

CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL OF DOMESTIC GAS APPLIANCES

I SCOPE

1. An importer or a local manufacturer wishing to supply a new model of domestic gas appliance in Hong Kong shall apply to the Gas Authority for approval.

2. Approval by the Gas Authority which is valid for a period of 5 years and may be renewed (Section III-5), applies to:

- (a) domestic gas appliances which are fixed installations in premises designed for indoor application; and
- (b) portable cassette cookers of table-top type design fuelled by small disposable gas cylinders.

Gas appliances having heat inputs exceeding 70KW, or designed exclusively for outdoor applications are not included.

3. The approval does not derogate the responsibilities of the Applicants from fully complying with all other current, relevant codes of practice, approval requirements, and statutory requirements of other government departments, bodies, etc. under the Laws of Hong Kong.

II PRE-APPROVAL CONDITIONS

The Applicant shall submit documentation to confirm the following requirements for domestic gas appliances are complied with.

1 Manufacturers' Production Process Quality Certification

Manufacturers' production processes shall incorporate quality systems certified¹ or assessed² to recognised international or national standards, (for example ISO 9000), by an organisation recognised by the Gas Authority to ensure:-

- (a) quality of components and materials supplied by sub-contractors which are critical to the safe operation of an appliance;
- (b) quality at each stage in production and assembly processes; and
- (c) quality of finished products.

Note 1: In the case of certification, an independent organisation which is either empowered for example under law or decree, or accredited by an overseas authority to certify manufacturing process in accordance with international or national standards (e.g. ISO 9000).

Note 2: In the case of assessment, an independent organisation recognised by Commissioner of Innovation and Technology, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

2 Product Safety Standard

A domestic gas appliance shall be manufactured in accordance with recognised international or national standards (for example EN, JIA) and shall:-

- (a) incorporate automatic ignition;
- (b) incorporate a means of flame failure protection for each burner;
- (c) in the case of an air heater³, incorporate an oxygen deficiency device; and
- (d) in the case of a room-sealed heater, incorporate an overheat protection device.

Note 3: To include clothes dryer not connected to a flue and natural draught room heater for example.

3 Certification of Type-test Approval

Initial type-test certification for each model⁴ of gas appliance issued by a recognised certification authority (RCA) confirms that:-

- (a) the model has successfully completed tests in accordance with recognised international or national gas appliance safety standards (for example EN, JIA, etc.); and
- (b) the model is suitable for particular gas type(s) distributed in Hong Kong,

Note 4: Where a domestic gas appliance is manufactured having a number of model descriptions, because of one or more cosmetic (i.e. not functional) variations, one type-test certificate suitably endorsed by the RCA to include other model descriptions will be acceptable. In such circumstances, appliances listed on the RCA certificate may be submitted as a single application to the Gas Authority for approval.

4 Product Surveillance

The manufacturer shall enter into a formal agreement with an RCA to undertake programmed surveillance of production quality systems. The Applicant shall be responsible for ensuring that only models of appliance which are subject to quality surveillance by an RCA are supplied by his/her organisation.

5 Basic Safety Assessment

A Basic Safety Assessment Certificate issued by a HOKLAS laboratory shall be provided. Outlines of basic safety assessment are shown in Code of Practice GU05.

6 Supply of Appliance Spare Parts

The Applicant shall undertake to supply functional⁵ spare parts for a domestic gas appliance in agreement with manufacturers for the following minimum periods:-

portable hot-plate.....	5 years (from date of approval)
cooking appliance.....	10 years (from date of approval)
air heating appliance.....	10 years (from date of approval)
water heater.....	15 years (from date of approval)

Note 5: The term *functional* refers to those components which are essential for the safe operation of a gas appliance.

7 Other Requirements

7.1 Technical specification

Applicant shall provide technical information of specification for the submitted model including catalogues, construction drawings, etc.

7.2 Installation and servicing instructions

A domestic gas appliance shall be supplied by the manufacturer with installation and servicing instructions approved by the RCA responsible for initial type testing. Installation and servicing instructions shall be printed in Chinese language⁶.

Note 6: Diagrams/drawings may include some technical terms in the English language where such terms are commonly used and applied by registered gas installers. However, all instructions relating to safety of installation must be written in the Chinese language.

7.3 User instructions

A domestic gas appliance shall be supplied by the manufacturer with a document advising the user on how to operate and maintain it safely (regulation 26 of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations Cap. 51). Essential safety information shall be printed in both Chinese and English languages.

7.4 Labelling of domestic gas appliances

A domestic gas appliance shall be supplied by the manufacturer displaying data labels containing information stipulated in respective international or national standards under which the appliance was originally approved by an RCA. In addition, any warning labels having regard to user safety shall be durable, legible and clearly printed in Chinese and English languages.

III POST-APPROVAL CONDITIONS

Upon granting of initial approval, the importer/local manufacturer shall comply with the following post-approval conditions.

1 Certification of Compliance

Each batch of appliances received shall be accompanied by a certificate of compliance, prepared by the manufacturer. This shall confirm:-

- (a) the batch of appliances has been produced in compliance with the original international or national standard declared in the RCA initial

type-test certification; and
(b) the location of manufacture.
Importer or local manufacturer shall keep full records of certificates of compliance for inspection at the request of the Gas Authority.

