(2) *The employer of any person carrying out such work for that employer, every other employer and self-employed person who has control to any extent of such work and every employer and self-employed person who has required such work to be carried out at any place of work under his control shall ensure that paragraph (1) above is complied with in relation to such work.*

2.3 **Safety in the installation and use of gas systems and appliances; Approved Code of Practice and guidance L56; ACOP 3(1) paragraphs 80 and 81 state:**

80 *Gas work should only be undertaken:*

- (a) by a person, who has successfully completed an industry-recognised training course followed by assessment of competence. Training that leads to assessment of competence in safe gas work should be recognised by the industry's standards setting body, or*
- (b) in the case of a currently or previously registered person, where they have proved competence through a certification scheme; or*
- (c) for those working at premises that fall outside the scope of the Regulations (see regulation 2(4) and associated guidance), by a person who has successfully completed an appropriate full training course followed by assessment of competence.*

81 *Training should be of a standard to enable a gas engineer to achieve competence in the safe installation, purging, commissioning, testing, servicing, maintenance, repair, disconnection, modification and dismantling of the gas systems, fittings and appliances with which they are working. This should include an adequate knowledge of:*

- (a) relevant associated services such as water and electricity; and*
- (b) the potential exposure to asbestos; and*
- (c) the dangers they may give rise to; and*
- (d) the precautions to take.*

2.4 Employers of gas engineers are not complying with their duties under sections 2(1), 2(2)(c) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA) or with Regulation 3 of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 if the gas engineer is not competent. Similarly, a self-employed gas engineer will not be complying with their duty under section 3(2) of the HSWA or with Regulation 3 of the 1998 Regulations if they are not competent. An employee or a person working on their own behalf (viz D.I.Y) are not complying with Regulation 3 of the 1998 Regulations if they are not competent.

2.5 Competence is a combination of practical skill, training, knowledge and experience to carry out the job in hand safely, and ensuring the installation is left in a safe condition for use. Knowledge needs to be kept up to date with changes in law, technology and safe working practice (see L56 paragraph 84).

2.6 Related legislation and guidance is listed by Gas Safe Register on their website www.gassaferegister.co.uk/Normativedocumentlist in the Legislative, normative and

informative document list. Guidance on other related legislation may be obtained from HSE at www.hse.gov.uk/gas.

3. SCOPE

- 3.1 This document sets out the requirements for training in gas work for; new entrants to the gas industry working under the scope of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations; those persons currently or previously registered seeking re-registration as a 'class of persons' (or have a relevant gas qualification) and; those persons working at premises or on equipment outside the scope of GS(I&U)R.

Note 1: In the context of this document the words gas engineer means any person who installs, purges, commissions, tests, services, maintains, repairs, disconnects, modifies or dismantles gas systems whether they are an employee, self-employed or working on their own behalf. Gas installation means all or any of the activities listed in the previous sentence. Gas system means all gas installation pipework, fittings and appliances as well as the provision of ventilation and chimney/flueing systems.

Note 2: For 'class of persons' see Appendix 2.

Note 3: For 'persons working outside the scope of GS(I&U)R' see Appendix 2.

- 3.2 The Standards Setting Body is required to recognise all training for developers/providers wishing to provide training for new entrants working under the GS(I&U)R and for training providers wishing to become recognised to offer training for those working outside the scope of GS(I&U)R.
- 3.3 This document does not specify the content of specific training programmes but provides guidance for the development of training specification/programmes, see Sections 4 and 5.
- 3.4 The gas work, for which this document sets out training standards covers Natural Gas (NG), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), methane from coal mines, landfill gas etc. when these products are stored, supplied or used in situations within the scope of GS(I&U)R. Insofar as this document gives practical guidance with regard to section 2(1), 2(2)(c), 3(1) and 3(2) of the HSWA it applies to portable or mobile LPG appliances as well as to piped gas appliances. Portable or mobile LPG installations do not normally need installing but need competent gas engineers to service, maintain and repair them.

