

# GAMAA Minutes

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

9 April 2015

GAS APPLIANCE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

## MINUTES OF A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD AT AI GROUP

9 April 2015 COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM

### 1. PROBITY COMPLIANCE

The Executive Officer confirmed that the meeting had been conducted in accordance with the GAMAA's protocols on Compliance with Part IV of the Trade Practices Act and that the Standing Agenda item on Trade Practices compliance had also been reviewed and its contents observed throughout the meeting by those present. Further that the minutes of this meeting duly record that the activities of the meeting were conducted in accordance with the Protocols and in compliance with the Act.

### 2. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair commenced the meeting at 10.00 am.

#### Present

Andrew Creek (Chairman)	SITGas
Ross Jamieson	SITGas
Rebecca Searcy	VIPAC
Paul Baini	Comcater
Anson Du	IAPMO R & T Oceana
Leon Bogers	Rinnai Aust
Chris Blogg	Rinnai Australia
Jason Treseder	ESV
Matthew Low	Aquamax
Paul Allwood	Seeley International
Steve Bensted	Brivis
Wes Zabielski	Moffat
Chris Wealthy	AGA
Billy Tabourlos	AGA
Paul Hodolic	Keefer Bros
Colin Poulter	System Control Engineering
Phil Hubbard	Swift Appliances

#### Apologies

Peter Faase	GWA Bathrooms & Kitchens
Alan Law	Rheem Aust
Lok Tam	IAPMO R & T Oceana
Anubhav Anand	Techrite
Anthony Edwards	Bosch

#### In Attendance

Jon Onley	GAMAA Executive Officer
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### 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous Technical Committee Meeting held on 3 December 2014 were confirmed.

*Moved: Ross Jamieson*

*Seconded: Chris Blogg*

### 4. MATTERS ARISING

Nil

### 5. AG-001 MEETING 17 & 18 MARCH ADELAIDE

Agenda items and active projects

Ref. (Item no. from Minutes)	Action Item No.	Issue	Action by
3.3	01	Gas cartridge and measurements of pressure—AGA to provide a comparative test result using both techniques	Billy Tabourlos
3.10	02	AG-001-02 to review AS 2658 and provide a recommendation	Trevor Tucker
4.1	03	Prepare initial draft of AS 4565	Enzo Alfonsetti and Chris Blogg
4.2	04	Review EN 30.1.1 and AS 5263.0 and recommend temperature probe	Marco Rossi and Phillip Robinson
4.2	05	WG-024 to compare relevant EN and AS Standards for Gas and Electric Cookers including door temperature and other technical differences	Enzo Alfonsetti
4.4	06	Review Part 0 in context of outdoor decorative appliance and submit a report	Enzo Alfonsetti
4.6	07	AG-001-02 to review applicability of automatic flue damper requirements to AS/NZS 5263.1.8	Trevor Tucker
4.7	08	Vibration test—research overseas Standards and take feedback from labs; submit report.	Enzo Alfonsetti
4.9	09	Update comments list and draft for AS/NZS 5263.1.2	Alan Law
4.11	10	Provide proposed amendments for AS 5263.0	All Drafting Leaders
4.12	11	Modify AS NZS 5263.1.7, Clause 2.14.2	John Vanderzon

#### 5. Discussion items:

##### 5.1 Active projects (Update from AG-001-02)

- (i) AS 5263.1.1 (AS 4551) — Domestic gas cooking appliances,
- (ii) AS 5263.1.2 (AS 4552) — Gas Fired Water Heaters,
- (iii) AS 5263.1.3 (AS 4553) — Domestic Gas Space Heating Appliances,
- (iv) AS 5263.1.7 (AS 4557) — Domestic Gas Barbecues
- (v) AS 5263.1.6 (AS 4556) — Gas ducted air heaters
- (vi) AS 5263.1.8 (AS 4558) — Decorative gas log and other fuel effect appliances

Chris Blogg who attended the meeting reported:

The committee voted negatively to the NZ 5263 1.1 / 1.3 / 1.7 recommendations. It was agreed that the combined procedure will go back for public comment which will be completed in 6 weeks – shorter than normal. Currently the NZ requirements are contained in an Appendix at the back of the Standard/s which makes it very hard for Test Houses to ‘marry-up’. It was agreed that the relevant NZ requirements will now be noted adjacent to the relevant clause in the Standard. If there is conflict to the AS clause, the NZ requirements will only apply in NZ.

