



GAS APPLIANCES
TECHNICAL GUIDANCE BULLETIN

Bulletin Number: 19

Bulletin Date: 14 May 2021 (revised 1 December 2022)

Product Type: Open Flued decorative effect gas appliances

Relevant Standard(s): AS 5263.1.8 2021 *Gas appliances, Part 1.8: Decorative effect gas appliances*

Relevant Clause(s) Clause 2.14 – Markings
Clause 2.15 - Instructions
Clause 5.2 – Flue operation

Subject: Additional requirements for open flued Type 2 decorative effect gas appliances

Guidance to be provided:

Additional Requirements

Safety shutdown under negative room pressure

An open flued Type 2 appliance that satisfies the thermal efficiency requirements of AS/NZS 5263.1.3 shall comply with the additional requirements for open flued gas space heaters detailed in GTRC Technical Guidance Bulletin 18.

Note: Where an appliance on inspection is not capable of satisfying the thermal efficiency requirements then the thermal efficiency may not need to be determined by testing.

Additional Markings and instructions

Permanent markings on appliances

Clause 2.14.2 (aa) (iii) For appliances other than room sealed appliance, the statement: "THIS APPLIANCE REQUIRES FRESH AIR TO OPERATE SAFELY. THE ROOM WHERE THIS APPLIANCE IS INSTALLED MUST HAVE PERMANENT VENTILATION FROM OUTDOORS. THIS VENTILATION MUST NOT BE MODIFIED"

Markings on packaging

Clause 2.14.14 (cc) For appliances other than room sealed appliance, the text: "THIS APPLIANCE REQUIRES FRESH AIR TO OPERATE SAFELY. THE ROOM WHERE THIS APPLIANCE IS INSTALLED MUST HAVE PERMANENT VENTILATION FROM OUTDOORS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VENTILATION REQUIREMENTS OF AS/NZS 5601"

Installation instructions supplied with the appliance

Clause 2.15.2.1 (aa) (v) For appliances other than room sealed appliance, the statement: "THIS APPLIANCE REQUIRES FRESH AIR TO OPERATE SAFELY. THE ROOM WHERE THIS APPLIANCE IS INSTALLED MUST HAVE PERMANENT VENTILATION FROM OUTDOORS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VENTILATION REQUIREMENTS OF AS/NZS 5601"

Operation instructions warning statements

Clause 2.15.3.2 (cc) For appliances other than room sealed appliance, the statement: "THIS APPLIANCE REQUIRES FRESH AIR TO OPERATE SAFELY. THE ROOM WHERE THIS APPLIANCE IS INSTALLED MUST HAVE PERMANENT VENTILATION FROM OUTDOORS. THIS VENTILATION MUST NOT BE MODIFIED"

Reason:	Over time homes have become increasingly well sealed and a reduction in ventilation combined with more powerful exhaust fans has increased the risk that open flued gas space heaters are exposed to negative pressure, which can result in ongoing spillage of combustion products into the living area. New requirements introduced for open flued gas space heaters assess safety under negative room pressure. Open flued decorative effect gas appliances do not have minimum efficiency requirements, which mean they tend to be relatively inefficient. These appliances generally have an open combustion chamber and hotter combustion products that are more buoyant. In addition, decorative effect gas appliances are required to be installed with permanent ventilation irrespective of the gas consumption of the appliance relative to the room volume. As a result, they are significantly less likely than open flued gas space heaters to become unsafe due to negative pressure. AS/NZS5263.1.8 does not prevent open flued gas space heaters from being assessed as decorative effect gas appliances. This means an assessment of thermal efficiency testing is required to determine if negative room pressure testing is required. There is also a risk that permanent ventilation in accordance with AS/NZS5601.1 is either not installed or is blocked by the occupier, and so to stress the importance of permanent ventilation a marking requirement for the appliance and its packaging and inclusion of a warning statement in the appliance installation and operating instructions have been introduced to raise awareness of the importance of ventilation and to mitigate the risk that it is not provided.
Action(s):	Conformity assessment bodies are to ensure that decorative effect gas appliances comply with the above additional requirements when assessing the product type for certification. A note shall be added to the related entry in the GTRC National Certification Database for each certification that has been assessed to these requirements.
Transition:	1. For all new applications for certification made after the date of this bulletin, this bulletin must be adhered to immediately. 2. For existing certifications and applications received prior to the date of this bulletin, products must comply with this bulletin before 1 January 2022. After this date certifications that do not meet the requirements of this bulletin must be suspended or cancelled.
Result:	The safety of open flued appliances will be improved and the risk to health from spillage of combustion products will be reduced.

Proposed Revision(s) to Standard(s):

AS/NZS5263.1.8 is currently under revision to include the above requirements in the next update, at which time the requirements of the standard will apply and will supersede this bulletin.

This bulletin provides technical guidance from the Gas Technical Regulators to Conformity Assessment Bodies that are JASANZ accredited for the certification of gas appliances required to comply with AS3645. This technical guidance is provided where the technical requirements or test methodologies from current technical standards are inadequate or can be misinterpreted. This bulletin is valid until such time as the relevant technical standard is revised or amended accordingly.