

May 2012

CORGI News

Expect more from CORGI



CORGI Technical Services

Launch of CORGI News

Welcome to the first issue of CORGI News which will bring you the latest information on gas safety legislation, compliance issues and training as well as highlight networking opportunities for management in Social Housing responsible for Gas safety issues. Please contact us if you would like information on anything within this newsletter.

Kind regards

Claire Heyes and Bill Paton
Joint Chief Executives
CORGI Technical Services Ltd

UK Roll out of Forum for sharing key industry issues in Social Housing

For over a decade, CORGI has been involved with the North West Inter Authority Gas Forum which meets on a quarterly basis to discuss key industry issues, benchmark and share best practice. Attended by senior management from Social Housing organisations from across the north-west, the Forum has proved to be a valuable networking group as well as advising on the latest products and services available within the sector.

CORGI's Commercial Director, Eddie Stanton commented: "The Forum provides an excellent platform for delegates to network with their peer group so as to share their expertise and knowledge. We have been a participant from the very early stages and have seen the popularity and value of the meetings grow. We felt it was a format that would work in other locations across the UK and are ideally positioned to facilitate a roll out process, particularly as we are so closely associated to the principles of all things 'gas safety'."

In addition to the north-west Forum, CORGI has now organised a programme of Forums across the UK, with the first being held in Glasgow in February. This was well attended and received and will now be held on a quarterly basis. The next Forum took place in London on 24th April and the numbers

attending were very high. Eddie Stanton commented: "The response was outstanding – we even had to change to a larger venue to accommodate everyone who wanted to attend!"

Further forums are now planned for these locations:

- Bristol
- London
- Birmingham
- Durham
- Birmingham
- Glasgow
- Yorkshire
- other dates & venues tbc

For more details please contact Eddie Stanton on estanton@trustcorgi.org or 01256 548040



100th organisation takes new Gas Safety Management qualification for Social Housing

CORGI is celebrating the 100th organisation to join its new VRQ in Gas Safety Management in Social Housing. The hugely popular course was only established eighth months ago and the first candidates are now in the final stages of the course.

Based upon five assignments, the distance learning programme has been voted a resounding success and has been seen as a major step forward in recognising the complexity and importance of the gas safety management role.

One of the first delegates to sign up to take the qualification was Darren Fountain of Incommunities Housing Association. Darren commented that he found the 'Gas Safety Management in Social Housing' course extremely well structured, systematic and focused towards specific knowledge and quality control systems required for managing gas contracts in social housing.

"I would like to claim I already knew everything about managing gas safety and applicable legislation," said Darren, "but I didn't. It has served to both jog my memory in regards to combustion, flueing and ventilation, and gas appliances (In my case it was over eight years since I last sat an ACS assessment). It has also clarified some legislative issues I half understood, and in many cases provided me with completely new knowledge I had not really previously considered, or been aware of, particularly in relation to how different legislation interacts in an overall framework."



Dates for course starter days, which are located across the UK are detailed below:

- Newcastle – 20 June
- Sheffield – 22 August
- Edinburgh – 19 September
- Other dates and venues tbc or contact us for an in-house programme
- Maidstone – 24 October
- Leicester – 14 November
- Liverpool – 12 December

Joint CEO of CORGI, Claire Heyes has indicated that further development of the course is imminent: "It is clear from the high levels of response that there is a demand for information about the application of gas safety standards within the industry. Having carried out market research we are in the process of launching a parallel course for Estate Managers for organisations and individuals managing gas with commercial applications."

Details about the availability and starter dates for the new course can be found at www.corgitechnical.com or by contacting us at training@corgitechnical.com or call 01256 548040

Happy Holidays

Did you realise that CORGI is a key advisor to the UK travel industry for safety standards and monitoring of gas within their resorts? CORGI Technical Services Consultant, John Gregory who looks after the sector, outlined our involvement and said: "We have been involved with ABTA and many of the premier names within the UK travel and Holiday sector over many years and have forged close working relationships with the industry. Our involvement is aimed at ensuring that UK holidaymakers are fully protected on matters of gas safety."



The hidden time-bomb – ‘Flues in Voids’

With only months to go before legislation comes into force, the hidden time-bomb of ‘Flues in Voids’ has become a hot topic. Below, we look at the major issues and the possible impact as well as giving a guide to the legislation. The nightmare scenario for housing organisations and residents could be the enforced switching off of gas appliances in a building if the gas engineer cannot inspect or risk assess the flue adequately. For elderly and vulnerable residents this could have a devastating impact, especially during the winter months.

Technical Bulletin TB008 (ED2.1 dated 2 April 2012) – Room-sealed, fanned-draught chimney/flue systems concealed within voids, dictates how flues in voids must be treated and categorised.

Many authorities may still be unaware of either the consequences or indeed the timescales surrounding this legislation, but the countdown has started...

Key points of TB008:

- Gas engineers need to be able to see the chimney/flue, which removes the products of combustion away from the boiler, as part of an essential gas safety check in accordance with the Gas Safety (Installation & Use) Regulations.
- A chimney/flue system must be inspected on every occasion where gas work is undertaken on a boiler, for example, during a service, maintenance or breakdown call-out.
- In flats, where all or part of the chimney or flue cannot be seen, the engineer must risk assess the situation to determine if arrangements need to be made for inspection



hatches to be fitted before 31 December 2012. As long as the boiler passes a series of safety checks, including having audible CO alarms fitted, it can be used normally up to 31 December 2012.

