



July 2015

Welcome to Gasline, which is produced by Gas New Zealand.

Gasline is published regularly as part of the industry's efforts to encourage the direct use of natural gas and LPG into households and small businesses.

Using natural gas and LPG as a direct energy source offers numerous cost, environmental and energy efficiency benefits. Gas New Zealand hopes to educate consumers and policy makers about the many advantages of making wider use of this strategic energy asset.

Sales trends rising for ENERGY STAR products

The sales trend is looking up for products donning the ENERGY STAR label, says EECA Efficient Products Manager, Eddie Thompson.

Eddie says manufacturers are seeing increased sales of products since they have had the ENERGY STAR label, and this is likely due to the high awareness of the brand and it's meaning among consumers.

"ENERGY STAR is recognised by almost 80% of consumers, which is an impressive proportion," he says.

"We're looking into creating metrics for manufacturers to gain hard data around sales conversions of ENERGY STAR products, but I can say that the positive trend is certainly present."

ENERGY STAR is awarded to qualified products and appliances with superior energy efficiency, however the scheme is voluntary – manufacturers must sign up to be eligible.

"If a manufacturer has products which meet the specifications, it's a case of asking themselves, 'why wouldn't I join ENERGY STAR?'" says Eddie.

"It's completely free, has high awareness amongst consumers, and helps differentiate their product from the market.

"It really is a strong selling tool, because it proves tangible benefits for consumers."

The ENERGY STAR programme adopted specifications for gas heaters in 2013, and ducted gas in March this year.

Eddie says the top 25 percent of models in the market qualify for ENERGY STAR. Gas heaters need to be at least 79 percent efficient to meet the specifications, and ducted gas must be at least 90 percent efficient.

ENERGY STAR labels mean consumers can immediately recognise which models are at the top of the market in terms of efficiency. The mandatory energy ratings labels serve more as a comparison between models, Eddie says.

"For example, the highest star rating for a fridge is four-and-a-half [out of six] stars, so a consumer might see a three-star fridge and deem it to be inefficient.

"However, if it has an ENERGY STAR label, they'll realise it's actually in that top 25% of models."

ENERGY STAR is New Zealand's only independent, government backed, mark of superior energy efficiency.



NZ gas industry regulation and safety regimes of interest to overseas players

Gas industry stakeholders across the world are increasingly interested in the New Zealand gas industry's regulatory and safety framework.

LPGA Executive Director Peter Gilbert recently presented at the European LPG Association (AEGPL) Congress in Berlin, and received positive feedback about the industry's state of play.

The congress organisers asked Peter to present in Berlin following his address at the Dubai Middle East LP Gas Summit in May.

At both conferences, Peter spoke about how the New Zealand LPG industry handles safety, including the industry's regulatory system, technology standards and safety outcomes.

Peter believes other countries are interested in New Zealand's industry because of its efficiency and effectiveness.

At the AEGPL congress, Peter was part of the panel of experts speaking on 'The Good Practices'. Discussion was focused around how operational and technical excellence is key for the LPG industry in order to provide cost effective, high quality services and products.

Peter says he received many questions concerning the 2011 Christchurch earthquake and its effect on the LPG infrastructure.

Peter explained there was a review of what happened post-earthquake, and the industry was satisfied that the systems and practices in place meant that the LPG system proved very resilient. Peter says the congress was especially interesting in terms of the networking opportunities with candidates from a range of different countries.

"New Zealand's participation in such forums is important to gauge where our systems sit on the world gas industry stage, and assist us in maintaining a strong regulatory structure and high safety standards," he says.

"My attendance in Dubai and Berlin, and Nicolas Vessiot's attendance at the World Gas Conference in Paris, illustrate the importance of maintaining contact, engagement and information flow with overseas LP and natural gas industry players."



LPGA executive director Peter Gilbert speaking at the 2015 AEGPL Congress in Berlin



The trade exhibition at the AEGPL Congress in Berlin.



We are always looking for stories from both the natural gas and LPG worlds, as well as the wider gas community.

If you have any story ideas for Gasline please [email Daniel](mailto:info@lpga.org.nz)



In this issue

- [Sales trends rising for ENERGY STAR products](#)
- [NZ gas industry regulation and safety regimes of interest to overseas players](#)
- [World Gas Conference debates industry's future](#)
- [Plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers' registration and licensing requirements go under review](#)
- [Working in potentially explosive areas? Learn from the experts](#)

World Gas Conference debates industry's future

The role of natural gas could soon include providing storage for excess energy from renewable sources, says GANZ technical advisory group chair and Powerco gas asset strategy manager, Nicolas Vessiot.

