

# Cert News

## NICEIC Certification

### Centre News & Information

#### Issue 3

Welcome to the third edition of the news and information communication from NICEIC Certification.

#### NICEIC Certification Focus Group.

The NICEIC Certification Focus Group was established in response to a request to the NICEIC Certification Management Team from Centre Representation on the Certsure Personal Certification Council (PCC), had its forth meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

A general discussion took place with regards to NICEIC Certification current products and services, plus the new RHI's and Greendeal, from these discussions a list of actions was prepared.

The next meeting is scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014, so if you have anything that you wish to raise at the meeting please contact Lainey Waddoups in the Chesterfield Certification Office who will forward your request through to the Focus Group Chairman.

The Focus Group consists of:

Steve Wright, Piper Assessment (Chairman)

Martin Kent, Cambridge Regional College

Phil Bunce, Worcester Bosch

Deric Witney, Technical Gas Training

Paul Withey, Xtra Skills

Paul Collins, Technical Services Manager, Certsure

Ian Crockett, Operations Manager NICEIC Certification

## RHI Up-date.

DECC has announced the rebranding of Green Deal cash back as the “Green Deal Home Improvement Fund” (GDHIF). The scheme will offer all householders, private and social landlords up to 7,600 pounds for energy efficiency installations per property.

The Scheme allows installers to access cash back for installations they get privately and will open for applications in early June 2014, with the current cash back scheme coming to a close on 30th June; households carrying out energy efficiency improvements on their home can now get more money back to offset the cost of having the work done. From June, people in England and Wales will be able to get up to £7600 back through a new Green Deal Home Improvement Fund. The scheme helps people to install energy efficiency measures such as solid wall insulation and new heating systems by providing them with money back on the cost of the improvements. DECC feels this change ‘opens up the market for smaller businesses in the energy efficiency sector, competing in new and innovative ways and providing further opportunities for jobs and growth.’

Registered PAS 2030 (Green Deal) installers will need to contact the scheme administrator on [schemeenquiries@gdcashback.gov.uk](mailto:schemeenquiries@gdcashback.gov.uk) to sign up to the T&Cs, once registered they can advertise the availability of the cash back to their customers, No finance plan is required.

## NICEIC Certification Portfolio Up-date.

Currently NICEIC Certification are continuing to develop a Bio-mass Package which will cover all the latest NOS for the Technology, due to unforeseen difficulties which necessitated the package development being switched to NICEIC staff assisted by an NICEIC associate the package now looks like it will be available for roll out towards the end of 2014.

If your Centre has any requirements or suggestions for future development of NICEIC Certification training and assessment packages, then please pass these over to Lainey, Kelly or Dave in the Certification Office, who will pass your comments over to the Technical team for consideration and correspondence back.

### Standards of Training in Gas Work

IGEM in partnership with Energy & Utility Skills published a new industry guidance document on 1st April 2014 namely; “Standards of training in gas work”. The revised document covers criteria and guidance in the development and delivery of training programmes in gas work. The existing Code of Practice 20 “Standards of training in safe gas installation” was withdrawn by HSE following a review of “Safety in the installation and use of gas systems and appliances” (L56). L56 refers to the newly published document.

Key requirements of the new document are that all new entrants into the gas industry will require undertaking an industry recognised training course prior to presenting themselves for any assessment under the National Accredited Certification Scheme for Individual Gas Fitting Operatives

(ACS). Only after successful completion and attainment of ACS will such operatives be able to apply for Gas Safe registration. The new document will not directly affect existing gas safe registered operatives. Most importantly from the 1st January 2015 any training developers and/or providers will require to have their course criteria and methodology approved and recognised by the standard setting body namely; Energy and Utility Skills. This is a new and welcomed development that targets improving the standards and credibility of training delivery for new entrants to the industry. We at NICEIC Certification are presently reviewing our existing and proposed Managed Learning Programmes to ensure criteria and delivery conformance and are in liaison with the standard setting body in readiness for the 1st January 2015.

## Group Competence Scheme (GCS) Up-date.

As you are all aware the Group Competence Scheme (GCS) Pilot, commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 and NICEIC Certification are one of only three Certification Bodies taking part in the Pilot.

NICEIC have completed the first Stage 1 and now commenced and carried out a Stage 2 Technical and Systems audit operating to the International Standard ISO/IEC 17021, "Conformity Assessment – requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems". Again these audits were carried out under the watchful eye of UKAS, who are acting as Scheme and Technical appraisers, for the period of the GCS pilot and then they are to report back to the HSE and GSR with their findings.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> June, a further revision of the "Operations Document" was received by the Certification Body which contains a number of changes to the scheme following issues and discussions which have taken place as a result of developments within the pilot process so far. EU Skills are expecting that this will not to be the final version of the GCS Scheme document.

EU Skills held another official GCS launch on the 10<sup>th</sup> June in London and NICEIC Certification was represented at the launch by Paul Collins and Ian Crockett.