After 31 December this year, where a chimney/flue cannot be inspected, and the registered gas engineer, cannot adequately confirm the safe operation of flue, he will be required to:

- Turn off the gas appliance** with the responsible person's permission
- Categorise the appliance as **“At Risk”**
- Formally advise the occupier not to use the appliance until the flue can be inspected in accordance with The Gas Safety (Installation & Use) Regulations

Problems may present themselves with securing access to properties to make the initial assessment and dwellings in high rise situations will typically be more vulnerable.

CORGI's team of experts have a comprehensive understanding of the issues involved, and are able to advise you should you have any areas of concern, for more information please contact us at: enquiries@corgitechnical.com or **01256 548040**



CORGI is Electric!

Did you know that we now provide Electrical Auditing and Consultancy? CORGI and ECA (Electrical Contractors Association) have combined to provide an integrated approach to audit provision, so when you are reviewing arrangements you can find both requirements in one place.

We have already completed work for a number of clients and enquiry levels are growing all the time.

Raising awareness of the dangers of Carbon Monoxide

CORGI has been working for many years to promote greater awareness of the dangers of CO (carbon monoxide) for tenants and residents. This culminated in a series of twenty-two Seminars sponsored by the Gas Safety Trust which were given to Housing Associations across the UK. In addition a two day Seminar was given in Northern Ireland where the presentation was given to both NI HSE delegates and also those from the various Housing Associations throughout Northern Ireland.

Throughout the programme the seminars have been very well attended, and the interaction between our presenters and delegates has been very encouraging, promoting a greater awareness of the issues surrounding gas safety within the Social Housing Arena.

Thanks to the donation from the Gas Safety Trust we presented to 77 organisations, raising their awareness of gas safety issues and the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Individual Authorities can contact CORGI to arrange these seminars in their own right by contacting us on info@trustcorgi.org or 01256 548040 at any time.

The Silent Killer – Raising the Alarm!!

The threat of carbon monoxide (CO) exposure and the risks associated with that exposure are well documented.

The Fire Brigade and Ambulance Services, as well as the HSE and the Health Protection Agency, have dealt with carbon monoxide related incidents for years. However the major issue for all emergency responders remains the early identification of patients who have been exposed where the classic indicators are not present.

Carbon monoxide is the silent killer. The threat comes in many guises and is relevant to both the business and residential sections of all our communities.

A study carried out by the Gas Safety Trust reported 50 carbon monoxide poisoning incidents were reported this year resulting in over 100 casualties and 8 deaths!



Worryingly the use of carbon monoxide alarms remains limited when compared to the use of smoke alarms. This means the early warning systems are not in place and exposures to carbon monoxide can be prolonged and in some cases fatal.

CO alarms have a limited life of up to five years due to sensor ageing. The reliability of CO detectors is very important and the devices should be tested as prescribed within manufacturer's instructions.

Did you know.....the test button on a CO Alarm, in most cases, only tests the circuitry not the alarm's ability to test for CO!

It is best practice to use an appropriate test gas to deliver a calibrated dose of test gas (CO) to the sensor at a level required by the relevant standard to trigger a response. This will ensure the device is capable of sensing CO and help keep the occupants safe.

Carbon Monoxide awareness programme in Merseyside

CORGI is working with the Merseyside Fire Brigade to raise awareness of all matters CO and the steps that home occupiers can take to protect themselves and their families in the fight against CO poisoning.

Did you know for example, that the Fire Brigades across the UK have resources allocated to make home visits to educate residents, and that one of their priorities is to raise awareness particularly amongst those classed as 'Fuel Poor'? Is this something you might want to know more about and take advantage of? **If so why not contact us for more information on enquiries@corgitechnical.com or 01256 548040**

Events

Quarterly Gas Forum events

- Bristol
- London
- Glasgow
- Birmingham
- Yorkshire
- Durham

VRQ in Gas Safety Management for Social Housing course start dates

- Newcastle – 20 June
- Oxford – 18 July
- Sheffield – 22 August
- Edinburgh – 19 September
- Maidstone – 24 October
- Leicester – 14 November
- Liverpool – 12 December

VRQ in Gas Safety Facilities Management courses

- London - 27 June
- Birmingham - 4 July
- Manchester - 12 September

Other dates and venues tbc or contact us for an in-house programme

For more information about any of these events or to book a place please contact enquiries@corgitechnical.com or 01256 548040



CORGI Technical Services Ltd

CORGI Technical Services Ltd has over 30 years of technical expertise in all aspects of gas safety. With comprehensive site audits, training for employees, a new VRQ gas safety qualification, legal advice and expert witness testimony, CORGI works with local authorities, housing associations, private landlords, contractors, energy suppliers and the travel industry, to support them with their gas safety obligations, compliance and continued improvement.

www.corgitechnical.com

CORGI Technical Services Ltd
8 The Park Centre, Easter Park, Silchester, Berkshire RG7 2PQ
email enquiries@corgitechnical.com
Tel 01256 548040

