

SECTION 14

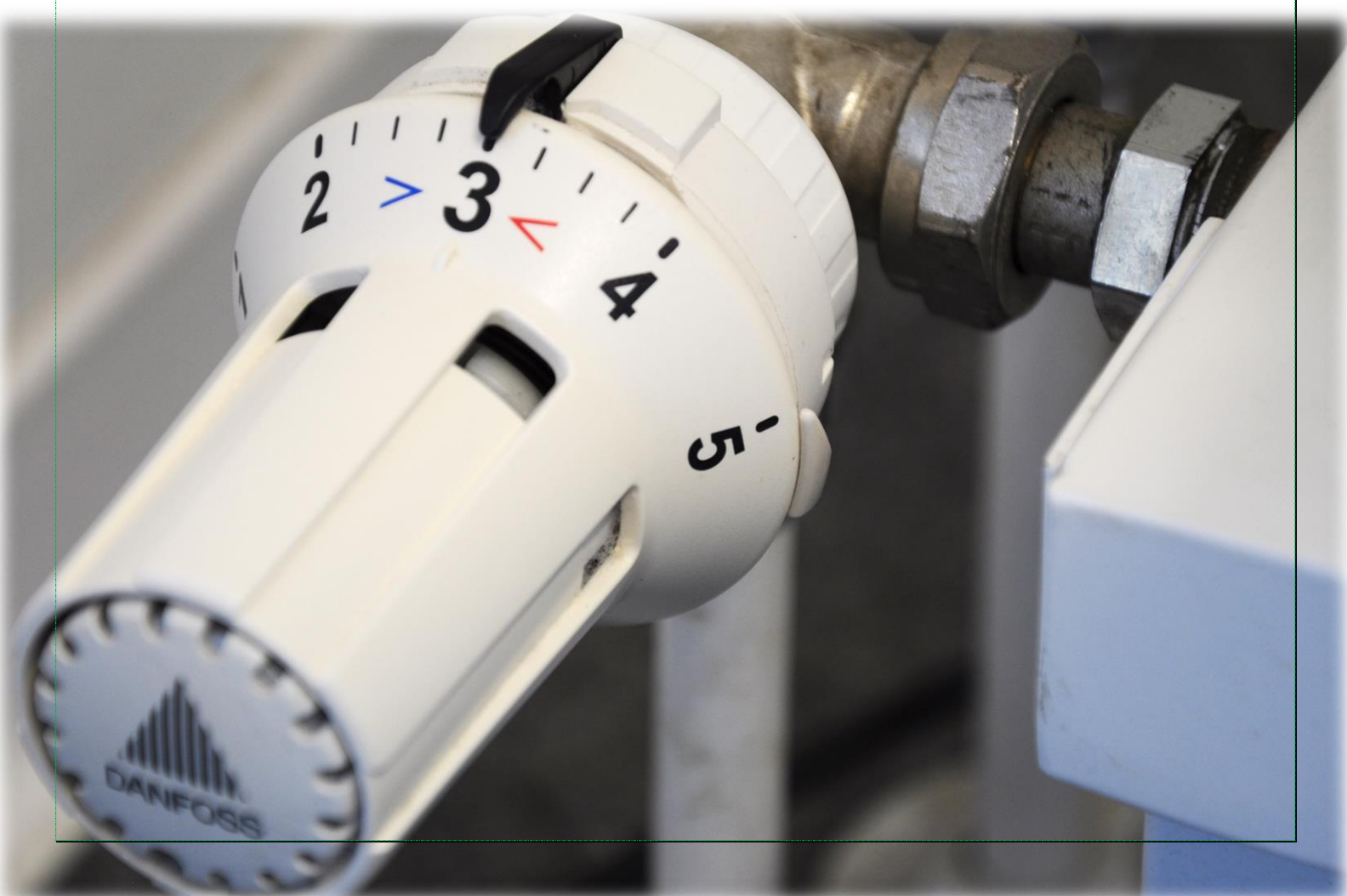
GASES



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14.2 Introduction

The use of gases such as butane or LPG can cause fire, explosions, gas leaks and carbon monoxide poisoning.

