

Dear All,

I am requesting RII02 establishes the need for GDNs to routinely test domestic gas appliances for leakages of CO as part of the FCO emergency call out procedure.

The procedure is simple, quick (typically 2 minutes per test), established and documented in BS7967 and already familiar to GSR engineers.

The procedure is also non-invasive and does not require a working knowledge of appliances other than how to test them, detailed within BS7967's sweep test procedure - Competent FCOs employed by GDNs are sufficiently able to understand & use this safety test.

The equipment needed is portable, already used by GDN first responders looking for gas leaks and easily upgradeable to include CO to meet EN50379, the performance standard referenced by BS7967.

I am CEO of Kane International which designs and makes portable flue gas analysers and ambient air test equipment for domestic and commercial registered gas engineers. We believe every fossil fuelled appliance should be tested as a matter of course, using approved equipment and guidance documents, and have spent the last 25 years campaigning to make this happen.

Very early on, it was obvious to us and to the victim support charity CO-GAS Safety on whose board of reference I sit, it was critical GDN FCOs use devices to measure appliance CO emissions and gas leaks.

CO is a deadly gas that cannot be sensed using any human sense, can kill or maim at less than 2% in air, and blood / breath tests on survivors are unreliable due to time elapse between poisoning & testing.

This means testing gas appliances is the only reliable way to know if inhabitants are poisoned by CO and GDN FCOs are the correct body to establish which appliance is leaking CO, e.g. cooker, not boiler.

After presentations by victims and others during a Gas Safety review, HSE correctly recommended this in 2000 supported by most stakeholders, mostly industry & gas suppliers.

Historically, GDN FCOs went to properties reporting escapes of fumes only equipped with a natural gas leak detector that could never detect unsafe ambient levels of CO. Since then, all FCOs have some form of CO detection equipment alerting them to unsafe levels of CO but unable to identify which appliance is causing the problem.

It is highly inappropriate nor safe for consumers that FCOs cannot test gas appliances they suspect are leaking CO into rooms. It is also wrong FCOs cannot also test other gas appliances emitting CO from surrounding properties, unwittingly putting innocent lives at harmful risk of long term exposure to CO or risk of death.

Why?

Most UK consumers live in homes powered by gas appliances and will continue to do so for another 25 years, regardless how quickly domestic heating & hot water decarbonisation programmes are introduced.

Whilst overall gas escapes are in decline, call out responses to CO are rising yet FCOs are insufficiently equipped and trained to identify the source of the reported CO escape.

Why?

BS7967, published by BSI's GSE30 cross functional team of gas appliance design & installation experts including the HSE, makes it straightforward for FCOs to perform a non invasive "sweep test" measurement of any appliance within a domestic or commercial property, without involving an extension of time beyond 30 minutes funded by taxpayers via OFGEM.

Identifying which appliance is leaking levels of CO gives inhabitants proof they were exposed to CO and ends the severe personal harm and emotional distress caused by ignorance, often from friends and family and the medical community.

See New Law Journal Jan'20 on how difficult it is for CO victims to prove CO to obtain correct medical help or make legal claim <https://www.newlawjournal.co.uk/content/co-the-hidden-dangers>

Sufficient evidence on the personal impact of CO poisoning has been provided to OFGEM & HSE by CO-GAS Safety yet neither seems willing to engage.

Please finally end the anomaly whereby FCOs are required and able to detect unsafe levels of gas in a property but not test which appliances emit unsafe levels of CO.

Please confirm receipt of this email

Jonathan Kane
CEO

Declaration of interest:

KANE (www.kane.co.uk) is the UK's largest portable flue gas analyser manufacturer, based in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, and Atherton, Greater Manchester.

KANE is approved to ISO9001 & ISO14000 and is the UK's only supplier of portable gas analysers equipped with a UKAS certified & approved pressure, temperature & gas calibration facility.

KANE is a funder / sponsor of CO-GAS Safety.

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