



Date: 15 March 2022
Subject: New requirements for open flued gas space heaters and decorative effect gas appliances

Guidance to be provided:

The purpose of this communication is to provide details of new requirements that now apply to open flued gas space heaters in accordance with AS/NZS 5263.1.3: 2021 – *Gas space heating appliances*, and decorative effect appliances under AS/NZS 5263.1.8:2021 – *Decorative effect gas appliances*.

The new standard requirements mandate that all open flued gas space heaters and efficient decorative effect gas appliances must shut down safely if an appliance is exposed to a continuous negative pressure environment. This requirement applies to all new products manufactured after 1 January 2022.

At the date of publication of this document a number of open flued gas space heaters have been assessed by the certifying bodies and confirmed to comply with the new requirement. The following open flued gas space heater certifications have been assessed and declared as complying with the new requirement.

Certification	Product
AGA 8905	Braemar Ecostar Power Flue Wall Furnace
AGA 5446	Archer Induced Draught Decorative Gas Log Effect Space Heater Models: FS100, FSP100, FSC100, IS100 & IS200
AGA 7978	Archer 36" Fireplace IS900 Series Models
GMK10519	Archer Models IS1200 and IS1500
SAI-400286	Archer IS700 Induced draught decorative log effect space heater

The products listed above have been designed and certified so as to shut down when exposed to excessive negative pressure. Gasfitters installing these appliances will still need to ensure that adequate ventilation is provided in accordance with AS/NZS5601.1 to prevent the appliances from shutting down.

Please note that new products are under development and it is expected that this list will change over time. Current certification status of gas equipment can be viewed on the GTRC database <http://equipment.gtrc.gov.au/>

Note: Room sealed gas space heaters are not required to meet the new requirements as they draw air for combustion from the outdoor environment. More information on the differences between open flued gas space heaters and room sealed gas space heaters can be found [here](#).

Background

Open flued appliances are a type of gas appliance where air for combustion is taken from the room in which the appliance is installed and combustion products are flued to outside via a flue system. To ensure correct operation, the room in which the heater is installed needs sufficient ventilation to outside to provide fresh air for the appliance and to offset any negative pressure created by fans like exhaust fans and range hoods.

Negative pressure conditions occur when exhaust fans are operating at the same time as an open flued gas space heater in a room with insufficient ventilation. The air being withdrawn by the fan creates a negative pressure inside the room which can draw combustion products from the appliance into the room. This often continues as long as the fan and appliance is operating, enabling a build-up of carbon monoxide to occur. In extreme cases this can result in carbon monoxide poisoning that can result in serious injury or death for anyone in the room.

While open flued appliances with adequate ventilation and that are serviced regularly are not unsafe, improvements to building regulations mean that new efficient homes no longer have sufficient ventilation, while ventilation of older homes may be insufficient for new high powered exhaust fans or other installation changes over time.