

Choosing the right professional

Gas Safe™

How it all fits together



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Summary

On 1 April 2009 the new Gas Safe Register™ replaced the CORGI gas registration scheme as Great Britain's gas safety authority. As the professional body for the UK plumbing and heating industry the Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering believes it is vital that consumers understand:

- **Exactly what Gas Safe Registration means**
- **How to choose the right professional for the right job**
- **Be aware of the importance of asking to see proof of qualifications before engaging an installer to carry out any work in homes or business premises.**

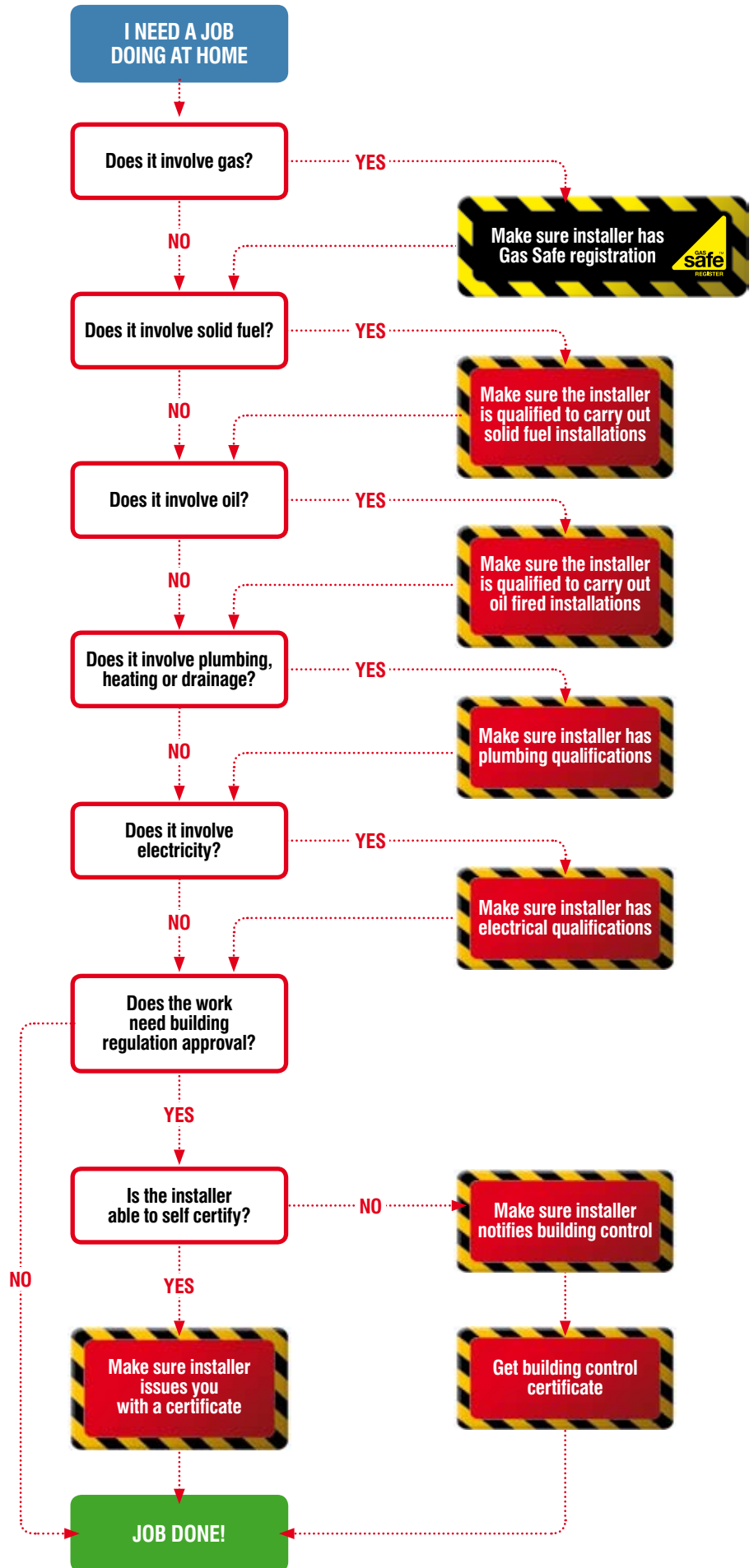
This document provides an overview of the Gas Safe Register Scheme and is designed to assist in the decision making process of choosing the right installer.



The right choice

The choice of professional depends on the type of work that is to be carried out. Making the wrong choice can have serious implications. Incorrect or unsafe installations can damage property and endanger life. It is a little known fact that it is the property owner, NOT the installer who is legally liable if damage to the environment or neighbouring property is caused by a faulty installation.

Asking for the right professional for the right job can sometimes be confusing. Follow this diagram to help point you in the right direction. If you need any further advice telephone the CIPHE on **01708 472791** or email **info@ciphe.org.uk**



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APRIL 2009

- ***CORGI registration is no longer valid – do not accept CORGI membership as proof of competency***
- ***New Gas Safe Register is here to stay***
- ***Gas Safe registration can be easily checked***
- ***Choose the right professional for the right job. Gas Safe is just for gas and is not proof of plumbing qualifications***
- ***For advice on safe use of gas go to www.gassaferegister.com***

About the Gas Safe Register™

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is the government body responsible for gas safety in England, Scotland, Wales and the Channel Islands.

