

Cert News

NICEIC Certification

Centre News & Information

Issue 4

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

NICEIC Certification Focus Group.

The NICEIC Certification Focus Group met on the 3rd March at Warwick House where general discussion took place with regards to NICEIC Certification current products and services.

Representatives from IGEM, Julie Adcock - Business Development Officer and Peter Hurst - Technical Officer attended the meeting and added their input to discussions. In addition, a new Certsure team member, Chris Long (an introduction to Chris is provided later in this update) was in attendance to introduce himself to those present at the Focus Group.

The specific topics discussed within the Focus Group meeting were:

The 2015 NICEIC Certification Forum meeting, it was agreed that a number of specific sessions would be arranged at several geographical locations, to discuss such items as the Standards of Training document developments, Group Competence Scheme, On Site Guides and ACS up-dates plus NICEIC Certification package developments.

IGEM "Train the Trainer" sessions becoming available, for a Trainer to maintain and up-date their CPD, based upon Technical Standard up-dates, plus an offer to our Centres to join various IGEM committees looking at issues within the downstream gas sector.

A perceived reduction in the numbers of ACS Candidates presenting themselves for Assessment being less than we would have expected at this point in the 5 year cycle.

The possible addition of a new medium to large Centre's representative joining the Focus Group.

The next meeting is scheduled for the 20th May 2015, 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.

NICEIC Domestic and Non-Domestic Guides up-date.

The new Domestic (Version 4) and Non-Domestic (Version 5) On Site Guides are now in stock for 2015 and available for ordering by emailing your purchase orders to lainey.waddoups@niceic.com.

A Centre Manager email was sent out by Lainey in January with a “Change Summary” attached for both the guides. This summary gave you section-by-section detail of the changes and edits we have made from the previous Domestic (Version 3) and Non-domestic (Version 4) equivalents.

The objective of the “part sectional rewrites and edits” were many fold and included corrections to technical text, diagrams, standard references and removal of what we felt was out-of-date or non-relevant information. There was also an intention to re-arrange text within some sections to aid the flow of the subject matter and enhance existing information. We think the author has achieved these objectives while keeping the language “engineer friendly” for an audience with a wide range of abilities in relation to the downstream gas industry including new starters and already experienced engineers.

There is also a new foreword, kindly supplied by IGEM who we would like to thank for all their input and support during the review period. As always our stakeholders have had a great input into the production of the guides and a special mention must go to our “NICEIC Certification Approved Centre Network” for continually providing invaluable feedback that allows for future enhancements.

As always standards change and we are already looking at the new introductions such as IGEM/UP/10 (Late 2014), BS 7967 (Early 2015) and others in order we remain current and authentic for the next “Version 5 & 6” issue of the guides.

NICEIC Certification Pocket Guide up-date.

A review of the current range of pocket guides – six in total – and the technical information they contained has been undertaken, with a view to ensure consistency of approach in house style & brand, as well as technical accuracy of the information presented.

The review process see’s changes being applied to the pocket guides as described below:

PGG1 *Guide to positioning of electronic combustion analyser probes to comply with BS 7967*



February 2015 saw the introduction of a revised BS 7967, which has combined the previous four parts (Parts 1 to 4) of the standard into a single document.

Part 5 that deals with non-domestic installations remains current and a separate part of BS 7967.

The review identified minor changes to the technical content of the guide however, the table for CO/CO₂ action levels see the addition of values for appliances that contain air/gas ratio valve technology.

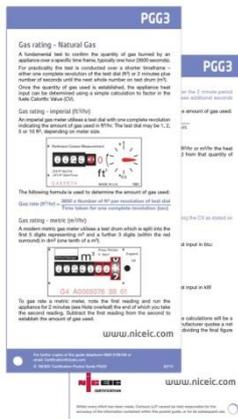
Additionally, Anton’s branding plus a drawing of Sprint analyser that appeared on the original guide has been omitted from the reprinted guides.

PGG2 Tightness testing natural gas installations with a maximum installation volume of 0.035m³

No technical change to this pocket guide, but the style has been updated to reflect current house style, which includes updated branding and contact details.



