

Cert News

NICEIC Certification

Centre News & Information

Issue 6

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

NICEIC Certification Focus Group.

Due to a lack of members, it has been decided that the NICEIC Certification Focus Group would be shelved and instead of these meetings NICEIC Certification will conduct a series of Webinars to enable us to up-date all our Centres on any topical issues.

NICEIC Domestic and Non-Domestic Guides up-date.

Publication update – March 2016

The NICEIC publications team to which Chris Long is attached has seen the recent retirement of a valuable colleague, Susan Heybourne*, with her replacement not due to start till 19th April 2016.

**Susan was responsible for the production of all technical material – forms, manuals, training guides, periodicals, etc. – for NICEIC from the work generated by the electrical authoring team.*

IGEM meeting

Addressing a point raised in February 2016 update, Chris Long and Paul Collins met with IGEM on 10th March 2016. Amongst the issues discussed was the draft update to the Domestic Gas Safety “On Site Guide”, in particular the work undertaken by Chris to address IGEM concerns on some standard wording.

Chris also highlighted the areas of the guide he has worked on thus far, to address recent standard changes - primarily BS 6891: 2015. Peter Hurst on behalf of IGEM was satisfied with the current progress made and looked forward to commenting on further draft changes in the not too distant future.

ACS Criteria Up-dates April 2016:

The April 2016 criteria up-date impacted on the following areas of the NICEIC suite of assessments:

BS EN ISO 10239 – 2014:

This standard relates to “Small Craft” LPG systems and replaces BS EN ISO 10239 – 2008. The manufacturer’s folder on the 04/16 disk issue contains ISU 052 which explains the key areas of change for the new standard. The key change areas for our centres delivering the assessments are:

- Requirements for installation of means to test the LPG system for leakage (e.g. bubble leak tester/pressure gauge)
- Operation and positioning of pressure regulation devices for cylinders
- Over pressure protection
- Wall thickness requirements for solid drawn copper/stainless steel pipework, also range diameter changed 4mm to 22mm
- Requirements for pipework when in direct contact with metallic parts of the craft structure
- Cooking appliance restrictions when used with integral LPG cartridges

The documentation impact is mainly within CCLP1 OB11 & CoNGLP1 OB6 (Boats). There are aligned ACL edits to reflect these changes. Centres are advised to use ISU 052 along with the “Read Me First” word document on the disk to deliver CPD sessions with all relevant centre practitioners within the scheme.

Gas Industry Unsafe Situations Procedure (GIUSP) – 7.1

In the 01/16 criteria updates we introduced the requirements of the GIUSP Edition 7. This procedure underwent further revision during NICEIC Certification editing the proposed 01/16 criteria disk. For this reason we have included the Edition 7.1 changes for April.

To help centres deliver their CPD to scheme practitioners, we have included the recently issued ISU 063 within the manufacturer’s folder on the disk and again this should be used in conjunction with the “Read Me First” word document.

The Edition 7.1 amendments are minor in technical K&U but impact in relation to terminology and referencing on most of the domestic, non-domestic, LPG and ESP criteria disks.

NICEIC Certification Training & Assessment Portfolio Up-date

Electrics for Gas Engineers

NICEIC Certification are nearing the development completion of our new “Electrics for Gas Engineers” training and assessment programme. This training and assessment programme is intended for engineers who maintain gas appliances & control systems and wish to further their knowledge, understanding and application, related to safely testing, diagnosing faults, and exchanging controls & components. The target date for availability is May 2016.

engineers wishing to gain the basic knowledge and understanding of electrical circuits and systems. This includes safely isolating equipment prior to doing any work. It is estimated that this will be for “1 day” duration.

Modules 2 and 4 concentrate on understanding the appliances, systems, controls and components, to include fault diagnostics, repair and replacement. It is estimated that this will be “1 day” duration for experienced learners and “2 days” for learners who have not had any experience on electrical equipment associated with gas appliances and systems. Modules 2 and 4 can be taken over 2 days or split into two 1 day blocks for the latter inexperienced customer’s convenience.

There will also be a set of guidance documents for providers and application documents for certification based on modular attainment.

For more details contact Lainey Waddoups via her email lainey.waddoups@niceic.com

NICEIC Certification Assessment Portfolio Up-date.

