

**RECOMMENDATIONS – Summary of recommendations made by the All Party Parliamentary Gas Safety Group inquiry chaired by Baroness Finlay in 2011. Comment by CO-Gas Safety in blue.**

1. The Government should remove VAT on all carbon monoxide alarms.  
This could be good but will take time as will require agreement at EU level.
2. Mortgage providers and estate agents should include a declaration that the property has a carbon monoxide alarm and that appliances have been serviced by a Gas Safe registered engineer (or similarly registered for other fossil fuel appliances) within the last year.  
Good but CO-Gas Safety is concerned that mortgage providers and estate agents are unlikely to co-operate. We do hope they do co-operate though.
3. The Government should ensure that all work under the Green Deal includes the installation of a carbon monoxide alarm and is carried out by a Gas Safe registered engineer (or similarly registered for other fossil fuel appliances).  
Excellent provided similar arrangements brought in for carbon based fuels, other than gas.
4. The Government should ensure that under the NHS contracts for services GPs' surgeries and A&E departments are trained to recognise the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning and have the ability to monitor for it, using the appropriate equipment whenever carbon monoxide exposure is suspected.  
Very good but CO difficult to diagnose and medics notoriously poor at even thinking about CO as a possible cause of CO symptoms (The late Dr. John Henry sent 200 GPs symptoms of CO. Not a single GP suggested CO as a cause). However, data loggers given out by GPs etc. could be very helpful, provided there are Gas Safe Registered installers, who can find the source of any CO.
5. Industry should collaborate with the Medical Research Council and other research funding bodies to:
  - a) Support studies that attempt to evaluate the prevalence of carbon monoxide poisoning across different population groups.
  - b) Set up a longitudinal study to assess the sequelae of acute and low-level exposure to carbon monoxide poisoning.
  - c) Facilitate a study of the neurological effects of repeated exposure to carbon monoxide at low-levels.  
Good but we know CO is dangerous to health. CO-Gas Safety would prefer resources to be spent on prevention.
6. The Government should trial GPs prescribing a Gas Safety Check for suspected carbon monoxide cases.  
Good especially if NHS would pay for this where people cannot afford this, but CO-Gas Safety would prefer 'service' not just safety 'check'.
7. The Government should ensure that all coroners' post-mortems routinely test for carboxyhaemoglobin levels, recording death from carbon monoxide poisoning as a distinct category and to notify this to a central register if a verdict is recorded only in the narrative section of the coroner's certificate.  
Excellent. We have been pressing for automatic testing of dead bodies for CO for years. Notifying a central register sounds good but care would have to be taken to make sure that deaths from house fires and suicide were excluded.
8. Gas Distribution Networks should ensure that all Gas Emergency Service personnel are equipped with either personal carbon monoxide alarms, carbon monoxide detection equipment, or both.  
Excellent especially if personnel are equipped with flue gas analysers or the equivalent which can test the emissions from appliances for CO and provide parts per million of CO in writing to the tenant and/or responsible person.
9. Ambulance Services should ensure that all their operatives have the equipment to monitor for carbon monoxide in the pre-hospital environment.  
Excellent. We hope all emergency service personnel have Personal Alarm Monitors for CO.

