

To: Licensees / Contractors working in the Gasfitting industry
From: Energy Utilities Unit, Home Building Service, Parramatta
Date: 16/08/2013
Subject: The use of Composite type pipes on Gas installations
Scope: Applies to all areas in New South Wales

Issue:

To ensure Licensees undertaking gasfitting work are aware of potentially unsafe situations resulting from the use/installation of cross linked polyethylene/aluminium [PE-X/AL/PE-X] composite pipes. Situations that may arise include degradation of the material due to exposure to UV light, and the increased risk of mechanical damage.

Currently, composite pipe may be used in a gas installation, including where there is a connection to a gas meter. Where the service passes through a wall, and/or when exposed to sunlight, the composite pipe has been known to fail, including cracking of the outer skin of the pipe.

Fair Trading has become aware of this pipe failure as described and is recommending that where any part of a gas installation is exposed, then consideration should be given in the use of an alternative pipe material. Continued use of composite pipe requires UV and mechanical protection.



Image: Composite Pipe Failure - This section of pipe shows evidence of breaking down with cracks appearing on composite pipework exposed to direct sunlight

Reference: AS 5601-2004 Gas Installations

For more information, please email: Gassafety@services.nsw.gov.au

This Advisory Note has been approved for issue by NSW Fair Trading. Information contained within this document is current as at the 16/08/2013 and refers to codes and standards current at the time of writing.

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