John Findlay of NICEIC Certification has just completed the development of the Elementary Gas Certificate for Meter Installers, this is Managed Learning Programme (MLP). This has been built in association with EU Skills and will be used to trial the “Approval Process” in accordance with the Standards of Training document IGEM/IG/1 joint publication from EU Skills and IGEM. The Package has three streams within it

- CMA1 pathway covers the core criteria for installation of meters in the non-domestic and domestic premises, which is to be completed over a period of 280 learning hours.
- CMA3 pathway covers core criteria for installation of meters in the domestic premises, which is to be completed over a period of 230 learning hours.
- CMA2LS pathway covers the core criteria for installation of meters in the domestic premises which are not to be connected to the internal supply, which is to be completed over a period of 105 learning hours.

Successful completion will lead to the relevant “Elementary Gas Certificate” which gives the individual Category 1 status within the ACS scheme, which allows them to apply for assessment within the meter category for that status;

- CMA1 + MET1/MET4
- CMA3 + MET1

During this trial period we are looking for a number of our centres to get involved in a trial, there is still some work to be completed on reaching settlement with EU Skills on the service level agreement but hopefully the process end is in sight.

To apply to become part of the trial contact Lainey Waddoups via her email lainey.waddoups@niceic.com

Just a reminder that our new Domestic Ventilation package has been approved by Summit Skills and is now available for issue to Centres, via the usual Scope Extension Form.

New Building Regulations and Standards has forced air tight housing which has in turn driven a requirement for controlled ventilation systems. If these systems are installed correctly they reduce energy consumption and produce very healthy environment but if these systems are not installed correctly they reduce energy consumption but lead to a very poor unhealthy environment and Builders are concerned about the poor installation practices and the associated problems.

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 we will feedback to you.

Group Competence Scheme (GCS) Up-date.

NICEIC Certification is still the only Certification Body accredited to Certificate the Group Competence Scheme (GCS). To date NICEIC have just the one GCS customer, a small number of businesses have shown interest in the Scheme but as yet only one has applied to E & U Skills for GCS membership and is currently awaiting Audit.

If you would like more information on GCS please contact lan.crockett@niceic.com and Ian would be happy to run through GCS with you.

GCS background information:

GCS is one of a number of routes that a Gas operative can prove their Competence with ACS and the aligned NVQ/SVQ being the others. UKAS have continually stressed that none of the three routes will be less onerous and ALL will have to cover the same Matters of Gas Safety (MoGS) for the scope of qualification.

E&U Skills "own the GCS", membership is chargeable to the business dependent upon the number of the operatives on the scheme this charge will incorporate a sliding scale of charges, based upon a charge of £50 per Engineer.

The business will have to engage the services of a GCS certification body Certified to EN 17021 to audit and certificate the business, plus download the individual engineer qualifications to GSR

GCS is for "Re-Assessment only", any extension of the Engineers scope will be via initial ACS, within a EN 17024 (Personnel Certification) assessment centre. GCS places the responsibility of "Gas Safety" on the employer, it's the "Business" who will be deeming their engineer competent for their scope of membership and then issuing a relevant certificate of competence.

It's the businesses responsibility to develop an audit/assessment process, procedures and documentation that will cover the Scope of the Business's GCS registration (practical plus knowledge & understanding). The audit/assessment process will be based upon the scope of work the business

undertakes within the GCS and the audit process may cover the complete Gas operation of the business or be limited to specific areas and scope (those only covered within the business GCS membership). Any criteria that it is not possible to cover on the district can be covered within a Third Party or the business's Training & Assessment Centre.

The GCS is a continuous 5 year process for the Engineer and not just a snap shot in time and once successful the business' GCS Certification will be for three years. Surveillance visits will normally be annually for which the duration and complexity will be dependent upon the size of the business's GCS Certification. The certification bodies audit regime will have to be robust enough to satisfy the requirements of EN 17021 and the GCS Scheme Documents. UKAS will audit the certification body to ensure both compliance with the standard and scheme are maintained.

An Introduction to NICEIC Team member;

Paul Cullen, Business Development Manager



When did you join NICEIC?

January 11th 2014

Who were your previous employers?

I spent 8 years with BPEC who are an awarding and certification body working in the Plumbing, Heating and Renewables Sector

What qualities do you bring to the roll?

Hopefully a good knowledge of the sector and most importantly an empathy and understanding of the needs of our customers; college and training centre owners, employees and the installers who are their customers.

What qualities do you bring to your new role?

I would like to think the ability to listen and a focus on providing strong customer service

What skills have you developed during your career?

I think probably the most important is the skill to interpret policy from organisations such as government departments, sector skills councils, trade bodies etc. In order to explain such policies and implications to our customers as clearly as possible

Tell us about your home life and any interests.

I am married and have two daughters, when they allow me to, I am a passionate Football (Everton) and Cricket (Lancashire CCC) Supporter. I am also a keen gardener and as a family we enjoying walking particularly in the Peak District and we are also members of The National Trust.