

To: Licensees & Contractors working in the Gasfitting and Building industry  
From: Building Specialist Compliance Unit, Specialist Services  
Date: 8/07/2020  
Subject: The location & installation of gas continuous flow hot water systems.  
Scope: Applies to all areas in New South Wales

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### Issue:

Strict compliance within NSW to Australian Standard AS/NZS 5601.1:2013 for installation of gas continuous flow hot water systems on balconies and related areas.

The Australian Standard AS/NZS 5601.1:2013, does not allow for these types of heaters to be installed near building openings, while also providing guidance on the installation of gas appliances on building balconies.

All gas installations in NSW must comply with the Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2017 and Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Regulation 2018 which currently calls up Australian Standard AS/NZS 5601:2013. Any new installation not conforming to AS/NZS 5601:2013 is considered non-compliant.

### Reference:

Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Regulation 2018

#### **AS/NZS 5601.1-2013 Gas Installations**

##### **6.9.4 Termination of a flue under a covered area or in a recess**

Where the *flue terminal* of a *balanced flue appliance*, *room-sealed appliance* a *fan-assisted appliance* or the *flue terminal* of an *appliance* designed for *outdoor* installation is to be installed under a covered area, or in a recess, where *combustion products* might not readily disperse or a nuisance could occur, either -

- (a) the covered area or recess shall be open on at least two sides and the terminal shall be located to ensure a free flow of air across it is achieved; or
- (b) in the case of a *fan-assisted flue appliance* only, when one side is open, the terminal shall be within 500mm of the opening, discharging in the direction of the opening and there shall be no openings into the building along the wall within that distance and the terminal shall be located to ensure that a free flow of air across it is achieved.

NOTE: These requirements do not apply to domestic *gas* barbecues and radiant *gas* heaters designed for outdoor use. For these *appliances*, refer to Appendix I

### Requirements:

When installing gas continuous flow hot water systems, strict compliance to AS/NZS 5601:2013 is required for all installations ensuring that the heater is located correctly to comply with the above clause. The heater shall not be installed on a balcony that has a covered roof and is enclosed on more than 2 sides, unless the flue terminal is within 500mm of the opening, discharging in the direction of the opening with no openings into the building along the wall and located so that free flow of air across the terminal is achieved.

It is important that there is sufficient ventilation for the heater to operate and for gasses to escape. Louvre screens, windows or other such obstructions shall not interfere with the air flow required or flue termination for a continuous flow hot water heater.

It is recommended that licensed gasfitters discuss with building designers and builders to plan for the correct location of the heaters. The licensed gasfitter is the responsible person for the gas installation including appliance locations.

All licensed gasfitters are reminded that for all gas installations, a signed Certificate of Compliance or Certificate of Inspection is to be completed and submitted to NSW Fair Trading within 5 business days of completing the installation. Certificates of Compliance must be lodged with NSW Fair Trading via the [MyInspections Gateway](#)

**NOTE:** When signing the Certificate of Compliance, the licensed gasfitter is certifying that the gas installation complies with AS/NZS 5601:2013, and any non-compliance is the responsibility of the licensed gasfitter.

**Example of 3 open sided balcony in accordance to AS/NZS 5601:2013, with a compliant installation of a continuous flow gas hot water unit**



**Example of a 1 open sided balcony, where a continuous flow gas hot water unit can be installed with a flue diverter**



**Example of a 1 open sided balcony, where a continuous flow gas hot water unit cannot be installed**



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**For more information, please email: [Gassafety@customerservice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Gassafety@customerservice.nsw.gov.au)**

This Advisory Note has been approved for issue by the Building Specialist Compliance Unit. Information contained within this document is current as at the 8/07/2020 and refers to codes and standards current at the time of writing.

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