It is important that you consider the use of gases in your salon, for the health, safety and welfare of you and your staff, your customers and anyone else who might be in your business at any one point in time.

14.3 Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 as amended

The main legislation around the safe use of gas is the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 (GSIUR) – as amended in 2023 with the The Gas Safety (Management) (Amendment) Regulations 2023. Depending on the use of the gas and its installation, other laws also apply.

14.4 Gas Safe Register

Any gas fittings must be carried out by a fully qualified Gas Safe registered engineer. It is illegal for anyone else to do so. It is your responsibility to check that a person is registered and is qualified.

You can check if a person is registered with Gas Safe and their gas qualifications by:

- ✓ using the [Gas Safe Register website](#)
- ✓ phoning Gas Safe Register on 0800 408 5500
- ✓ People who are registered carry a Gas Safe ID card, which shows the type of work they are qualified to do and whether their qualifications are up to date

14.5 Installation and Maintenance

To install, maintain or repair any gas fittings you have to use a Gas Safe registered engineer.

You need to make sure all gas pipework, appliances and flues are regularly checked and maintained.

You also have to make sure that all rooms with gas appliances have adequate ventilation, and that air inlets or flues and chimneys are not blocked or obstructed.

If you rent the building for your business, the management contract should clearly state who is responsible for the maintenance, gas safety checks and record keeping – whether you, the landlord or a letting/management agent.

14.6 Emergencies

If you suspect a leak, turn off the supply and immediately phone:

- ❖ for natural gas - the National Gas Emergency Service on 0800 111 999
- ❖ for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) - your LPG supplier

If you're not sure, evacuate the building – you should have an evacuation plan as mentioned in SECTION 18 – EMERGENCIES. Contact the police and the National Gas Emergency Service on 0800 – 111 999 or your own gas supplier.

Do not use any gas appliance that you know, or suspect, to be faulty or unsafe.

14.7 Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless and tasteless gas made when fuel – such as gas – burns. This means that you can not see it, smell it or taste it. Unless you have a carbon monoxide alarm, it can be there, poisoning your staff and customers, without you knowing it.

Carbon monoxide poisoning is deadly. Brain damage from lack of oxygen can also occur.

Appliances that aren't well ventilated can cause the carbon monoxide gas to build up to dangerous levels. A tightly enclosed space makes the buildup worse.

It occurs when carbon monoxide builds up in the blood. When too much carbon monoxide is in the air – and thus breathed in - the body replaces the oxygen in the red blood cells with carbon monoxide. This can harm the brain, heart, and other organs.

People with health problems, such as heart and lung disease, are at greater risk for harm. Infants, children, pregnant people, and older adults are also at greater risk.

14.7.1 Common sources of CO

- Indoor and portable heaters
- Fires
- Malfunctioning cooking appliances
- Gas boilers
- Generators
- Vehicle exhaust fumes
- Blocked chimneys
- Wood, gas and coal fires

14.7.2 Signs and Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include:

- Ø headache
- Ø dizziness
- Ø nausea and vomiting
- Ø feeling weak
- Ø confusion
- Ø chest and muscle pain
- Ø shortness of breath
- Ø confusion and disorientation
- Ø rapid heart beat
- Ø seizures

The symptoms may come and go. They may get worse when time is spent in an affected room or building and get better when one goes outside the room or building.

People who are drunk or sleeping can die from CO poisoning before they have symptoms.

14.7.3 Actions to take

If you suspect you might have carbon monoxide poisoning:

- ✓ stop using appliances you think might be producing the carbon monoxide
 - ✓ open any windows and doors to let fresh air in
 - ✓ go outside
 - ✓ get medical help straight away
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- Ø do not go back into the affected building until it is safe to do so
 - Ø do not drive

14.7.4 Preventing carbon monoxide poisoning

1. get a carbon monoxide alarm for each room that could potentially produce carbon monoxide
2. get heating and cooking appliances properly installed by Gas Safe registered engineers, and keep them well maintained
3. make sure your boiler is serviced regularly by a Gas Safe registered engineer
4. keep chimneys and flues clean and well maintained

14.8 Resources

For more information, see

[Gas Safe Register](#)

[L56 Safety in the installation and use of gas systems and appliances](#) (HSE)