## Meeting Agenda items:

1. All products have been withdrawn from sale. Unsure for how long this will stay in place.
2. Incorporation into AS 5263 – waiting for AGA to undertake this body of work.
3. WIP
4. AG 001 will keep working up a recommendation.
5. Phil Hubbard suggested that there is not enough robust data to make any changes to the existing. Committee agreed.
6. Enzo provided a verbal report with no definite conclusions arising.
7. Flue dampers to be incorporated into the revision of part 1.8. The committee agreed.
8. Enzo to investigate further as to what can be approved given the “off road” conditions that sometimes come into play.
9. Amendments completed
10. 130 amendments currently in progress.
11. Amendments completed.

## 6. OTHER STANDARDS AUSTRALIA COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. AG-001 - Gas Appliances –meeting was held 17 & 18 March in Adelaide– notes in point 5 above.
  - b. AG-001-03 - Commercial Catering Gas Equipment –has not met
  - c. AG-006 - Gas Installation Committee – Leon reported – 1. Protection is required in commercial installations regarding heat and flue products clearances – Enzo to compare to domestic regulations to see if they can be adopted for installers...not manufacturers. 2. Spillage for S/Htrs - The WG agreed the testing should be simplified - consider using a ‘smoke match’.
  - d. AG-011 - Industrial and Commercial Gas-Fired Appliances – Being reformed
  - e. AG-012 - Gas Appliances - Quality of Servicing –Agreed the Standard should be updated.
  - f. AG-013 - Components used for Gas Appliances and Equipment – Combining with AG-011
  - g. CS-028 – Solar Water Heaters& Air Conditioners – various amendments being written for coolers and cooling systems
  - h. ME-015 - Storage and Handling – Liquefied Petroleum Gases –Committee is active but they are working on Standards not relevant to GAMAA
  - i. WS – 026 Valves Primary for use in warm & Hot Water Systems – New Standard for thermostatic mixing taps: No update
  - j. Other – WG 24 – Temperature Hazards met 5 March – refer to notes in AG 001  
WG 10 – AS2658 met 4 March
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## INACTIVE COMMITTEES:

AG-010 - Natural Gas Quality Specifications

CH-007 - Vitreous Enamel Finishes

CH-038 - Liquefied Petroleum Gas – Composition

CS-007 - Guards for Heating Appliances

AG Working Group 11

## 7. SI UNITS & STANDARDS AUSTRALIA UPDATES

Ross Jamieson reported:

He has applied to Standards Australia to amend the following Standards:

- 4617
- 4618
- 4619
- 4620
- 4621
- 4624
- 4627
- 4628
- 4629
- 4630
- 4631
- 4632

The Project Scope relevant to the above Standards is to expand the pressure markings to include KPA, PSI, Millibars and Inches water column..

Ross has also spoken at length to the National Measurement Institute to change the existing laws to incorporate the above measurement markings.

AGA is the only CAB strictly enforcing SI Units on component suppliers.

Ross noted that a number of Standards ratified in 2014 included reference to PSI markings.

Chris Wealthy advised that the GTRC has taken away any flexibility for CABs to apply other measurement than SI Units. Chris also noted no certificates to date (last 6 years) have been suspended. Discrepancies have been noted but no suspensions have been applied.

There was some discussion around whether a change to the Regulations or the ACT is required. It seems that the Regulations need to be amended not the ACT.

Leon suggested a moratorium be agreed by the authorities whilst applications and discussions can be finalised.

GAMAA will write to Lynell Collins' Department (Office of Fair Trading NSW) to see if further discussions can be held. Ross will draft a letter for Andrew's signature.

Chris Wealthy agreed that AGA would support GAMAA's position with regard to changes to the Regulations via the National Measurement Institute. Ross will meet with Chris Wealthy to formulate an agreed approach to the NMI.

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## **8. SAFETY CRITICAL TESTING – JASON TRESEDER ESV**

Jason Treseder - Gas Engineer Gas Installations & Appliance Safety spoke to the Committee about this ESV project.

Background:

All gas appliances and components offered for sale or use in Australia must be certified to comply with a relevant Australian standard listed in *Australian Standard AS 3645: Essential Requirement for gas appliances and equipment*. Certification of Type A gas appliances and components involves:

- an initial product type test by an authorised laboratory; and,
- a type examination by a Conformity Assessment Body (CAB).

