

<b>Gas Appliances Directive ( 90/396/EEC )</b>	
<b>GUIDANCE B 1</b>	<b>Approved by WG -GA 06 - 2003</b>

**Guideline related to:**

<b>ANNEX</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Essential requirements</b>
<b>Section</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>General conditions</b>
<b>Paragraph</b>	<b>1.1.</b>	
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Hazard related to accessible flames (Fire guarding)</b>	

1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

1.1. Appliances must be so designed and built as to operate safely and present no danger to persons, domestic animals or property when normally used as defined in Article 1 (4) of this Directive.

**Question**

For heating appliances with accessible flames or incandescent parts there is a potential fire and injury risk where clothing or drapery might accidentally brush against them.

How do the essential requirements address this hazard?

**Discussion**

It should be reasonably foreseen that persons come close to the appliance with accessible flames. These appliances represent an increasingly important market, including also mobile appliances.

Essential Requirement 1.1. states that “appliances must be so designed and built as to operate safely and present no danger to persons, domestic animals or property when normally used” and Essential Requirement 1.2. states that appliances must be accompanied by instructions for the installer, for the user and appropriate warning notices.

- In order to deal in a appropriate way with the risk of access to flames and ensure safety of these appliances, under normal conditions of use, the manufacturer must in the first place deal with this risk by design (e.g. to fit a fireguard, known in some countries as a dress guard). The risk may also be appropriately dealt with by design and instructions for the installer to install the appliance in such a way that it would be safe by position.
- Though it is important that users both read and follow the user instruction provided with an appliance, it is unlikely that user instructions would effectively address the particular hazard addressed here. The hazard being of accidental contact with very hot surfaces or flames by people in the vicinity of the heating appliance. People who can be expected to have never read the user

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Reference: 90/396/EEC “Gas appliances directive” O.J. L 196, 26.07.90, p. 15

Source of guidance document: GADAC

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instructions (e.g. visitors) or who will be carrying out activities where the appliance will be seen as a hazard free piece of furnishing and will not be perceived as a risk.

It would be expected that where appropriate the user instructions would provide guidance to the user (as owner of the appliance) as to how to provide any additional recommended protection for at risk users as described in various ISO Guides e.g. young children, the older person and persons with disabilities. Such recommendations may include the provision of additional fire guarding by the user.

### **Conclusion**

The hazard identified must be addressed by design (Essential Requirement 1.1.) or by a combination of design and instructions for the installer (Essential Requirements 1.1. and 1.2.).

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