



Quarter 4, December 2020

THE ELECTRONIC GAS COC - TOP 10 FAQs

On the 18th August 2020, SAQCC Gas hosted the first webinar session introducing the dynamics of the electronic CoC. The attendance was astounding, and so was the interaction. This was also an opportunity to raise questions about how the electronic CoC system would work. These are the top 10 questions that were raised:

1. What kind of device can be used to download and use the Electronic CoC App?
Answer: Currently the App is downloadable on Android Tablets.
2. How is the Electronic CoC App downloaded?
Answer: SAQCC Gas will send a link to all registered Gas Practitioners to download the App via an App Store.
3. How much will each electronic CoC be?
Answer: R15.00 per CoC
4. Who will be selected to test the App?
Answer: Each of the four SAQCC Gas associations will recruit practitioners to test the system.
5. Will Gas Practitioners be refunded for the leftover hard copies of the CoC?
Answer: SAQCC Gas will ensure a long enough phase-out period is allocated to ensure Gas Practitioners are not left with any hard copy CoCs.
6. Does the Electronic CoC cover domestic, commercial and industrial installations?
Answer: Yes
7. How long is the CoC valid for?
Answer: The CoC is valid until any modification/alterations, maintenance and repair work are made to the installation where upon a new CoC will be issued.
8. If a Gas Practitioner's license has expired, will they be able to access the system?
Answer: Yes, but will not be able to issue a CoC.
9. How will the end-user receive the CoC?
Answer: The Gas Practitioner will have the option to send a copy of the CoC to the end-user via E-Mail.
10. When will the App be available?
Answer: The launch is anticipated at the end of November 2020.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MARKETING DIRECTOR



I am hugely encouraged by the attendance at our first two digital CoC webinars. Not only was the attendance great but the questions and interest shown indicate that such webinars are of vital importance. Don't worry if you happened to miss these, we will be hosting more webinars throughout the next few months.

Comments received from the attendees varied between, "this app will help with our fight against unregistered installers", to "this app will reduce the amount of practitioners working illegally and not working in accordance to the PER and the OHS Act."

I would like to thank the SAQCC Gas team who have been working on the digital CoC application which is now in the final stages of testing. We look forward to the launch at the end of October.

If there is one thing that COVID-19 has shown us, is that we can all adapt! Look out for our next digital roadshow coming soon!

SOCIALISE WITH US:

Visit us on facebook, subscribe and like our latest video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTHomESOpEs>



For comments and topic suggestions please contact us on:
Tel 011 285 0038
Email:
info@saqccgas.co.za
Website:
www.saqccgas.co.za

BREAKING THE RULES DOES NOT PAY

The SAQCC Gas had a disciplinary hearing recently with one accused in the commercial category. The complaint was failure to comply with required Health and Safety Standards and Pressure Equipment Regulations. A Final warning was issued, valid for 12 months.

Transgressions like this are viewed in a very serious light and non-complying practitioners can face serious sanctions, even de-registration. There has been 28 hearings to date. Six offenders received final warnings and five offenders were de-registered.

If you are aware of anyone operating outside of the strict regulatory guidelines, please report such individuals via www.saqccgas.co.za.

RENEWING YOUR LICENSE

Please contact the respective association listed below to initiate the renewal process:

LPGas: Joy Matabane | Tel: 011 886 9702 | Email: registration@lpgas.co.za

SAGA: Lerato Ntuli | Tel: 011-431 2016 | Email: lerato@sagas.co.za

SACGA: Brenda Little | Tel: 072 129 1379 | Email: sacgass@iafrica.com

SARACCA: Suzette Kotze | Tel: 011 622 3890 | Email: suzette@saracca.co.za



SAQCC GAS - TRAINING WITH THE DOL

Barry Little, SACGA General Secretary/Technical Adviser presented an overview of the Southern Africa Compressed Gases Association (SACGA) and this was followed by a presentation on Gas Cylinders. The Gas Cylinder presentation included the history of Gas Cylinders and how they have evolved over the years, the different types of cylinders and how they are filled and tested to ensure they are safe to use.

