

Mr Alyn Smith MP

By email

Your Ref: AS/lr

15 April 2020

Chief Executive

Sarah Albon

Redgrave Court

Merton Road

Bootle

Merseyside L20 7HS

chief.executive@hse.gov.uk

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/>

Dear Mr Smith,

Thank you for your letter of 7 April on behalf of your constituent, regarding renewal of his Gas Safe Registered Engineer certification through the Accredited Certification Scheme, during the coronavirus (COVID -19) pandemic.

Engineers are expected to take all reasonable measures to maintain their ACS qualifications; maintaining gas safety competence is essential for registered gas engineers. If assessment centres have enough staff and customers to keep functioning, they should do so and follow Gov.uk advice on good hygiene and encouraging engineers not to attend if they should be self-isolating.

While HSE is not suspending the requirement for these qualifications to be renewed, it is allowing registered gas engineers to remain on the Register for an additional period during the peak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) measures. This is on condition that they take reasonable steps to update their expired ACS certification as soon as possible (i.e. when an assessment centre within reasonable travelling distance opens for business) and continue to work safely.

Engineers may be required to demonstrate that they have taken reasonable steps to renew their qualifications.

Engineers must maintain their Gas Safe registration during any extension of their ACS qualification period if they are carrying out gas work.

This is a temporary measure and does not remove the standing requirement for registered gas engineers to maintain their ACS certification and renew certification every 5 years.

You will appreciate this is a fast-paced situation in which we are regularly reviewing our advice against the latest advice from the Government and Public Health England. HSE is monitoring activities in this sector and working closely with the Gas Safe Register to keep the effectiveness of this approach under continual review.

Your constituent can find the relevant information, and any updates, on the Gas Safe Register's website at <https://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/help-and-advice/covid-19-advice-and-guidance/>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Albon', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Albon

Chief Executive