

EFG 2009 – SESSION 1

THE REGISTRATION OF GAS INSTALLERS IN BELGIUM - ORIGIN ACTUAL SITUATION - FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Bart THOMAS, ARGB, Belgium

Abstract

Due to a not insignificant number of accidents related to the inside natural gas installation (mainly CO intoxication and explosions) the Belgian gas industry created in 1999 a voluntary qualification system for gas installers managed by the Belgian gas association ARGB.

The system consists of a basic education (44h), an annual update (4 or 8 h) and a random check by an accredited notified body of one realized installation a year. About 6.000 people have been trained on respecting all the safety aspects of an inside gas installations. Today the system counts about 2.000 registered installers and the number of accidents has decreased.

The competent federal authorities have been involved since the beginning and recently a breakthrough has been reached to come to a future regulatory framework for the existing voluntary qualification system.

The presentation will give an overview about the problems that have been faced, about the actual situation and about the future objectives.