

Petroleum and Gas (Safety) Amendment Regulation 2025

Explanatory notes for SL 2025 No. 59

made under the

Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004

General Outline

Short title

Petroleum and Gas (Safety) Amendment Regulation 2025

Authorising law

Section 859 of the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* (P&G Act)

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The policy objective of the *Petroleum and Gas (Safety) Amendment Regulation 2025* (Amendment Regulation) is to omit section 96 of the *Petroleum and Gas (Safety) Regulation 2018* (Regulation) as the compliance plate and related matters for gas system installation for section 734(3) of the P&G Act will no longer be prescribed and instead will be included in the functionality of a new online system.

Currently Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ) offers gas installers the option to either submit hard copy forms or to complete and issue certificates for gas system compliance, gas system defects notices, and vehicle and vessel gas system inspections online, referred to as e-certificates. The e-certificate system is a Smartform based platform.

The Commonwealth Government has advised that it will not support Smartform based platforms from 1 July 2025. In response, RSHQ will transition to using a new online system for gas work certifications by 1 July 2025.

The new online system, which will replace the functionality of the current six Smartforms and will streamline and modernise business processes for gas work licence and authority holders.

Achievement of policy objectives

The Amendment Regulation will omit section 96 of the Regulation so that for section 734(3)(b) of the P&G Act, a compliance plate for the installation and the way that one is attached will not be prescribed.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with the objectives of the authorising law.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The Amendment Regulation is not inconsistent with policy objectives of other legislation.

Benefits and costs of implementation

The Amendment Regulation will streamline and modernise business processes and remove the requirement for gas work entities to attach physical compliance plates, that is currently prescribed under section 96 of the Regulation for section 734(3)(b) of the P&G Act.

The new online system will streamline the process of renewing gas work licence or gas work authorisation by making it a simpler, online transaction. It will make it quicker and simpler for stakeholders to satisfy regulatory requirements, reduce business costs, and improve data access for industry, their customers and RSHQ as the regulator.

There will be cost savings as holders will no longer have to purchase compliance certificates and compliance plates, and safety information will be maintained and be publicly accessible to homeowners, gas suppliers and RSHQ.

Implementation of the amendments will not present additional capital or any significant administrative costs to government. Any implementation costs will be absorbed from existing resources and managed within the existing budget of RSHQ.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The subordinate legislation has been drafted with regard to fundamental legislative principles of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

Consultation

The current e-certificate system has been in place since 2011. Results from a survey sent to 7,500 gas installers about e-certificates in January 2024 shows that removal of the requirements related to affixing physical compliance plates will address issues of information security – with public access to other users' data – and resolve issues where lack of internet connectivity prevents access to certificate numbers to be

engraved on compliance plates, requiring the need for a second site visit. The online register, accessed via myID, will enhance security and allow registration without needing internet access for certificate numbers.

In October 2024, the proposal to transition to the use of a new online system for gas fitters to submit gas work certifications was raised at a series of Gas Awareness Sessions at Acacia Ridge, Toowoomba, Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, and Maroochydore attended by gas work licence holders (GWL) and gas work authorisation holders (GWA).

On 30 April 2025, an email was sent to GWL and GWA holders advising the changes, and an article was published in the Winter Master Plumber magazine, May 2025 to inform members of the Master Plumbers' Association of Queensland.

The regulatory impact of making the *Petroleum and Gas (Safety) Amendment Regulation 2025* is excluded from further assessment. An Impact Analysis Statement has been prepared and determines that the proposal does not require further impact analysis under the *Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy*, as the proposal is deregulatory and does not increase costs or regulatory burden on business. While the proposal does retain existing regulation it does reduce the costs associated with meeting those requirements.

The Amendment Regulation supports the transition and provides certainty to industry, enhancing stakeholder self-service, and improving data-driven regulatory decision-making.

Industry supports the changes for the benefits that they bring.