

# Portable / Flueless gas heater ventilation and safety

## Gas Bulletin #19A

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### A message to property owners

The Office of the Technical Regulator (OTR) is a statutory body established under the *Gas Act (SA) 1997*. One of the major roles of the OTR is to ensure that gas installations and appliances comply with the safety requirements of the Gas Act. The Act calls up AS/NZS 5601.1, as amended from time to time, as the required Standard for gas installations.

Gas installations must comply with the requirements of AS/NZS 5601.1.

**The plumber-gasfitter working at your premises has found that there is insufficient permanent ventilation in the room in which your flueless heater is operated.** The Gas Act requires that you be advised about this potentially hazardous situation.

Flueless / portable gas heaters are very efficient because they vent the burnt combustion gases directly into the room rather than up a flue, as is the case with conventional gas space heaters. However, in order to maintain safe air quality in the room it is essential that adequate fixed ventilation be installed. Gasfitters installing these appliances are required to ensure that adequate ventilation has been provided prior to issuing a Certificate of Compliance for their work.

Ventilation is required, at both high and low level in the room, at the rate of 10 square centimetres (10cm<sup>2</sup>) of free area for every megajoule of appliance capacity, eg, an 18-megajoule heater will need 180 cm<sup>2</sup> of ventilation at high and low level in the room.

In the interest of your safety, adequate ventilation must be installed prior to the appliance being used. Please accept the advice offered by your plumber-gasfitter

Contact the Office of the Technical Regulator for more information

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