

Flue gas analysers

Question 50. Do you consider that (a) Emergency Service Providers and/or (b) gas installers generally should be equipped with flue gas analysers? (DD Page 73)

Question 51. If you believe they should be so equipped, do you consider that a legal requirement should be imposed, or that the use of flue gas analysers should simply be recommended as good practice? (DD Page 73)

Recommendation 34

298. We recognise that flue gas analysis (FGA) has a useful and developing role to play both in the investigation of 'dangerous' appliances, and as a diagnostic tool for service engineers. To assist in identifying faulty appliances (in line with Recommendation 12) we believe that ESPs should provide operatives suitably trained and equipped to perform FGA, as necessary, alongside other techniques, such as smoke spillage testing; installers involved in gas incident investigation work relating to 'fumes' should be similarly trained and equipped.

299. The technique should also be recommended as an additional good practice 'tool' for other installers involved in servicing and safety checks on appliances, but should not be regarded as a substitute for safety examinations currently required under GSIUR, eg regulations 26, 33 and 36.

Analysis of responses

300. Of the total (84) commenting on Q 50 over half (47) believed that both ESPs and gas installers should be equipped with FGA, with a further 16 considering this should only apply to ESPs and 7 that it should only apply to gas installers; 10 believed that neither ESPs nor gas installers should be equipped with FGA and the remainder (4) were unclear or had no view, eg because further work was considered necessary to assess the role effectiveness of FGA before making a decision. Of the 66 responses to parallel question c19, 48 felt both ESPs and gas installers should be equipped with FGA, 7 (ESPs only), 6 (gas installers only) and 0 (neither); 5 were unclear or had no comment. The public questionnaire yielded 329 in favour of ESPs being equipped with FGA with 8 against, and 331 in favour of gas installers being so equipped with 4 against.

301. Views on whether this should be a legal requirement or just recommended as good practice as in Q 51 (c 20) were more evenly divided with those in favour of a mandatory requirement on these two respective questions being: for both ESPs and gas installers to carry FGA - 15 (29), ESPs only - 8 (3) and installers only - 2 (2). Those in favour of recommendation only were: for both ESPs and gas installers to carry FGA - 21 (19), ESPs only 0 (0), installers only 9 (1); with those against any recommendation 2 (0), and unclear responses 3 (8). Several replies referring to gas installers qualified this by saying only those involved in safety checks or servicing should be required to carry FGA, and one respondent said this should only apply for non-domestic work.