The Classroom training was followed by a walk around the Air Product's Palletised Cylinder filling Facility, where the DOL Inspectors were shown how gas cylinders are received and sorted, what pre-fill checks are carried out to ensure the cylinders are safe to be filled, the filling process and final inspection before the cylinders are ready for shipping to the customers. The DOL Inspectors then visited the new Air Product's Cylinder Test and Maintenance Facility to see how gas cylinders are re-validated.

The day was concluded with a question and answer session and a small test to confirm understanding from the days training.

SAGA

Awareness was focused on:
Morning session was on theory of

- Reticulation systems
- Combustion and fuel handling equipment
- Safe Gas Equipment Scheme (SGES) – Verification Permits
- Inspector checklists for domestic/commercial and industrial gas installations
- Difference between LPG and NG
- Live demonstration of firing up a gas train [Industrial thermoprocessing]

Afternoon session was practical site visits to 2x Users to demonstrate:

- Industrial thermoprocessing (reticulation gas system)
- Compressed natural gas vehicles and industrial applications (Fuelling Station)

The theory and practice came together in an understandable manner. Inspectors found all the above exhilarating and very useful information. Discussions during the training with the DOL inspectors sparked the need to develop a booklet that will be used as a reference to all gas specifications when site inspections are conducted.

LPGSASA

In terms of Liquefied Petroleum Gas, the DOL Inspector delegates were incredibly excited and responsive to their day and a half up skilling, which included:

- Site visit to WASAA's LPG filling depot
- User friendly checklists when inspecting LPG sites
- Knowledge and understanding of the PER and SANS Standards
- The ability to interact directly with the facilitator

A particular highlight of the training was the inspection checklist which was incredibly well received by the inspector delegates. Many of the delegates have subsequently contacted LPGSASA for copies of the checklist to make use of during field inspections.

One of the most common observations of the inspectors was that the overall training course was too concentrated and that future courses should be split up or run over more days.

SARACCA

The training by SARACCA in refrigerant gases and the use of refrigeration for cold storage and air conditioning was held at ACRA on Kempton Park.

Grant Laidlaw of ACRA gave a back ground view of refrigeration and its application. This was followed by a comprehensive talk by Mike Labasher of A-

Gas on identifying refrigerants in their transport cylinders and the general safe handling of the containers and the transfer of gas into systems. A hand-out of the common refrigerants and the colour coding of cylinders was given to the Department of Labour inspectors.

A tour of the ACRA training facility was guided by Grant Laidlaw showing the various types of refrigeration and air conditioning systems. The types of compressor and application in water chillers, air conditioning units and cold rooms was covered. This elicited serious discussion on what the inspectors are likely to see in their daily inspections.

Barney Richardson gave a talk on the issuing of Certificates of Conformity for the many different systems using refrigeration. The talk covered the competencies of practitioners authorised to sign COC's. The requirements of the Pressure Equipment Regulations were points out with respect to refrigeration. The specific items to lookout for in any inspection were highlighted.

A final talk by Charel Marais on the quality of installation in air conditioning with numerous slides saw the conclusion of the days training.

The four associations look forward to their next training session as the industry continues to develop.

SAQCC GAS WEBINAR: INTRODUCING THE ELECTRONIC COC

We hosted our first SAQCC Gas webinar on the 18th August 2020 and we look forward to having many more in the future! The webinar focused on the new electronic CoC app and how it works.

The attendance was very positive, we realised that such sessions are vital as Gas Practitioners had a lot of question regarding the new CoC. Thank you to everyone who attended the webinar and for the great interaction.

For more information on the electronic CoC, read our latest Press Release: A guide to the New Gas Digital CoC, [CLICK HERE](#).

Click [HERE](#) to view our latest video on the digital CoC.

VIDEO: THE DIGITAL COC



Moving into the Digital Space: Electronic COCs

The Digital Domain has evolved into a world of its own, endless online opportunities have been availed for various processes which were previously traditionally facilitated. Although these methods themselves have not changed much, society has, and it is vital that we also keep up with the times.

SAQCC Gas is excited to introduce an electronic Certificate of Conformity (COC) system. The Pressure Equipment Regulations (PER) which were gazetted in 2009 require every gas installation, whether fuel gas, compressed or refrigerant gas, Industrial or Medical Gas, to be assigned a COC upon completion of an installation, repair or maintenance. Gas Practitioners currently buy a COC book to be filled out and issued upon completion of each installation they undertake.