4. STANDARDS OF TRAINING

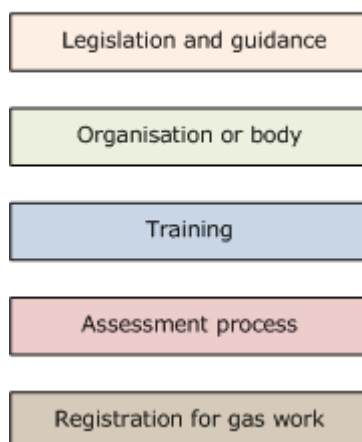
4.1 This section details the requirements for training providers who deliver training programmes for the following categories detailed in the Safety in the installation and use of gas systems and appliances L56 Approved Code of Practice 3 (1) paragraphs 80 and 81.

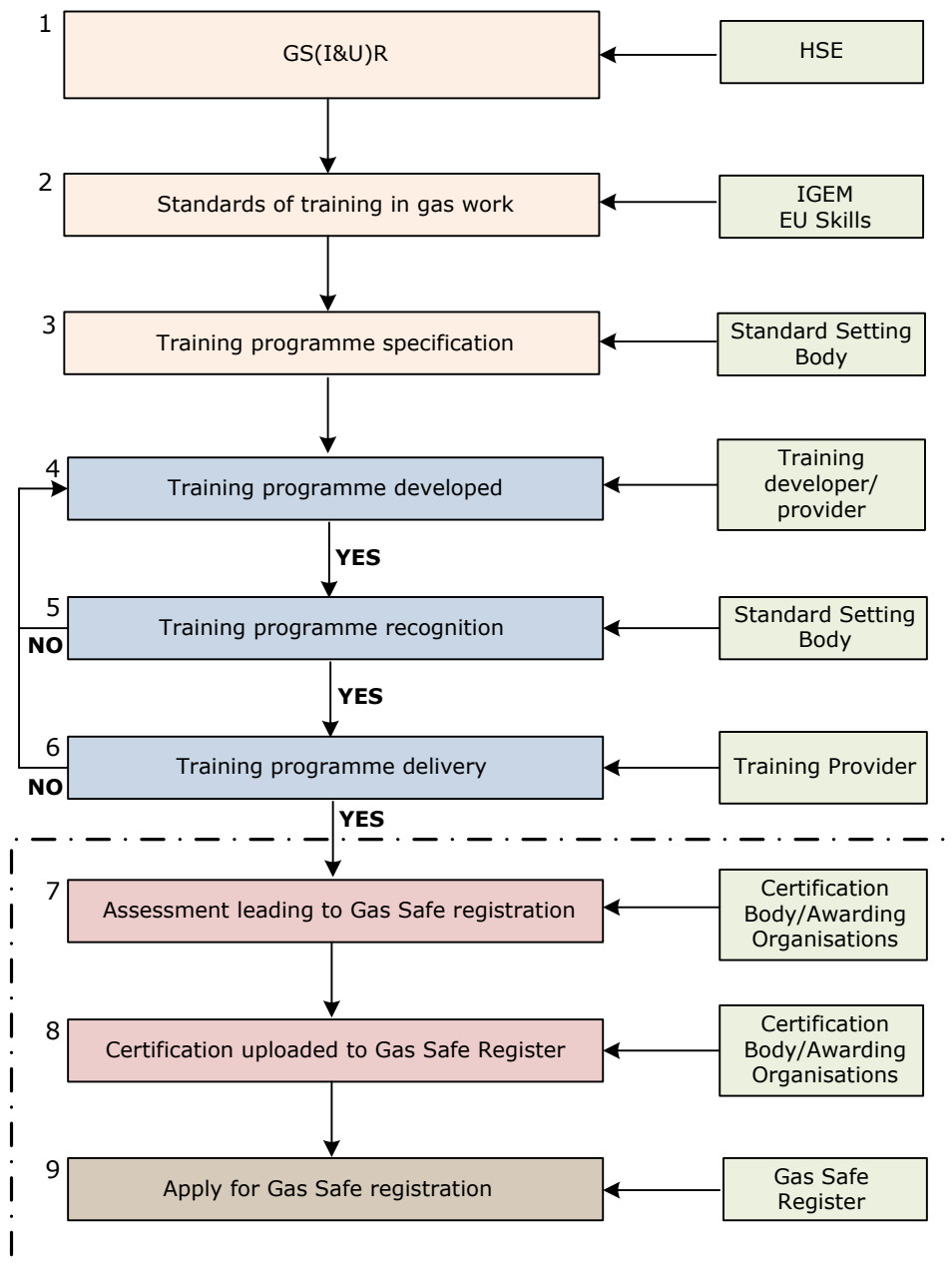
- a) new entrants into the gas industry wishing to become a 'class of persons' (paragraph 80(a))
- b) persons currently or previously registered as a 'class of persons' (or have a relevant gas qualification) (paragraph 80(b))
- c) persons working outside the scope of GS(I&U)R (paragraph 80(c)).

