



**Gas Appliance  
Manufacturers  
Association of  
Australia**

### **Future Fuels CRC - Formation of a GAMAA Technical Working Group**

As has been previously reported, GAMAA is a key participant and proud industry member of the national Future Fuels Cooperative Research Centre (Future Fuels CRC), and is represented by Ross Jamieson and Leon Bogers. The Future Fuels CRC was announced in April 2018 and will run until 2025. It is a large-scale project with industry members contributing a total of \$66M and the federal government \$26M, for a total of \$92M. The Future Fuels CRC vision is to “enable Australia’s transformation to a cleaner energy future” and it follows that a significant area of consideration is to reduce the carbon emissions intensity of reticulated natural gas by introducing alternative gaseous fuels such as hydrogen and biogas. This will have obvious impacts on both Type A and Type B gas appliances which highlights the importance of GAMAA involvement.

As you are aware, GAMAA’s broad membership base includes manufacturers, suppliers, accredited test laboratories and accredited conformity assessment bodies and our members are active participants on the various gas product and installation standards committees and have close and fruitful working relationships with the various regulatory authorities and government departments. Within the GAMAA membership base and sphere of activities the history, expertise and infrastructure to deal with alternative gas types is well established (Natural Gas, Propane, Butane and Propane/Butane mixes and, going further back, Towns Gas which had a high proportion of hydrogen). For all these reasons GAMAA has been asked to lead the Future Fuels CRC Appliances sub-group, the focus of which is to investigate the effects of introducing hydrogen into the natural gas mix in various proportions on Type A and Type B gas appliances.

To optimize outcomes for GAMAA members and the Future Fuels CRC, a GAMAA Future Fuels technical working group, chaired by Leon Bogers, will be formed to discuss and agree on the technical aspects of Future Fuels CRC activities as they relate to appliances and to coordinate or conduct the tasks agreed with the Future Fuels CRC. At this early stage of the Future Fuels CRC it is proposed that interaction is primarily by email and teleconference on an as needs basis, with face to face meetings to be held if necessary. Outcomes and progress will also be discussed at scheduled GAMAA technical committee meetings.

**This is important work for the industry. As such we encourage GAMAA members to have their say and join the Future Fuels CRC technical working group. Please contact Leon Bogers, Executive Technical Manager, Rinnai Australia ([leonb@rinnai.com.au](mailto:leonb@rinnai.com.au)) by 10th October if you want to join or if you have any queries.**

### **Safe+Connect - Gas Cylinder Valves - Decision**

On Tuesday 2nd October Standards Australia hosted the Safe+Connect Forum in Sydney. Gas Energy Australia has been working very closely with the GTRC and GAMAA to understand what the issues have been identified with the Type 21 POL fitting on the cylinder connection and what alternative connections are available in the global market place to solve these issues. The key findings that were presented to the forum where poor sealing of the connection, not user friendly or intuitive, no connection failsafe (gas can be released without an appliance connected).

The new connection would need to reduce the number and the severity of incidents with the following features:

- Easy gas tight engagement
- Elimination of misalignment
- No tools required
- Efficiently and safely filled
- Improved safety performance
- Limited mechanical force
- Positive seal before the flow of gas
- Minimal change in cost
- Proven internationally

Looking at the criteria above it has been decided to change the cylinder valve to a CGA 791 valve which is commonly known as a QCC in New Zealand, this valve also provides a thermal cut out, protected elastomeric seals and allows the Type 21 POL fitting used on caravans to still be used as it is backward compatible. This valve will not stop all incidents, but it will reduce them.

There was an expert panel assembled to answer any questions from the floor consisting of Enzo Alfonsetti (Chair AG006), David Collins (Chair ME002 & ME015), Darryl Ramm and Ross Jamieson (Chair AG013). The Q&A was informative and as result it was decided that the project proposal was supported to amend the following Australian Standards; AS2743.2, AS4627, AS1596, AS5601.1, AS5601.2, AS4621, AS/NZS5263.1.7 and AS/NZS5263.0

It is proposed to implement the changes to the Standards effective 1st January 2020, with the cylinder valve changed over the 10-year cylinder testing cycle.

GAMAA would like to thank the efforts of GEA and Darryl Ramm for bringing all stakeholders together on this important step in changing the cylinder connection through the Standards Australia process.

**GAS  
Connections**