

HSENI NEWS RELEASE embargoed until 4th August 2009 at 1200 hours

GAS INSTALLER REGISTRATION SCHEME TO CHANGE FROM APRIL 2010

The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) today announced forthcoming changes to the NI gas installer registration scheme, a compulsory scheme for everyone working with gas fittings in Northern Ireland, to take effect from 1st April 2010.

After extensive consultation with the gas industry and public representative groups, it has been decided that the current registration scheme, provided by CORGI, the Council for Registered Gas Installers, will move to Gas Safe Register, the gas installer registration scheme operating in GB. CORGI will continue to provide the scheme until 31 March 2010 when Gas Safe Register will extend its operations to Northern Ireland from 1 April 2010 subject to final contract negotiations.

Jim King, who heads the Gas Safety unit in HSENI said: **“CORGI has provided excellent service to gas engineers and gas consumers in NI since 1997. We are indebted to the local CORGI inspectors for the diligent way they carried out their work, helping to build up the high standards currently set in Northern Ireland. The overwhelming opinion from our consultation was that we align with the arrangements in GB, and appoint Gas Safe Register as the body approved to register gas installers for work in NI. HSENI is currently discussing the contract with Gas Safe Register and planning the advertising campaign that will support the transition. This move is in parallel with an increase in the inspection team in the Gas Safety unit, aimed at ensuring the highest level of safety for gas consumers.”**

Gas Safe Register’s chief executive, Peter Eldridge, commented: **“Gas Safe Register is delighted to have been chosen by HSENI to run the gas registration scheme, an endorsement to the success we have already achieved in GB. We are committed to delivering an effective service that minimises the cost and administrative burden on engineers. And from April 2010, consumers and gas engineers in Northern Ireland will have access to our responsive and efficient gas safety scheme that actively promotes the value of using Gas Safe registered engineers.”**



Notes to editors

1. CORGI currently provides the gas installer registration scheme in NI and will continue to do so until 31 March 2010.
2. Gas Safe Register TM has provided the gas registration scheme in GB and Isle of Man since 1 April 2009. More information about Gas Safe Register can be found on www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk.
3. Any person or business working with gas fittings must be registered or face legal action for non registration.