Subsequent visual inspections of products are required typically annually to ensure ongoing safety. It is understood that there have been cases of products meeting annual visual checks against technical specifications, but not complying when in use.

As a result, the Gas Technical Regulators Committee (GTRC) is considering changes to the testing regime. Proposed options include the following.

1. Annual visual inspection of product by the certification body (the status quo);
2. Annual visual inspection of product by the certification body plus safety critical testing every five years;
3. No yearly visual inspection with safety critical testing every 2.5 years;
4. Type 5 certification scheme, involving audit of the manufacturing facility including witnessing of production testing by the auditor.

Subject to a Regulatory Impact Statement and an Intergovernmental Agreement, these reforms would apply nation-wide.

The Centre for International Economics (CIE) has been commissioned by Energy Safe Victoria on behalf of the GTRC to review the costs and benefits associated with each of the proposed options. This will assist the GTRC to weigh up possible safety benefits against any increase in the compliance cost burden on manufacturers and importers of gas appliances and components.

As part of this process, the CIE will be meeting with a range of stakeholders to help understand their views and to gather relevant information for the cost-benefit analysis.

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A teleconference with Hayden Fisher Associate Director CIE has been scheduled for Wednesday 15 April at 2pm - all Technical Committee members' attending today's meeting was offered the opportunity to participate in the teleconference. Chris Wealthy offered-up the AGA facility (66 Malcolm Road Braeside) to GAMA members if the location suited their requirements. Jon Onley will provide Teleconference dial in details when they become available.

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS

- E3 Review Committee meeting 14 May Canberra -Andrew Creek

The Energy White Paper has now been released and is available at:

<http://ewp.industry.gov.au/>

### **Coordinated action**

*The COAG Energy Council has agreed to a concerted effort and coordinated policy framework to improve national energy productivity. Coordination is particularly important because of the diverse activities that contribute to energy productivity and the need for complementary effort by all levels of government, business and households.*

*The Australian Government will lead the development of a National Energy Productivity Plan. In addition to coordinating national action, this plan will provide a focal point for stimulating action that increases awareness about the benefits of improved energy productivity. It will recognise the roles played by stakeholders, such as the Australian Government, the states and territories, local governments, industry and households. Each measure in the plan will be delivered by the most appropriate stakeholder or through collaborative action.*

*A national energy productivity improvement target could highlight the combined outcomes of diverse energy productivity actions. A target will be determined as part of the development of the National Energy Productivity Plan. A national improvement target of up to 40 per cent by 2030 is achievable, but will require contributions from a broad range of sectors and actions, both regulated and voluntary. Opportunities for further improvements in industry will be largely voluntary action as major energy users respond to energy price signals.*

*Determining the actual energy productivity target should be done concurrently with the emissions reduction target. This will enable energy productivity targets to be aligned with*

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*the emissions reduction effort, recognising the important contribution of energy productivity to least cost emissions reduction.*

*The following sections outline how actions in various sectors will combine to form the coordinated policy approach of the National Energy Productivity Plan, along with the energy market reforms and technology innovation outlined in this White Paper.*

- E3 Gas Space Heating Round Robin Testing – Rinnai Outcomes - Leon Bogers

Some gas space heaters have been tested randomly for compliance with MEPS. Rinnai met with Sarah Williams about the performance of some of their space heating products. The problem with the current evaluations is that there is no tolerance within the current star rating scheme. A 5 Star must be exactly 5 Stars. A suggestion from Sarah was to build a tolerance into the Standards....which currently does not apply.

Another comment from Sarah was that you cannot compare a gas space heater and a gas ducted heater even though the same Star ratings in customer's eye are promoted.

Leon recommended we work with Standards Australia and E3 to rectify these anomalies.

For water heaters, Sarah suggested we leave the MOT as is as there is likely to be a 'Super RIS' that would cover all water heaters.

It is alleged that there is funding available through a Government body for validating MOTs for Gas Space Heating.

- Media Reports Negative to Gas - Leon Bogers

Leon wanted to make the Technical Committee aware that the Executive Council is monitoring media comments about gas. The EC has formulated a position that we do not think it appropriate to respond to these reports as we do not want to give oxygen to these reports or commentary. We will however support other industry groups like ENA (gas) on co-supported responses.

## **10.ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was closed at 2.55pm

**Next meeting: DateTBC - Dependant on next AG 001 meeting date.**

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