

Cert News

NICEIC Certification

Centre News & Information

Issue 5

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

NICEIC Certification Focus Group.

The NICEIC Certification Focus Group last met on the 20th May at Warwick House where general discussion took place covering the following topics:

The perceived reduction in general ACS Candidates within the current 5 year cycle, after general discussions with GSR representatives, GSR's view was that there was no cause for concern with the current number of ACS qualifications being downloaded.

At present Colleges don't have to charge 20% VAT, which puts the other independent Centres at a disadvantage as their prices then appear to be 20% higher. Unfortunately the view of the NICEIC Finance team was that the Colleges can achieve this if they have Charity status and therefore there was little that could be done in support of reducing or removing the VAT element.

The 2015 NICEIC Certification Forum meeting, it was discussed that a number of specific locations had been arranged in several geographical locations across the UK, where the ACS Criteria up-dates, Standards of Training document developments and Group Competence Scheme, plus NICEIC Certification package developments, would be addressed.

Due to falling numbers of Focus Group members it was agreed that an email to all centres would be sent out, giving the background to Focus Group and asking for further volunteers to join the current Group, hopefully to encourage between 4 to 6 new members. If anyone is interested in joining the Focus Group then please contact Lainey in the Certification Office, who will pass on your interest.

NICEIC Domestic and Non-Domestic Guides up-date.

Recent amendments/introductions to key Standards (IGEM/UP/10 Ed 4, IGEM/UP/19, BS 7967 2015,) and the 7th Edition of the Gas Industry Unsafe Situations Procedure (GIUSP) necessitated a

review of current technical information presented in both Domestic and Non-domestic Gas Safety On-Site-Guides.

The review has been conducted with Chris Long and John Findlay, which highlighted changes required to various Chapters in both sets of manuals, the Non-domestic see's the largest changes.

Non-domestic - amendments to:

- Chapter 3 (Unsafe Situations Procedure) amended to include information on the latest 7th Edition; the 1 year period of transition from the 6th to the 7th, removal of NCS classification, introduction of new label and amended form & updates to tables.
- Chapter 4 (Labels & Notices) amended to include System Design Verification Notices, update on GIUSP AR/ID labels and Warning Advice Notice including the latest addition of "Danger Do Not Use" label.
- Chapter 12 (Heating) includes widespread changes to flueing and ventilation to reflect the latest requirements of IGEM/UP/10 Ed 4 and the threshold being raised up to 20 MW.

Domestic - amends required to:

- Chapter 3 (Combustion and Combustion Performance Analysis) requires amending to reflect BS 7967 2015
- Chapter 8 (Unsafe Situations Procedure); as above for non-domestic
- Chapter 13 (Labels and Notices); as above for non-domestic
- Chapter 23 (Emergency Service Provider Operative and Meter Installer) - similar to Chapter 12 for non-domestic, general flueing and ventilation needs to be amended to reflect UP/10 Ed 4.

Work on both sets of On-site Guides is still on going.

The October 2015 and April 2016 ACS criteria changes have now been combined with a revised issue date of 1st January 2016. This will allow Chris to make all necessary OSG changes for November of this year in readiness for the new criteria.

Additionally, and with regards to GIUSP, Chris has drafted a revised Warning Notice that will replace the current 'CHWAN' and a new "Do Not Use" Label, both of which will be available during November/December 2015.

ACS Criteria Up-dates January 2016:

The ACS criteria updates are now scheduled for the 1st January 2016 which is a combined update of the October 2015 and the intended April 2016 issue. The October 2015 criteria changes although completed by NICEIC Certification in August were not issued as a result of various EUS working groups desire to bring the requirements of the new GIUSP Edition 7 and BS7967 2015 forward from the intended April 2016 issue.

The result of these talks, ratified by the EUS & SMB was to delay October criteria and bring next April's criteria forward. This decision was based on two key points:

1. The GIUSP Edition 7 was released after the EUS October criteria, which was issued to CB's in early July. CB's felt that the GIUSP needed to be included within the assessments earlier than April 2016 in support of the industry. Due to due process there would insufficient time to make changes for October. This would mean a second criteria issue in late 2015.
2. CB's felt that two criteria issues in the last quarter of 2015 would be very unfair on centres in relation to making the necessary changes. This generated discussion and a proposal was forwarded to the SMB for a combined update early January 2016.

The criteria changes will reflect the requirements of the following standards which have been amended recently:

1. IGEM/UP/19
2. IGEM/UP/10 Edition 4
3. GIUSP Edition 10
4. BS 7967 2015

NICEIC are committed to releasing these changes to our approved centres in early November so you have adequate time to make the necessary changes for implementation. Key areas for centres wishing to focus on in the meantime in relation to assessor CPD are as follows:

IGEM/UP/19

In conjunction with ISU's 049, 054 & 057 centres should ensure they have a copy of IGEM/UP/19 and familiarise assessors with the content. During May 2015, IGEM published a new guidance document IGEM/IG/2 – Engineer's Guide to relevant sections of IGEM/UP/19 in catering establishments, providing information for engineers on industry standard IGEM/UP/19 - *Design and application of interlock devices and associated systems used with gas appliance installations in commercial catering establishments*. IGEM/UP/19 was originally published in October 2014 and was subsequently amended during February 2015. IGEM/UP/19 was the subject of Industry Standards Update 049 published 16 October 2014, and the amendment was the subject of Industry Standards Update 054 published 27 February 2015. This new guidance document has been developed by IGEM, the Catering Equipment Suppliers Association (CESA) and the Catering Equipment Distributors Association (CEDA). This will impact on our non-domestic CCCN1 and ESP CESP1/CMA1 assessments.

