

Becoming a commercial gas engineer

The qualification scheme for gas work in the UK is called **ACS (Accredited Certification Scheme)**. ACS covers several different areas including domestic, commercial industrial, commercial catering, LPG, and meter installation.

Commercial ACS assessments include:

COCNI	Core commercial gas safety
ICPNI	First-fix pipework
TPCPIA	Tightness testing and purging
CIGAI	Indirect-fired gas heaters (boilers and flued air heaters)
CORTI	Radiant tube and plaque heaters
CDGAI	Direct-fired (flueless) air heaters

A commercial gas engineer will hold COCNI plus one or more additional elements. For example, a boiler commissioning or servicing engineer would hold COCNI and CIGAI. A pipe installer who does not work on appliances would hold COCNI, ICPNI and TPCPIA. It is also possible to be an all-rounder who holds all of the above qualifications.

Before taking ACS assessments, if you do not already have a recognised gas qualification, you must complete a **managed learning programme (MLP)**. The list of approved training providers can be found here: <https://www.euskills.co.uk/downloads/training-provider-directory/>

Our MLP is called the **Guild of Gas Fitting Operatives (GGFO)**. The GGFO consists of **off-job** training, **on-job** training, written exams and practical assessments.

Off-job training

This consists of **25 days** at our training centre in 2-week, 1-week and 1-day blocks spread over a number of months. Classroom and workshop lessons cover all of the required knowledge and practical skills including:

- Legislation
- Safe isolation of electrical supply
- Pipework design and installation
- Flues and chimneys
- Appliance ventilation
- Combustion
- Use of a combustion analyser
- Gas pressures and flow rates
- Installation, commissioning, inspection and servicing of appliances
- Safety controls
- Dealing with unsafe situations

On-job training

You must complete a portfolio of gas work under the direct supervision of one or more Gas Safe registered engineers. We supply you with a blank portfolio of 80 Gas Work Records.

Installing and commissioning a commercial boiler including the supply pipework would provide evidence for four ACS elements: COCNI, ICPNI, TPCPIA and CIGAI, and would count as two separate Gas Work Records: one for the pipework and one for the appliance.

GGFO assessment

When your portfolio is complete you return to the training centre for the GGFO practical and written exams. If successful, you will receive a certificate that allows you to take ACS assessments.

If you are unsuccessful at the first attempt of any assessment you can retake it free of charge.

GGFO cost

The GGFO (including training, assessment, portfolio and certificate) costs £ 2736 inc. VAT.

GGFO dates

The dates for the next GGFO course are as follows:

Week 1	Monday 21 st June
Week 2	Monday 28 th June
Week 3	Monday 16 th August
Week 4	Can be arranged to suit in 1-day or 2-day blocks
Week 5	To be arranged after completion of the portfolio
ACS	To be arranged after completion of the GGFO assessment

ACS assessment costs (inc. VAT)

COCNI	Core commercial gas safety	£ 408
ICPNI	First-fix pipework	£ 51
TPCPIA	Tightness testing and purging	£102
CIGAI	Indirect-fired gas heaters	£ 51
CORTI	Radiant heaters	£ 51
CDGAI	Direct-fired gas heaters	£ 0 (included with CIGAI + CORTI)
CERT	Certification fee	£ 72