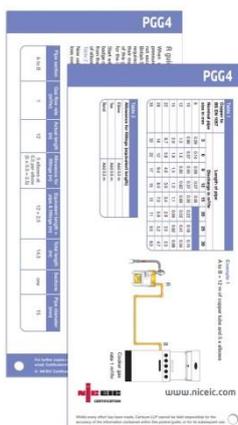
PGG3 Gas rating – Natural gas



The original pocket guide was light on information, only providing the formulas for imperial & metric meters with conversion factors on the reverse.

The information therefore, has been overhauled to provide a more user-friendly guide with additional detail on gas rating of metric & imperial meters to include heat input and Calorific Value (CV) together with supporting illustrations.

PGG4 A guide to domestic pipe sizing

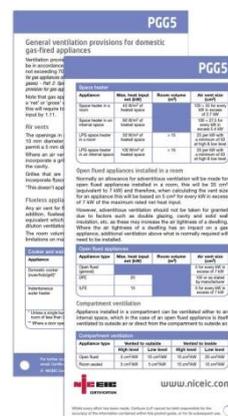


The information is still relevant and required only minor editing to improve the ease of understanding and navigation.

To this end and in line with the general improvements of ensuring correctly applied house style, the tables and supporting illustration have been updated.

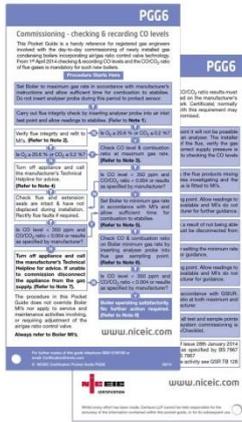
PGG5 General ventilation provisions for domestic gas-fired appliances

The information contained in the original remains current however, this was light on detail and its structure haphazard.



Therefore, the pocket guide has been overhauled and reformatted to both reflect a consistent house style and to provide a logical sequence when discussing ventilation provisions for flueless, open flued and room sealed domestic gas-fired appliances (i.e. appliances not exceeding 70 kW net).

PGG6 Commissioning – checking & recording CO levels



The latest addition to NICEIC Certification’s range of pocket guides: this handy reference provides an easy to follow flowchart with supporting information on the commissioning of newly installed condensing boilers that incorporate air/gas ratio valve technology and in particular, the mandatory requirement of checking and recording both CO levels and CO/CO₂ ratios.

Industry (through Gas Safe Register) has made this requirement mandatory from the 1st April 2014.

It is important to note that the information supplements manufacturer’s instructions, which always take precedence and must be followed at all times.

NICEIC Certification’s Pocket Guides are in the process of being reprinted – to get your copies, contact NICEIC Certification on 0800 519 5190 or email: certification@niceic.com

ACS Criteria Up-dates April (04/15):

It is that time of year again when we have to apply our new criteria changes and implement the updated versions of our assessment processes and/or documentation. Centres must ensure that the new 04/15 criteria discs supplied are reviewed and implemented by the approved centre no later than the 1st April 2015. Please remember to “securely” destroy all “out-of-version-date” provisions, documentation and most importantly encourage all approved coordination, assessment and verification staff to participate in CPD sessions to achieve a smooth transition.

“Read Me First” will give you a more detailed insight to the changes but the following list is a high level non-exhaustive summary over the whole range of assessments:

1. Application forms have been re-worded relating to candidate declaring not to participate in any fraudulent test-taking activities
2. Updated security and fraud prevention information in assessors guidance
3. Specific rationales have been re-mapped against new 2015 NICEIC Certification’s OSGs
4. Specific rationales have been re-mapped against IGEM/UP/2 Edition 3
5. References to the old IGEM/UP/2 Edition 2 have been edited where found
6. All True/False questions throughout the suite of domestic, non-domestic and LPG theory papers have been replaced with multi-choice equivalents

7. Specific existing questions have been edited for technical correctness
8. The scope of CMA2 LS has driven criteria changes to assessment and theory papers
9. The LPG suite of assessments has new questions on LPG vessel(s) Inspection
10. Numerous documents have undergone editing to accommodate the changes and subsequently are governed by a new version control.

Once again, NICEIC Certification would like to thank our approved centre network for the valuable feedback we receive in keeping processes current and correct.

NICEIC Certification Portfolio Up-date.

Currently NICEIC Certification are in the final stages of the development and Summit Skills approval of our Bio-mass Package which will cover all the latest NOS for the Technology, due to unforeseen staffing issues within Summit Skills the mapping process has taken longer than originally anticipated.