The existence of the COC has been a great way to document and confirm compliance for each installation completed. However, with the increase in fraudulent activities in South Africa, the

gas industry has seen an increase in fraudulent COC documents.

We have seen duplicated and fabricated COCs and there have also been instances where a Gas COC book, allocated to a specific Gas Practitioner, has been filled out by someone other than the rightful registered practitioner.

The Dynamics

Each registered Gas Practitioner will have access to a personalised online system from which they can complete the electronic COC and send it to the end-user or owner upon completion of the gas installation, repair or maintenance. SAQCC Gas will automatically receive a duplicate copy of the completed COC for record keeping.

The Benefits

The electronic COC will help curb fraud. Each Gas Practitioner will log in using their secret coding to access the COC, which means only the authorised person will have access to the COC.

The risk of theft is eradicated. With the COC digitalised, Gas Practitioners no longer have to worry about their Gas COC book being stolen or lost.

This system is convenient and secure. Gas Practitioners will no longer need to carry their COC book to the installation site, they can simply issue a COC from their mobile devices.

Gas Practitioners with an expired license will not be able to access the system to issue a COC. This will increase continuous compliance and ensure only registered persons work on gas systems. Similarly, if a person is not registered as a practitioner, he/she will not be able to access or issue a COC.

Going digital entails discovering new frontiers and using innovation and technologies to push the association and its objectives further. It is about bettering existing services through new possibilities that bring us closer to our desired outcome, compliance and the success of the Southern African gas industry.

A guide to the new gas digital CoC

Various industries across the globe are undergoing a digital transformation. Now more than ever it is essential to optimise internal operations and implement the necessary technology changes required to do business in a post-COVID-19 world.

Within the gas industry in South Africa, the South African Qualifications and Certification Committee of Gas (SAQCC Gas) is leading the digital change by introducing digital Certificates of Conformity or CoC.

SAQCC Gas is made up of four member associations;

- Liquefied Petroleum Gas Safety Association of South Africa (LPGSASA);
- South African Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Contractors Association (SARACCA);
- Southern African Gas Association (SAGA)
- Southern African Compressed Gases Association (SACGA).

SAQCC Gas has been mandated by the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) to register and regulate Gas Practitioners. The primary objective is to ensure gas users can confidently use their appliance or equipment and are kept safe and that the Gas installers are skilled and competent.

Technology has become a huge part of driving this objective. SAQCC Gas is in the final stages of development and the launch of the digital CoC application (App).

Throughout 2021, gas practitioners will be switching to using an electronic system to issue gas COCs to the end-user.

The dynamics of the COC App
All registered Gas Practitioners will have access to the electronic COC according to their skill and scope of work which they have been registered for.

How to log into the APP

You will be required to enter the following information:

- South Africa ID/Passport
- Password (This is generated when you register an account)

Once logged in, if the Gas Practitioner is registered with one association, they will have access to the COC for that specific Association. However, if the gas practitioner has multiple qualifications and is registered with more than one association, they will have access to all the relevant skills' category for COCs. The gas practitioner will then click on the relevant association that regulates the installation and gas work completed.

If a Gas Practitioner was assigned several COCs and their registration expires, they will no longer be able to issue those COCs.

Purchasing a COC

Gas Practitioners who are employed with a particular gas contracting company will not have a "Purchase COC" button. This is because each company will administrate the purchase and then allocate the COCs

to the gas practitioner's account. Creating and Issuing a COC to the end-user

- Step 1:** The Gas Practitioner will register their details on the SAQCC Gas App
Step 2: The type of equipment installed, modified, repaired or maintained will be specified (description of work completed)
Step 3: There will be the option to upload picture of the work completed
Step 4: Signature Panel- Gas Practitioner signature and Customer signature (with geographic location and date automatically set)

Recipients of the COC

The following parties will each receive a copy of the COC:

- Customer
- Gas Practitioner
- Contractor company
- The relevant Association
- SAQCC Gas

If for some reason, the gas practitioner loses internet connection while filling out the COC on the App, the COC can still be completed while offline or saved to be finished later.

When a Gas Practitioner acquires additional skills and qualification, they can have their scope of work updated on the system. For more information on the electronic COC and the functionality, contact SAQCC Gas on 011 285 0038 alternatively; send us an Email on info@saqccgas.co.za