



PRESS RELEASE

ENERGY ASSESSMENT IS BIG BUSINESS!

Middlesex, May 2007 – In the wake of the row over the Home Information Pack (HIP), it's easy to lose sight of the fact that an EU Directive requires the UK Government to implement Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) and it's partly the lack of accredited assessors that's caused the latest debacle.

This is why *gas-elec*, the national safety inspection group, has brought forward the opening of its *g-lec* Skills Academy to offer a Domestic Energy Assessor's (DEA) course, starting from 29 May 2007.

From 1 August, homes with four bedrooms or more will need an HIP and an EPC carried out by an accredited Domestic Energy Assessor (DEA). As more DEA's become accredited, smaller homes will be brought within the legislation and, from April 2008, EPCs will begin to be required in the massive rented sector.

g-lec's comprehensive DEA course, which will give participants the DipDEA qualification necessary for accreditation, encompasses five days in the classroom, practical sessions in the form of simulated Assessments out in the marketplace, DVD-based distance learning, plus five assessments and a final examination.

"Although official sources denied there would be any shortage of inspectors it's now clear that the HIP has been delayed partly because there aren't enough accredited DEAs out there in what will become a massive market," says John Davidson, managing director of *gas-elec*. "We have been inundated with enquiries for these training courses, especially in the last few weeks. Given our experience as trainers we estimate that, with our guidance, a good applicant can be qualified and out in the market within nine weeks."

With 15 years of award-winning training experience behind it, the *g-ec* Skills Academy offers a full range of industry courses, including gas, electrical, plumbing and Health & Safety, in addition to being an approved centre for the DEA course. The new 4,000 square feet premises with state-of-the-art facilities are at West Drayton near group headquarters and Heathrow Airport. They have doubled the company's hands-on training facilities and tripled its lecture room capacity.

"Make no mistake, EPCs are coming and assessment will carve out a whole new industry," says Davidson. "We're not only talking about the domestic market – where 1.4 million properties are sold every year. From 2008 all rented accommodation will need an EPC, and from January 2009, all business premises will need EPCs too. It's an enormous market with unlimited opportunities for people with the right qualifications."

ENDS/...

Editor's Notes

Founded in 1996, **gas-elec** carries out impartial safety inspections and light remedial works. Its unique inspection service provides the residential lettings market with multiple inspections of the gas and electrics in just one visit. **gas-elec** has over 126 franchisees operating from 18 regional offices, who this year will carry out more than 120,000 safety inspections in domestic properties throughout the UK. For more information visit www.gas-elec.co.uk.

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