IGEM/UP/10 Edition 4

In conjunction with ISU 050 centres should ensure they have a copy of IGEM/UP/10 Edition 4 and familiarise assessors with the content. Assessors should pay particular attention to the changes which are within sections 7 & 8 which mainly impact on assessments COCN1, ICAE1LS, CESP1 and CMA1.

GIUSP Edition 7

It is fair to say that the new GIUSP Edition 7 will impact on the majority of assessments. Assessors should make themselves familiar with the new document. Particular attention should be given to the two categories of "At Risk", the removal of the NCS classification and the July 2015 Registered Gas Engineer article on the changes.

BS 7967 2015

Centres should ensure they have a copy BS7967 2015 and familiarise assessors with the content. This British Standard supersedes BS 7967-1: 2005, BS 7967-2: 2005, BS 7967-3: 2005 and BS 7967-4: 2007, which are withdrawn. BS 7967-5, which covers the use of electronic portable combustion gas analysers in non-domestic premises, remains current.

NICEIC Certification Assessment Portfolio Up-date.

NICEIC Certification has recently obtained Summit Skills approval of our Biomass Package, Domestic Ventilation and Air Source Heat Pumps which covers all the latest NOS for the Technology.

The new Electric Heating package is based upon the fact that installers of electrical heating systems such as storage heaters, should be aware of the health and safety aspects and the legislation behind dry electric heating, as it is currently felt that installers of these systems do not receive any heating design input as part of their basic qualifications. This course is designed to update installers to enable them to fit appropriately sized heating equipment and refresh them on the legislation.

Also a new Domestic Ventilation package has currently been trialled and is now available for issue to Centres. 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.

The original Ground & Air Source Heat Pump package has now been split into two separate packages and the Assessments have been mapped and approved to the NOS for the Technology.

The Legionella Package was updated to reflect the changes in the HSE L8 standard; however we are looking to undertake a review of the legionella package. We hope to do this in association with a chemical manufacturer and another industry body, this may lead to some minor changes but we hope an improved overall package

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 has come to the end of the Group Competence Scheme (GCS) Pilot, gaining both EN 17021 ISO/IEC 17021:2011 (conformity assessment) requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems and UKAS approval to operate the E & U Skills GCS. Currently NICEIC Certification are the only Certification Body approved to operate the GCS.

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 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 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.

General News.

Changes to MCS Tariffs

NICEIC and ELECSA are urging installers to voice their concerns over Government plans to slash Feed in Tariff (FiT) rates for solar PV by up to 87%.

The cuts, due to be implemented in January 2016, would see FiT payments for new solar panels drop to less than 2p per unit of electricity. This means homeowners would receive up to, on average, £190 less in subsidy payments annually compared to current FIT rates.

NICEIC and ELECSA believe this reduction could have a significant impact on demand for solar PV and further consequences for those people working within the industry.

Whilst it has always been accepted that the tariff would need to be revised in line with falling installation costs, a proposed 87% reduction means homeowners would have to wait decades before they would see a viable return on investment.

This will have a dramatic effect on the market and could put thousands of jobs at risk.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has admitted they are unable to quantify how many business will be affected.

Come and meet us at the IGEM Gas Utilisation 2015 event?

NICEIC Certification will be attending the IGEM Gas Utilisation 2015 event, to be held at the National Motor Cycle Museum in Birmingham on the 21st October between 9.00 am and 4.40 pm.

It's a free conference dedicated to the gas utilisation industry, with essential updates to Gas Industry Unsafe Situations Procedure.

Speakers from HSE, Gas Safe, BSI and more.

Find out how you can boost your career,

Plus over 20 exhibitions featuring the latest products.

An Introduction to NICEIC Certification Team member;
Lainey Waddoups, Certification Co-ordinator



When did you join NICEIC Certification?

18th October 2004

Who were your previous employers?

Lifestyle Training Consultants and Zurich Certification

What are the best things about working for NICEIC Certification?

Definitely the people and the team spirit but also the tenacity of the team and how they pull together.

What do you bring to the roll?

I always think this question is always better asked of others working closely with me and never like to answer these types of questions in fear of sounding pretentious, I'm quite a modest sort of person.

I like to think I bring a number of years of administrative and customer service experience and hope our customers / associates feel they are able to rely on me and I am a reliable support mechanism to the rest of my team.

What training have you received since joining NICEIC Certification?

I have received a lot of various training and coaching through the years in the different roles I've taken in the form of in-house corporate training days but I have had several opportunities to develop myself by gaining academic qualifications in Business and Marketing and First Line Management. The group is very much committed to developing its staff and are always offering different opportunities. It all sounds very cliché but I honestly do believe that most of my training and my knowledge has been received from others I work with. When you are working with such a range of expertise, knowledge and personalities you learn from them and become inspired by them and their values.

What skills have you developed during your time here?

The role I do is diverse and I have attained different skills in various aspects of the business including customer service, marketing and finance which are continually enhancing my skills.

Tell us about your home life and interests.

My home life has changed considerably over the last 2-3 years since having my little one. As every other parent out there knows my time is no longer my own, my money is no longer my own and each day brings a new challenge with it but it has very much been for the better. I now know who I am as a person, who I'm meant to be and my purpose in life. My spare time is very much taken up by family activities and keeping my little offspring as happy as I possibly can but my interests include running and general fitness, horse riding, walking challenges, films, eating out, meeting up with girls for a few cheeky wines and a giggle and nights out watching and supporting local bands. I'm a bit of a rock chick at heart and love the whole music/festival scene.