2 GU Mark

Having gained approval, the importer / local manufacturer shall arrange to display a mark (GU Mark) on the approved model for use in Hong Kong in the manner specified under the Gas Safety (Miscellaneous) Regulations. In addition, importers, manufacturers and suppliers shall ensure that the mark is used for related purposes only, for example packaging, advertisements and sale promotions in Hong Kong in accordance with the Gas Safety (Miscellaneous) Regulations.

3 Packaging

Domestic gas appliances shall be supplied by manufacturers in packaging which affords maximum protection having due regard to market conditions in Hong Kong. Appliances shall be packed in containers displaying outer markings printed in either Chinese or English language.

4 Quality Assurance

4.1 Importers are required to satisfy themselves concerning continued quality of approved appliances they market in Hong Kong. Where a domestic gas appliance fails to comply with quality requirements which relate to safety, this must be reported to the Gas Authority without delay and may result in suspension of appliance approval pending correction of any variance in production quality or withdrawal of appliance approval.

4.2 The importer (or local manufacturer) shall arrange for a HOKLAS laboratory to select and undertake periodic inspection of a sample of each model of gas appliance⁷ taken from a current batch. The frequency of inspection of a particular model shall be assessed by the importer (or local manufacturer) having regard to the manufacturer's past and current quality performance. Where the importer (or local manufacturer) has a high level of confidence based upon the manufacturer's proven quality performance then the interval between inspections should not exceed 12 months unless there is no shipment received within that 12-month period.

Note 7: Where a domestic gas appliance is manufactured having a number of model descriptions, because of one or more cosmetic (i.e. not functional) variations, one local quality inspection certificate suitably endorsed to include other related model descriptions may be submitted to the Gas Authority.

5 Renewal of Approval

5.1 If the importer/local manufacturer intends to continue importing (or manufacturing) the gas appliance after the expiry of the initial 5-year type-approval, he/she shall submit the following documents to the Gas Authority at least three months before the lapse of initial type-approval:-

- (a) a revalidation certificate prepared by an RCA confirming:
 - (i) formal surveillance of the manufacturer's quality systems during the specified period has been, and is still being, carried out; and
 - (ii) that the model(s) of appliance in question continue to comply with the international or national standard(s) declared in initial type-test certification,
- (b) satisfactory inspection reports prepared by HOKLAS laboratories as evidence of local quality assurance in accordance with Section III-4.2.

5.2 Failure to obtain renewal of approval shall result in an appliance model being prohibited from further importation to or manufacture in Hong Kong.

IV GLOSSARY

Applicant means a person who applies for type approval of a model of domestic gas appliance from the Gas Authority with an intention to import or manufacture in Hong Kong such model for use in Hong Kong. Applicant therefore refers to an importer or a local manufacturer registered for business in Hong Kong.

Approval means permission granted by the Gas Authority to an Applicant to:

- (a) import; or
 - (b) manufacture in Hong Kong
- for use in Hong Kong models of domestic gas appliances for a period of 5 years.

Basic Safety Assessment Certificate means a certificate issued by a HOKLAS laboratory in Hong Kong to certify a domestic gas appliance complies with the basic safety assessment.

Domestic Gas Appliance means a gas appliance which *burns* gas types defined in Section 2 of the Gas Safety Ordinance Cap. 51 to provide lighting, heating or cooling and, which is designed, or intended to be used primarily in domestic premises, irrespective of whether it is so used (*regulation 2 of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations Cap. 51*).

Flame Failure Protection means an integral control device responsive to flame properties which by means of detecting the presence of a nominated flame will cause the gas supply to the appliance burner(s) to shut off safely in the event of ignition failure or inadvertent flame extinction.

Gas Authority means the Gas Standards Office (**GasSO**), Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, on behalf of the Gas Authority appointed under Section 5 of the Gas Safety Ordinance Cap. 51.

GU Mark means the mark specified in the Gas Safety (Miscellaneous) Regulations.

HOKLAS means the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme under the charge of the Commissioner of Innovation and Technology on behalf of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Importer means a person who engages in the business of importation of domestic gas appliances for use in Hong Kong.

International/National Standards means standards for gas appliance design, construction and safety performance issued by recognised certification authorities such as:

- Australian Gas Association (AGA) – AS standard;
- European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) – EN standard;
- Japan Gas Appliances Inspection Association (JIA) – JIA standard;
- State Administration of the PRC for Quality Supervision and Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) – GB standard.

Overheat Protection means a non-adjustable temperature actuated device designed to protect an appliance and its surroundings in the event of failure of the normal means of temperature control.

Recognised Certification Authority (RCA) means an independent organisation recognised by the Gas Authority which is empowered under law or decree, (e.g. notified body appointed by the Commission of European Communities), to certify that the a gas appliance is designed and produced in compliance with international or national safety standards.

Revalidation Certificate means a certificate issued by a Recognised Certification Authority to confirm continued compliance with standard(s) quoted in the original type test certificate.

Type-test Certification means a certificate issued by a Recognised Certification Authority to certify a domestic gas appliance complies with a relevant international/ national safety standard(s).

V DOCUMENTATION

Reference to the Code of Practice GU05 should be made for supplementary information on documentation required in the conditions of approval.