10. Retailers selling camping and barbecue equipment, registered campsites and caravan sites should promote the dangers of carbon monoxide and the use of carbon monoxide alarms. The British Standards Institute should revise European standard EN 1860 to include a requirement for a prominent warning about carbon monoxide poisoning as part of the information on appropriate usage.  
Excellent.
11. The Government should include carbon monoxide in the home safety module of the Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum.  
Excellent. CO-Gas Safety has been trying to achieve this for some years.
12. Ofgem should regularly review and evaluate the effectiveness of the requirement for gas retailers to raise awareness of carbon monoxide.  
Excellent. However, we would prefer a levy on the fuel suppliers to pay for prime time TV warnings and/or similar media publicity about CO.
13. The Gas Safe Charity should support an All Fuels Carbon Monoxide Awareness Forum to coordinate cross industry campaigns, share knowledge and to strengthen links.  
Good but from as early as 1998, CO-Gas Safety has experienced VIGIL, the HSE work groups and COCAA and while useful discussions took place, in our opinion these meetings took up too much time with too little progress being achieved with regard to awareness being raised and genuine preventive measures being taken to save lives and preserve health. The cost of attending such meetings is high for small charities such as CO-Gas Safety.
14. The Government should update the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to:
  - a) Make mandatory the use of flue gas analysers for installation, commissioning and maintenance, where specified by the manufacturers instructions (and manufacturers should ensure that those instructions are updated to reflect the latest British Standards).
  - b) Include a full service of all appliances according to manufacturers' instructions.
  - c) Require all rented properties to be fitted with an audible carbon monoxide alarm manufactured to the European standard EN 50921.
 Excellent. We have been lobbying for rented properties to have all the appliances owned by the landlord serviced using a FGA rather than just a safety check for some years.
15. The Government should consider both the public asset message and the possibility that new appliances may breakdown when determining the requirement for a wired-in carbon monoxide alarm in Part J of the Building Regulations.  
Excellent. We would like to see this requirement covering all fuels not just gas.
16. The Government should bring regulation for the whole fossil fuel sector in line with that of the gas industry.  
Excellent – CO-Gas Safety has been lobbying for this for many years. However, we would prefer the expression 'carbon based' to include wood etc., not 'fossil'.
17. The Health and Safety Executive, working in partnership with industry, should create a central collation point for data relating to carbon monoxide injuries and fatalities, together with a dedicated helpline that would help act as a signposting service.  
Excellent provided all carbon based fuels are covered, not just gas. However, it should be considered that victim organisations, such as CO-Gas Safety have a great deal to contribute because victims care passionately about prevention and can empathise with new victims. Care must also be taken to exclude suicides and house fires etc.

Reproduced by kind permission of the APPGSG (now APPCOG).

#### Comment 2014

CO-Gas Safety and others still cannot understand why prime time TV warnings were not recommended. The Cabinet office has a duty to put out public health warnings see page XX  
There are warnings about fire and smoking but we all know about these dangers.

**Death of Elizabeth Kerr 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008**  
**REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS**

This report is made under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and Regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013.

The matters of concern are as follows:

1. **All Party Parliamentary Gas Safety Group (APPGSG)**: All the recommendations of the All Party Parliamentary Gas Safety Group (APPGSG) Reducing death by Carbon Monoxide Report of 2011 (copy attached) have not been adopted or enacted. The APPGSG should consider undertaking a review of progress made in the 2 years since the report.

.....

**Cost benefit analysis of a modest levy**

A levy would save funds or even produce surplus funds, because the cost of each sudden death is £1,565,000 and reportable\* injuries £17,900. These are HSE figures at 2011 prices see <http://www.hse.gov.uk/economics/eauappraisal.htm>

The Fuel Safety Levy, even at £2 per annum should bring in at least £44 million per year to be spent on safety improvements. There would be some costs involved in raising a levy but these are likely to be small.

DH statistics released Autumn 2011 are 50 deaths and 4,000 to A & E each year in England and Wales See <http://gp.dh.gov.uk/2011/09/27/carbon-monoxide-poisoning-alert/>

Costs then just of England and Wales are:-

50 deaths at £1,576,000.....	£78,800,000
4,000 near misses at £23,500.....	£94,000,000
Total.....	<b>£172,800,000</b>

The DOH figures above do not include N. Ireland or Scotland. Many CO deaths in Scotland are not recorded properly even by CO-Gas Safety because there is no coronial system there.

\*Some CO incidents are reportable under RIDDOR see

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/reportable-incidents.htm#gas>

These are deaths, loss of consciousness or taken to hospital for treatment to an injury arising in connection with gas or incomplete combustion.