



CER PRESS RELEASE

20th February 2015

INSTALLER PLEADS GUILTY TO BREACH OF GAS SAFETY LAW

On 20th February 2015 the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) successfully prosecuted an individual illegally carrying out gas works, specifically the repair of a gas boiler. This case was heard at Portlaoise District Court.

At the time, this individual was not a Registered Gas Installer, and committed an offence under the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999.

Judge Staines applied the probation act in this matter and awarded costs in the amount of €500 to the CER. In addition, Judge Staines instructed the defendant to pay €200 in compensation to the homeowner affected.

This prosecution emphasises the requirement by law for all gas installers to be registered with the Register of Gas Installers of Ireland (RGII) before carrying out any gas works, or else face prosecution. The CER is committed to using its resources in the investigation and prosecution of individuals undertaking illegal gas works.

Commissioner for Safety, Paul McGowan stated:

“Gas safety in the home is of paramount importance and people should only ever employ a Registered Gas Installer to service, maintain or install their gas boiler or gas appliance. Anyone who portrays themselves as a Registered Gas Installer, when they are not, is committing an offence. Today’s case sends a clear signal that the CER will undertake prosecutions against unregistered individuals that act outside the law.”

If any member of the public suspects that a domestic gas installation has been maintained, repaired or installed completed by an unregistered individual they should report it directly (or anonymously) by completing an illegal gas works complaint form at www.rgii.ie or by contacting 1850 454 454.

Ends.

For further information please contact:

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Note to Editors:

1. Under the Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 the CER has responsibility to regulate the activities of gas undertakings and gas installers with respect to safety. The CER appointed the Register of Gas Installers Ireland (RGII) to carry out this function on its behalf. Any person wishing to carry out Gas Works (as defined under Statutory Instrument 225/2009 and 299/2011) is required by law to register as a Registered Gas Installer (RGI) with RGII.
2. There are approximately 3,000 RGI's in Ireland. By using an RGI customers can have confidence that they are dealing with a trained installer who has the required expertise in gas safety to ensure their gas installation is safe. The RGII supervise the work of RGI's with respect to safety. Visit www.RGII.ie for further information and a full listing of Registered Gas Installers.
3. The CER's mission in this area is to protect life, to prevent injury, and to minimise economic loss, by means of a pro-active, precautionary and preventative approach to ensuring the safe transmission, distribution and use of gas.
4. Please visit CER website at www.cer.ie for further information on CER's safety responsibilities.