The Gas Safe Register is the only gas engineer registration scheme approved by HSE. All gas engineers wanting to undertake domestic and certain other gas work in Great Britain must be registered with this scheme in order to be able lawfully to carry out any work on gas fittings, which includes gas appliances.

To ensure greater consumer awareness of the dangers of gas, the HSE decided to take ownership of the gas engineer registration process ending 17 years of CORGI registration. The Gas Safe brand is only associated with gas safety and does not cover any other areas of plumbing.

A procurement process was held to invite interested parties to tender for the contract to manage the Gas Safe registration scheme on behalf of the HSE. CORGI and Capita were shortlisted and the 10 year contract was awarded to Capita.

The facts

The Gas Safe Register deals with all aspects of the downstream gas industry covered by the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998. It covers both piped natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

Gas Safe Register will maintain an up-to-date register of gas engineers who are qualified to install or repair gas fittings and appliances. It will have systems in place to check the competence of gas engineers, inspect their work and to deal with complaints about unsafe gas work.



Always ask to see

All Gas Safe registered installers have been issued with a Gas Safe identity card which remains the property of Gas Safe Register at all times.

On the reverse of the card is a list of services the installer is qualified to carry out in both domestic and non domestic environments. Simply ask the installer if he or she is registered to carry out the type of work you require and then double check the back of their Gas Safe Register identity card before they commence work on your property.

Expect to see

Consumers should always double check that the installer is still on the Gas Safe Register and their details are unchanged. Asking to see the card alone is not enough. Checking couldn't be easier – you can telephone **0800 408 5500** or search the register online at **www.gassaferegister.co.uk**

Remember, the installer must hold relevant qualifications to carry out ALL the work required. Gas Safe registration only proves the installer meets the necessary competency for the gas section and does not mean he or she is qualified to fit a bathroom suite for example.

If water, solid fuel or oil is involved ask to see proof of the relevant qualifications.

Look for these qualifications

For plumbing work you should ask to see proof of the qualifications listed below. These are the minimum level of qualifications an installer should have to carry out work in your home or workplace. Alternatively ask to see a CIPHE membership card which will identify which level of membership the holder carries. (See page 6 for explanation of membership levels).



- **NVQ Level 2 or City & Guilds Craft Certificate**
- **S/NVQ Level 3 or City & Guilds Advanced Craft Certificate**
- **Water Regulations**

In addition don't forget that you might need to involve your local council's building control officer if you are considering installing a new bathroom, kitchen or central heating system.



| Domestic | Gas | LPG | Non-Domestic | Gas | LPG |
|----------|----------|----------|--------------|-----|-----|
| Pipework | 10/12/08 | 10/12/08 | | | |
| Cookers | 10/12/08 | 10/12/08 | | | |
| Gas Fire | 10/12/08 | = | | | |
| | | | | | |
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- **Look for the yellow Gas Safe Register triangle. CORGI logo is no longer valid**
- **Always check with the Gas Safe Register to make sure the installer's details are correct**
- **Ask to see proof of all qualifications before work begins**
- **Property owner is liable if faulty installations breach building regulations, water regulations or harm the environment**
- **If in doubt consult the CIPHE**

About the Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering

Founded in 1906, the Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering (CIPHE) is the professional body for the UK plumbing and heating industry. Its primary objectives are to protect the safety and health of the public and protection of the environment. It also seeks to advance the science, practice and principles of plumbing and heating engineering in its role as an educational charity.

The CIPHE has a membership of around 12,000 in addition 260 manufacturers and distributors, support its work as Industrial Associates. Whilst the majority of members live in the UK, some 750 are resident in Hong Kong and a further 300 are resident in over 30 other countries.

In Britain there are around 50 local Branches grouped within six areas. Suitably qualified CIPHE members also enrolled as Registered Plumbers are recognised by the Secretary of State, DEFRA, as “Approved Contractor Persons” under the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 in England and Wales and the Water Byelaws (Scotland) 2000.

The CIPHE is a member of the Construction Industry Council – www.cic.org.uk – and a licensed member of the Engineering Council (UK) – www.engc.org.uk

Membership Categories for individuals

The CIPHE registers individuals based upon their qualifications and experience. The categories and criterion are as follows:

- **Trainee**

Studying for an accredited qualification in a plumbing or heating discipline.

- **Affiliate**

Has obtained either City & Guilds Technical Certificate or NVQ Level 2 but requires further practical experience.

- **Associate**

Holds NVQ Level 2 or City & Guilds Craft Certificate (circa. 1980) with appropriate practical experience (including 1 year post-NVQ experience) OR does not hold a formal qualification but has extensive practical experience supported by trade references and, an inspection of their work by a professional standards inspector.

- **Member**

Holds NVQ Level 3 or City & Guilds Advanced Craft Certificate with appropriate practical experience.

- **Fellow**

Holds qualifications at membership level and has shown long term commitment to professionalism within the institute.

- **Companion**

Open to anyone who is connected with the plumbing and heating industry and supports the work of the CIPHE (not considered competent by CIPHE to carry out plumbing and heating work in domestic or industrial premises).

The Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering
64 Station Lane, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6NB

www.ciphe.org.uk
www.gassaferegister.co.uk