4.2 Training programmes are to include sufficient theoretical and practical training and where appropriate be supplemented by relevant on-the-job supervised practice under the direct supervision of a competent and/or registered gas engineer. The training needs to be relevant to the scope of the work to be undertaken.

The flowcharts (see Figures 1, 2 and 3) and associated notes provide the requirements necessary to develop and deliver training programmes.

Key to Figures 1, 2 and 3





Note: See the associated Notes on the next page.

FIGURE 1 – STANDARDS OF TRAINING FOR NEW ENTRANTS (WISHING TO WORK WITHIN THE SCOPE OF GS(I&U)R) AND ROUTE TO GAS SAFE REGISTRATION

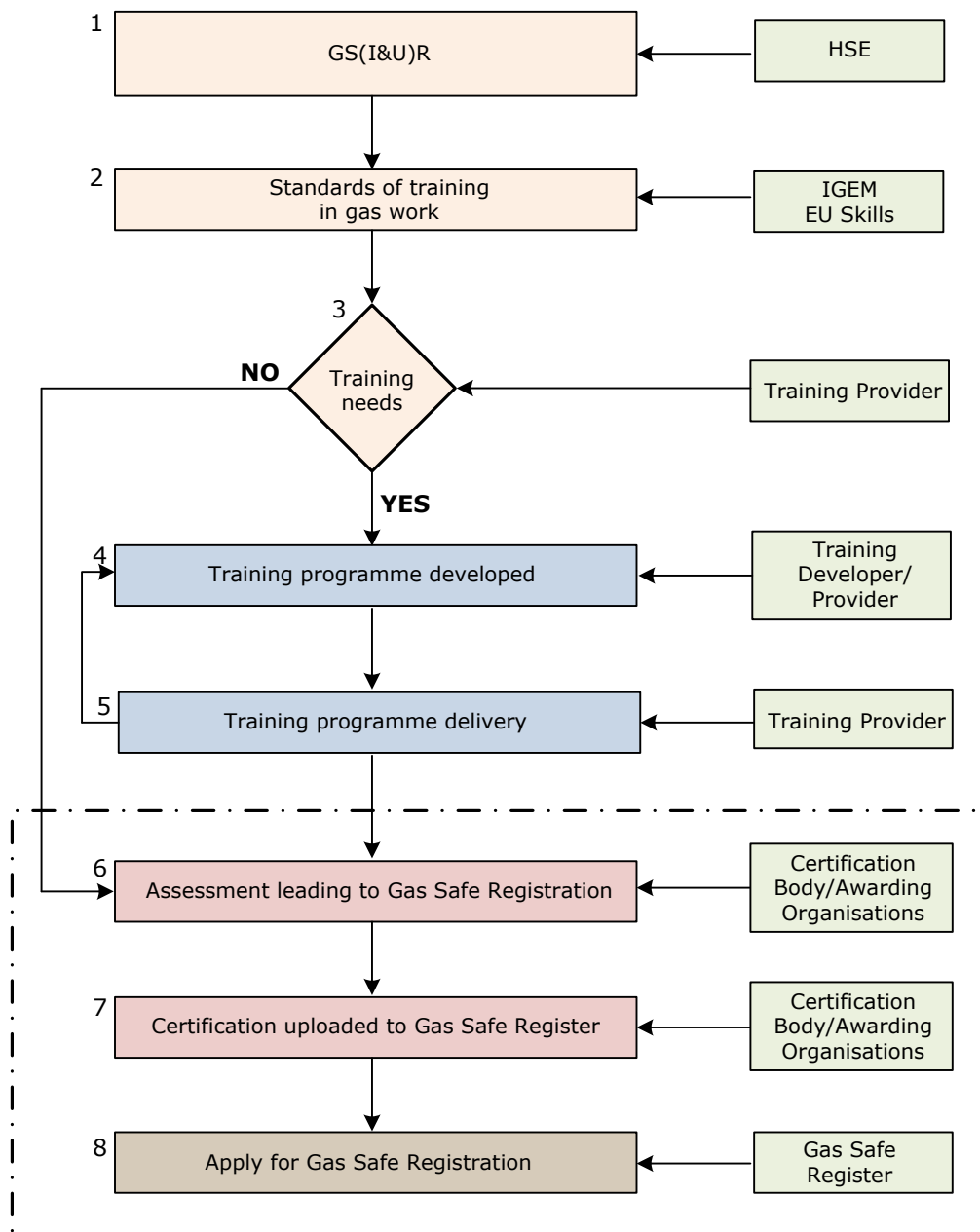
NOTES RELATING TO STANDARDS OF TRAINING OF NEW ENTRANTS (WISHING TO WORK WITHIN THE SCOPE OF GS(I&U)R) (FIGURE 1) (1-6) AND ROUTE TO GAS SAFE REGISTRATION (7-9)