Nicolas says the convergence between gas and electricity networks was a key talking point at the World Gas Conference, which he attended in Paris from June 1-5 as the sole New Zealand industry representative.

"Two or three years ago, natural gas was seen as a transition fuel until countries can run from one hundred percent renewable energy," Nicolas says.

"Now, we're talking about the possibility of using gas networks in a storage capacity for excess power produced by renewable sources."

"The conference debate was around how to store surplus energy when there isn't high demand, and put it into use when, for example, there's little sun or wind."

Nicolas says this scheme has been successfully trialed in other countries, and it is a "distinct possibility" that New Zealand could adopt it.

"Because we have a strong gas infrastructure, and a large amount of renewable energy, there's certainly a chance," he says.

"However, implementation would really depend on the country's overall energy policy – setting this up would be extremely capital intensive."

Nicolas says the conference helped him gauge New Zealand's place on the global natural gas industry map.

"It certainly showed just how small we are, but to me, it also proved some benefits – for example, we have the ability to carry out projects much easier than larger countries.

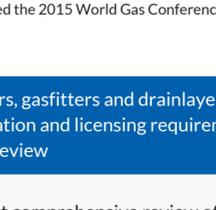
"We have replaced most of our less reliable cast iron pipes with polyethylene pipes nationwide – other countries still have many years left to go on the same project."

Nicolas says a potential future challenge for the NZ industry concerns the fact that we don't import or export natural gas.

"If we have big discoveries and start exporting in the liquid natural gas (LNG) form, as is predominant in other countries, the cost-benefit ratio for natural gas will change.

"It would likely trigger an increased price, which would be good for the collective New Zealand economy, but could hurt the end consumers' pockets."

Nicolas says he hopes to share his learnings from conference with the NZ industry at November's Gas Industry Forum.



Powerco gas asset strategy manager, Nicolas Vessiot, attended the 2015 World Gas Conference in Paris.

Plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers' registration and licensing requirements go under review

The first comprehensive review of registration and licensing requirements for plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers since 2010 is now underway.

The Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board (PGDB) are undertaking consultation on the review following feedback from stakeholders throughout the country.

"At our stakeholder meetings around New Zealand, tradespeople made many suggestions about how they think the registration and licensing requirements could be improved," says PGDB Chairman, Peter Jackson.

"This review raises many of those issues for discussion. This is the first of three consultation opportunities that will occur before the review is completed."

One consideration is whether there should be registration classes for people wanting to undertake just a limited range of plumbing, gasfitting or drainlaying work. For example, electricians who service appliances that also contain gas or plumbing components, who wish to undertake the plumbing or gasfitting aspects of the servicing.

The review also considers whether the tradesperson certifying examination should be a part of an NZQA Level 5 qualification, which would include educational support that is currently absent.

The consultation runs until 15 July, and the Board will then consider submissions and settle on options for further consultation on 8 December 2015.

Consultation about those options will run from 21 January to 17 March 2016, and the Board will draft proposed Gazette Notices for discussion with industry mid-2016.

If you wish to make a submission, [complete a form online](#), or email your comments to submissions@pgdb.co.nz by 15 July, 2015.

All information about the review and consultation is available on the [PGDB website](#).

Working in potentially explosive areas? Learn from the experts

If you have responsibility for an explosive or hazardous work area, you won't want to miss a 1-day seminar that will be held in Christchurch in September 2015.

Some of the world's top experts on the use of electrical equipment in hazardous areas – the IECEx committee – are meeting in Christchurch from 14 – 18 September 2015 and their skills and knowledge will be available at an open seminar.

Do you know what you don't know? will cover topics ranging from what the law requires of you, to how to save money and remain safe, to working safely with hazardous dust.

The seminar, organised by Standards New Zealand, will be invaluable for anyone who has responsibility for electrical equipment in industries such as oil and gas; paint; mining; electricity supply; processing; fire and protection; ports; milling; and so on.

The IECEx certification scheme enables New Zealand companies to buy equipment from a number of world-wide companies who supply through the scheme and know that it is compliant and safe, without the need to have the equipment retested in New Zealand.

New Zealand has no electrical equipment manufacturing capabilities so we rely heavily on the use of the IECEx certified equipment to comply with hazardous areas legislation. The scheme is an essential component of the New Zealand infrastructure in this area.

The seminar will take place at the Chateau on the Park hotel on Wednesday, 16 September 2015, between 10am and 5pm. The cost is \$495+GST per person but, if you register before 17 July, there is an early bird special rate of \$375+GST. The cost includes lunch.

There are sponsorships available for the seminar that include complimentary tickets for the day as well as tickets to the gala dinner on the same night.

To view the programme for the day, the sponsorships available, and to register, please go to the [Standards New Zealand website](#).