Electric Resistive Heating – this package is under development with an expected delivery date of the 3rd quarter of 2015.

Ventilation – this package is currently being trialled, for rollout towards the end of May 2015.t.

Splitting up the original Ground & Air Source Heat Pump package in to two separate packages – currently the Assessments are with Summit Skills for mapping to the NOS for the Technology. The main issue creating the delay is due to discussions between Summit Skills and the MCS Steering group to arrive at an agreement on the content of the NOS/QCF, for each separate technologies.

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.

Group Competence Scheme (GCS) Up-date.

As you are all aware the Group Competence Scheme (GCS) Pilot commenced on the 1st July 2013 and NICEIC Certification are one of only three Certification Bodies taking part in the Pilot. The GCS is an EU Skills owned scheme, which has been driven both by EU Skills and large business, from its original conception.

NICEIC Certification are the front runners within the Pilot and have now completed both the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Technical and Systems audits operating to the International Standard ISO/IEC 17021 “Conformity Assessment – requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems”. All these audits have been carried out under the watchful eye of UKAS, who are acting as Scheme and Technical appraisers.

A number of Improvement actions were issued to NICEIC Certification by UKAS. It is expected that once these issues have been suitably addressed that UKAS will then prepare a report on their overall findings of the Scheme for the HSE to review as part of their deliberations on whether the GCS is fit for purpose and as such will receive its approval and UKAS Accreditation.

Again we will keep you up-dated on any developments within the GCS as the Pilot continues to be rolled out and a more in-depth overview of the GCS and its detail will be presented at the Forum meetings planned for 2015.

General News.

Ian Haigh Retirement

Ian Haigh, who has been a member of the NICEIC Certification Team for over 15 years, is due to retire from his post on 3rd April 2015. I am sure that you will join us in thanking Ian for his valued contribution over this period and in wishing him all the very best for his future.

Certification Charges

An email was issued by Lainey back in February explaining that due to a rise in operating costs and in order that NICEIC Certification can provide the service at the standards our customers demand, whilst supporting all aspects of our Approved Centres Certification activities at no extra charge, we will be applying a small increase in the following Certification fees from the 1st April 2015:

Gas Certification (Initial & Re-Assessment) + £2

Oil Certification + £2

Unvented Hot Water Certification + £3

Water Regulations Certification + £3

Energy Efficiency Certification + £2

We hope that you and your business will appreciate our justification for this increase, which we have kept to the very minimum possible.

A new amended fee sheet is available and has been circulated by Lainey.

An Introduction to NICEIC Certification Team member; Christopher Long, Technical Engineer



When did you join NICEIC Certification?

12th August 2014

Who were your previous employers?

I started my career as an apprentice (3 years) and gas engineer (8 years) with British Gas installing and maintaining a varied array of domestic gas appliances, before joining CORGI's technical team in 2000 to provide technical support to registered gas engineers.

In 2004, I made a sideways move to the publications team (CORGI Direct) where I held several positions including Technical Editor and Manager of a small team of gas professionals producing technical publications for gas engineers and allied trades.

What are the best things about working for NICEIC Certification?

Working within a forward facing organisation that is committed to its customers' current and future needs, and which values its employees.

What do you bring to the roll?

I bring a wealth of diverse experience within the gas and publishing industries – highlights include City & Guilds 662, up-to-date domestic ACS, D32/33 as it was then, NVQ Level 3 Management and strong skills in Desk Top Publishing (Quark, InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator) allowing me to maintain the already high standards of NICEIC Certification's technical material, as well as to explore and ultimately produce new technical publications for its many customers.

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

I've only been with the company for six months, so training has been limited to in-house corporate training days. However, those first six months has seen my time split between the electrical and gas sectors, and in the case of electrical, assisting the publications team in implementing the wide ranging changes to multiple publications brought about by Amendment 3 to BS 7671.

Tell us about your home life and interests.

I live in Basingstoke, Hampshire with my wife Sarah. I'm an avid gym goer (an endless battle to keep the weight off) which sees me puffing away like an asthmatic hamster 4-days a week.

Outside of fitness, I'm a motorbike nut (currently running a Z1000) which as well as my everyday transport sees me spectating at various race meetings around the country.

Other interests include console games (PlayStation), rugby, films and eating out.