TRAINING OF NEW ENTRANTS

- 1 **GS(I&U)R Approved codes of practice and guidance L56 Safety in the installation and use of gas systems and appliances.**
The reference for this document is under Regulation 3(1) and 3(2) the Approved Code of Practice 3(1) paragraphs 80(a) and 81.
- 2 **Standards of training in gas work**
This document details the requirements necessary for training providers to develop and deliver training via approved programmes in gas work for new entrants to the gas industry that are required to be Gas Safe registered.
- 3 **Training programme specification**
Produced by the Standards Setting Body, the specification outlines the criteria to which the training developer/provider should develop their training programme. The specification should be aligned to National Occupational Standards or equivalent competency criteria and should provide a clear scope required to provide the learners with the required practical skills, knowledge, on-site experience and understanding to carry out safe gas work.
- 4 **Training programme developed**
The training developer/provider should develop their training programme against the appropriate specification and should be submitted to the Standards Setting Body for recognition in line with the structure listed in Appendix 3 of this document.
- 5 **Training programme recognition**
The training programme should be reviewed against the specification for the scope of work. Once recognised the training programme is registered by the Standard Setting Body. Training developer/providers can run their recognised programme at more than one training centre subject to verification and audit requirements, see Appendix 3.
- 6 **Training programme delivery**
Training providers should deliver their programme to the appropriate specification and be subject to audit and verification requirements. All training programmes should include an evaluation of the effectiveness of learning. Records of training should be kept by the training provider for a minimum of six years.

ROUTE TO GAS SAFE REGISTRATION

- 7 **Assessment leading to Gas Safe registration**
On completion of training, all trainees should be subject to assessment and should only be accepted if they hold a recognised training certificate (listed by the Standards Setting Body). Training providers who offer programmes to new entrants whose scope of work is not covered by either Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) or National Accredited Certification Scheme for Individual Gas Fitting Operatives (ACS) assessments should be required to provide the trainee with a specific training and assessment programme delivered to the requirements detailed in this document and provide a certificate of competence.
- 8 **Certification uploaded to Gas Safe Register**
Certification Bodies/Awarding Organisations should issue a certificate when they are satisfied that the trainee has demonstrated competence in the area of gas work covered by that certificate. Details of this certificate of competence should be uploaded to Gas Safe Register.
- 9 **Apply for Gas Safe registration**
For the holder of a certificate of competence to undertake gas work legally within the scope of GS(I&U)R, they need to apply to Gas Safe Register to be registered as a 'class of persons'.



Note: See the associated Notes on the next page.

FIGURE 2 – TRAINING OF PERSONS CURRENTLY OR PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED AS A ‘CLASS OF PERSONS’ (OR HAVE A RELEVANT GAS QUALIFICATION) AND ROUTE TO GAS SAFE REGISTRATION