

## What is Gasfitting work?

*A guide to read before you apply for registration*

Do you have the **skills, knowledge and experience** to apply for registration as a plumbing practitioner in Gasfitting work? To help you, this guide explains some of the typical tasks of Gasfitting work. If you are asked to an assessment interview, some of your interview questions will be based on this information.

### Get to know the regulation

Under Part 6 of the Plumbing Regulations 2008, Gasfitting work is:

- (1) *the construction, installation, replacement, repair, alteration, maintenance, testing or commissioning of any pipe, appliance, flue, fitting, apparatus, control or other item that is involved with the supply or use of gas and that is fitted downstream of the outlet of a customer billing meter or a consumer's gas storage container and includes –*
  - (a) *the construction, installation, replacement, repair, alteration, maintenance, testing or commissioning of –*
    - (i) *any gas appliance in, or on, caravan or a vessel; and*
    - (ii) *any roof sheeting and flashing that is necessary for the purpose of any work described in this subregulation; and*
  - (b) *any design work that is incidental to, or associated with, any work described in this subregulation.*
- (2) *Gasfitting work does not include –*
  - (a) *any specialised gasfitting work; or*
  - (b) *any cleaning, painting or preparation work in relation to gas pipes or gas pipe joints that does not involve the connection, disconnection or alteration of those pipes or joints; or*
  - (c) *the connection or disconnection of a gas storage container for the purpose of filling or refilling the container; or*
  - (d) *any work in relation to an item that is involved with the supply or use of gas that relates to the propulsion system, or any system that is powered by the propulsion system, of any motor vehicle or*

### Typical Gasfitting work

Gas appliances can vary in size, operating pressure and complexity, ranging from small domestic gas space heaters to large industrial steam boilers or industrial furnaces. Victoria's *Gas Safety Act 1997* defines gas appliances as either Type A or Type B.

Gasfitting work with these two types differs in nature, complexity and risk. For this reason, gasfitters need to be qualified for and experienced with the type of appliance on which they are working.

Experienced Gasfitting plumbers typically do the following work with Type A appliances:

- Installing and testing LPG and natural gasfitting lines
- Installing and commissioning Type A gas appliances – for example, hot water services, space heaters, ducted heating units, gas stoves and cook tops
- Providing for adequate ventilation when installing one or more Type A gas appliances
- Installing flues through ceilings and roofs constructed of different materials, with appropriate clearances and flue termination.

### What do Gasfitting plumbers need to know and do?

Gasfitters need critical knowledge and skills to ensure the health and safety of the community. What does this mean for you?

As a registered practitioner, you must be able to understand and apply the compliance requirements of Gasfitting work. These requirements include:

- AS/NZS 5601.1 General gas installations
- AS/NZS 5601.2 LP gas installations in caravans and boats for nonpropulsive purposes
- the gas certification scheme for approved gas appliances and products

- clearance requirements specified in the relevant Australian Standard and manufacturer specifications.

To undertake Gasfitting work to a safe and competent standard, you must also be able to:

- read a site or building plan and identify gas lines and appropriate locations and clearances for installing Type A gas appliances
- read, interpret and apply manufacturer specifications for installing Type A gas appliances
- size pipes correctly for different installation jobs
- do oxy-acetylene and manual arc welding, and know how to weld safely
- identify and calculate ventilation requirements when installing Type A gas appliances
- install trench support deeper than 1.5m, move the support along the trench, and remove the support safely
- understand the difference between Type A and Type B gas appliances.

### What competencies and experience do you need?

Each class of plumbing work is described by a set of units of competency. Each unit of competency describes a work outcome, all the knowledge and skills needed to do the work to the expected standard, and how they should be assessed.

The Victorian Building Authority (VBA) uses the units of competency to assess your skills and experience if you apply to register in a class of plumbing work.

To be eligible to register in the Gasfitting class, you must be able to show:

- you have the relevant competencies PLUS recent and relevant experience in work related to the gasfitting class of plumbing, **or**
- you have knowledge equal to the competencies of Gasfitting work, PLUS at least four years of experience in Gasfitting work.

You must also prove you successfully completed an accredited training course in Install Trench Support.

Before applying for registration, please read the current [approved units of competency](#) for Gasfitting.

### Your next step

If you think you have the required skills, knowledge and experience in Gasfitting work, then go to the [VBA website](#) to learn how to apply for registration in this work class.