NICEIC Certification have recently undergone a UKAS GCS Head Office Audit conducted on the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> June at our Chesterfield office, from which a number of IAR's were issued which require addressing. Currently there is also on-going a number of other GCS Scheme issues with regards to the GCS Criteria and how it is to be addressed by the GCS business.

Again we will keep you up-dated on any developments within the GCS as the Pilot continues to be rolled out.

## Gas Industry Un-safe Situations Procedures (GIUSP) Review.

The GIUSP Working Group has now completed their scheduled review of the current Unsafe Situations Procedure. This process was started in February 2010 and has critically reviewed the current version of the Procedure.

A key concern is the way the At Risk (AR) classification is communicated to the gas user/responsible person by competent engineers. Gas users/responsible persons need to understand the reasons why

their installation/appliance should not be used and the potential consequences of not following this advice.

One of the aims of the review has been to make messaging to the gas user/responsible person as simple and clear as possible. This has been achieved using 'behavioural safety' expertise and validation to assist in the development of the draft revised Procedure.

By applying behavioural safety principles it has been determined that consistent advice and messaging to the gas user/responsible person for both 'At Risk' and 'Immediately Dangerous' (ID) situations are appropriate. Irrespective of either an AR or ID classification being applied, the message must be the same – Danger Do Not Use. The aim being for the gas user/responsible person to stop using the installation or appliance until any necessary work is carried out to remedy the unsafe situation, or otherwise make the situation safe.

To further support this new clearer message approach, the 'Not to Current Standards' (NCS) classification has been removed from the Procedure and a new industry standard 'Do Not Use' warning label for both 'AR' and 'ID' situations has been developed.

A DRAFT revision of the revised version 7 of GIUSP is now available, up to the 11<sup>th</sup> July, for Public Comment and Gas Safe Register is actively seeking comments from all interested parties. Copies of the Draft Procedure and a form for the return of comments can be downloaded from the Gas Safe Register website at: [GasSafeRegister.co.uk/unsafe-situations](http://GasSafeRegister.co.uk/unsafe-situations)

## ACS Scheme 1<sup>st</sup> September Criteria Up-dates.

There are some changes being prepared for the new "centre disc issue" in readiness for the 1st September 2014.

The key changes presently being worked on are as follows:

- Regional differences in Building Regulations regarding CO detection when installing new or replacement fixed combustion appliance
- Inspection requirements for flues in voids and alternative methods of compliance when inspection hatches are not available for flues in voids
- Two or more domestic central heating boilers fitted within a single space with an aggregate total in excess of 70kW
- Removing references to RIDDOR form F2508G2
- Removing duplication and aligning references within ND Generic Core A & B
- Prerequisite change for CoNGLP1
- Electro fusion pipe size limit removed - process for larger pipe is the same, just a longer heat period

## General News.

### ACS Certification

NICEIC Certification has decided to amend the period of notice that we give to ACS Candidates, informing them that their ACS Certificates are due up for renewal (for participating Centre's). We are to increase the notification period from approximately 3 month to 7 months, to allow Candidates to consider making use of the MOT Style Certification process. This is where Candidates can attend an ACS Centre for Re-assessment Assessment and claim any outstanding time from previous Certification up to a maximum of six months (NB. The ACS scheme rules state that any Candidate with more than 6 months credit on a Certificate will lose all their credit and have their Certificates dated 5 years from the date of the actual new Re-Assessment date).

## An Introduction to an NICEIC Team member.

David Durcan, NICEIC Certification, Certification Administration Assistant.



### **When did you join NICEIC Certification?**

I joined in September 2004 when NICEIC Certification was acquired from Zurich Insurance.

### **Who were your previous employers?**

I started my career in personnel certification at IGAS in 1999 before moving to Lifestyle Training Consultants in 2000, from there I moved to Zurich Certification in 2003.

**What are the best things about working for NICEIC Certification?**

Apart from the salary and benefits, I have to say the people, there are a lot of great people who are passionate about what they do. It's been a great place for me to learn and progress - making it much easier to get up in the morning.

**What do you think that you bring to the role?**

I bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role having worked in training, assessment and certification environments for the past 15 years. I understand the needs of the training centres and that of the candidate – I just wish candidates would take advantage of the MOT style certificate when renewing their certification, saving loss of time for candidates and reducing last minute issues.

**What training have you received since joining NICEIC Certification? What skills have you developed during your time here?**

I have received a lot of on the job coaching while at the company including on-going ACE Training (Customer Experience) and customer service courses. At present I am completing an ILM Level 3 in Leadership and Management course.

**Tell us about your home life and Interests?**

I live in Chesterfield, Derbyshire. I love my football and play for several local teams. I am a huge Manchester United fan. I have taken part in several charity runs from the Great North Run, Great Yorkshire Run and local 10k runs.