

Becoming a commercial gas engineer

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

COCNI	Core commercial gas safety	£ 408
CIGAI	Indirect-fired gas heaters	£ 51
ICPNI	First-fix pipework	£ 51
TPCPA	Tightness testing and purging	£ 102
CORTI	Radiant heaters	£ 51
CDGAI	Direct-fired gas heaters	£ 0
	ACS certification fee	£ 60

A qualified commercial gas engineer will hold core (COCNI) plus one or more elements. For example, a boiler commissioning or servicing engineer would require COCNI and CIGAI. A pipe installer who does not work on appliances would require COCNI, ICPNI and TPCPIA.

Before taking ACS assessments, if you do not already have a recognised gas qualification, you must complete a **managed learning programme** such as the **Guild of Gas Fitting Operatives (GGFO)**. The GGFO consists of **off-job** training, **on-job** training, written exams and practical assessments.

GGFO 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
- Complete and incomplete combustion
- Use of a combustion analyser
- Gas pressures and flow rates
- Appliance installation, commissioning, inspection, and servicing
- Safety controls

GGFO on-job training

As evidence of 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 to complete.

For example, the installation and commissioning of a commercial boiler including supply pipework would provide evidence for **four** different ACS assessments: COCNI, ICPNI, TPCPIA and CIGAI, and could 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 practical and written exams. If successful, you will receive a certificate that allows you to take those ACS assessments for which you have sufficient evidence in your portfolio.

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

GGFO cost

GGFO (including training, assessment, portfolio and certificate) costs £ 2694 inc. VAT.

GGFO dates

The dates for the next GGFO course are as follows:

Week 1	Monday 18 th November
Week 2	Monday 25 th November
Week 3	Monday 16 th December
Week 4	Can be arranged to suit in 1-day or 2-day blocks
Week 5	To be arranged after completion of your portfolio
ACS	To be arranged after completion of the GGFO