

Gas Information Sheet 02

Hot-tapping of consumer piping



Overview

Hot-tapping is a method for adding a new consumer pipe connection to, or squashing off, an existing consumer pipe while the consumer piping remains in service, without isolating the gas supply or requiring purging.

This involves attaching a branch connection and valve on the outside of an operating consumer piping and then cutting out the piping wall within the branch and removing the wall section through the valve.

Due to the complexity and risks associated with this type of work not all gasfitters are competent and equipped to perform such work. As a result, prior to carrying out hot-tapping work gasfitters must first apply to Energy Safe Victoria for authorisation to perform this work.

Legislation

Gas Safety (Gas Installation) Regulations 2018 requirement

Division 4 — Standards and requirements in relation to hot-tapping work

“Regulation 22 Standards and requirements for hot-tapping work

- (1) For the purposes of section 72(1) of the Act, it is a prescribed requirement that a person must—
 - (a) before carrying out gasfitting work that is hot-tapping work, apply to Energy Safe Victoria for authorisation to carry out that work; and
 - (b) not carry out gasfitting work that is hot-tapping work unless that work is authorised by Energy Safe Victoria.
- (2) For the purposes of section 72(1) of the Act, the prescribed standard for carrying out gasfitting work that is hot-tapping work is the standard determined by Energy Safe Victoria for that work in the authorisation of that work.
- (3) This regulation applies despite anything to the contrary in Division 1”

Application information

The gasfitter conducting the work must submit a Gas Application via ESVConnect – [GasTrac](#), prior to commencing the work. Energy Safe will review the application and, if acceptable will provide authorisation for the work and set conditions of acceptance.

An application should include the following information, as a minimum:

- Demonstration of the need to conduct hot-tapping work (including the requirement for this approach over other methods).
- Specification of the works and applicable technical and/or Australian Standards to be used in addition to AS/NZS 5601.1 Gas installations, Part 1: General installations.

- An undertaking that an appropriate hazard/risk assessment will be undertaken and mitigations planned to be employed by the worker(s) (i.e. adequate Job Safety Analysis (JSA)/Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) or equivalent, proposed emergency procedures including adequate means of piping isolation, personnel access and egress from work site and emergency communications).
- Demonstration of competency to carry out the works. This should include:
 - training and experience, including information about hot-tapping experience
 - any relevant qualifications or certifications e.g. higher education/training to relevant standards such as ISO45001: Occupational health and safety management systems and/or ISO31000: Risk management
- Information that details the hot-tapping methodology, that may include:
 - pre-hot tap pipe inspections e.g. diameter, wall thickness, evidence of corrosion, etc
 - type of equipment to be used, and material that is proposed to be used (i.e. carbon steel, copper or polyethylene)
 - welding/jointing and tapping operation
 - pressure testing
 - commissioning/purging and final inspection tests.

If you're new to GasTrac

Watch our series of GasTrac user videos. These short videos will show you how to register for GasTrac, manage your details and lodge new gas applications. You can find them on our website at:

[Home > Industry guidance > Gas and pipelines > Gasfitter's toolkit > GasTrac user videos](#)

<https://www.energysafe.vic.gov.au/log/digital-services-hub/gastrac-user-videos>

Who we are

At Energy Safe Victoria we work to keep Victoria energy safe.

We regulate the energy industry and sector to ensure generation, supply and usage uphold safety standards, and engage with the community to raise awareness of energy safety risks.

In everything we do, we strive to deliver on our purpose to keep Victoria energy safe. Always.

www.energysafe.vic.gov.au

Disclaimer

This document does not constitute legal advice. We encourage you to seek your own legal advice to find out how the Acts, regulations and other applicable laws apply to you. It is your responsibility to make the relevant enquiries and ensure that you understand your responsibilities.