

# Industry guidance: AS/NZS 5601.1 2022

## Transitional arrangements to 30 March 2023

### About this guidance

Standards Australia has published a new revision to AS/NZS 5601.1 “Gas installations—Part 1: General installations” on 30 September 2022 (**amended standard**).

This document provides guidance on how Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) will apply the amended standard in the first 6 months following publication (**6 month transition period**) for the purpose of accepting gas installations under section 73 *Gas Safety Act 1997* (Vic) (**GSA**).

### Background

Section 72(2) of the GSA requires a person carrying out gasfitting work on an appliance or gas installation to ensure their work complies with the prescribed standards, unless they have obtained an exemption from ESV.

AS/NZS 5601.1 is a prescribed standard under regulation 14 of the *Gas Safety (Gas Installation) Regulations 2018* (**Regulations**).

Additionally, section 73(1) of the GSA requires a person who carries out work on certain gas installations to apply to ESV for acceptance of the gas installation before it is commissioned. ESV will only accept a gas installation if it complies with the prescribed standards, unless an exemption applies.

Amendments to AS/NZS 5601.1 are automatically adopted under the Regulations when published, and become legally enforceable from that date under section 72 and section 73 of the GSA.

### Guidance

ESV expects gasfitters to stay up-to-date with the prescribed standards for gasfitting work on appliances and gas installations, and to quickly adopt and implement any amendments to those standards to ensure compliance with the GSA.

However, we acknowledge there can be challenges for industry to immediately comply with amended standards in certain circumstances. In particular, where works have commenced but not been completed at the time amended standards are published.

Therefore, except where we have issued a gas safety alert in relation to a specific clause and compliance requirement, we intend to exercise our regulatory discretion when assessing gas installations for compliance with the amended standard during the 6 month transition period.

Specifically, where a person makes an application for acceptance of a gas installation under section 73(1) of the GSA after the amended standard is published:

- We will assess any gasfitting work completed prior to, or during, the 6 month transition period against the old standard unless the applicant nominates compliance with the amended standard.
- We will assess any gasfitting work completed after the 6 month transition period against the amended standard.

The onus is on the applicant to retain records that demonstrate when the gasfitting works were carried out. In the absence of this evidence, we will assess the gasfitting work against the amended standard.

## Contact us

It is important you understand your responsibilities.

If you have queries in relation to any of the information provided in this industry guidance, contact our Gas Technical Helpline on 1800 652 563 or at [gastechinfo@energysafe.vic.gov.au](mailto:gastechinfo@energysafe.vic.gov.au).

## Who we are

We are Victoria's safety regulator for electricity, gas and pipelines.

Our role is to ensure that Victorian gas and electricity industries are safe and meet community expectations. We are also responsible for licensing and registering electricians, and educating the community about energy safety.

More information is available on the Energy Safe Victoria website: [www.esv.vic.gov.au](http://www.esv.vic.gov.au)