

Jail for bogus gas fitter

At Burnley Crown Court on 20 October 2011 a 35-year-old Accrington man was sent to prison for two years after admitting two offences of falsely claiming he was a registered gas engineer, two offences of carrying out work in relation to a gas fitting when he was not a registered gas engineer, and two offences of putting people's safety at risk.

He was prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive after it was discovered that his work when installing boilers in homes in Accrington and Lancaster was classified as being 'immediately dangerous'.

The Crown Court heard that at both homes the man falsely claimed he was a registered gas engineer and that his actions had put residents at risk of being killed or seriously injured in a gas explosion or from carbon monoxide poisoning.

The householder in Accrington spent a further £1,700 on having the boiler made safe at his house.

Gas installers undertaking gas installation and maintenance work must be registered with The Gas Safe Register – CORGI prior to April 2009. Members of the public and landlords should always check that gas engineers have a valid Gas Safe Register ID card.

It is estimated that gas fitters working unregistered are doing 250,000 illegal jobs each year, causing fires, explosions, gas leaks, carbon monoxide poisoning and leaving people out of pocket.

The message to everyone is clear - check the engineer's Gas Safe Register ID card before letting them start work. Homeowners and landlords can check whether a gas engineer is registered by visiting www.gassaferegister.co.uk or calling 0800 408 5500.

For advice on the application of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 or on any other health and safety issues contact Robin Cooper at robin.cooper@hrjlaw.co.uk or Abigail Bearne at abigail.bearne@hrjlaw.co.uk or telephone our Welwyn Garden City office on 01707 887700.



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