

**MANSE SAFETY**

There is a legal requirement to ensure that tenanted manses do not create an unsafe environment for their occupants in terms of gas and electrical installations or in relation to fire risks from furnishings (➤ 063). Although the legislation does not apply to manses when occupied by ministers as part of their conditions of employment, there is a clear moral obligation on the local church to apply similar safety precautions. Accordingly, the October 1998 Synod resolved that all gas appliances and installations in manses should be checked at least every twelve months by a CORGI registered contractor or by British Gas. Ministers are responsible for arranging the annual gas safety check, although it is acknowledged that some churches already have a mechanism in place for achieving this. The local church will pay for the check and a copy of the certificate should be sent to the District Secretary.

It is also strongly recommended that the electrical wiring and the installation of any fixed appliances in the manse are checked to ensure compliance with safety standards.

Ministers should be aware of safety risks caused by poor wiring to electrical appliances, such as kettles and toasters, and by furnishings that do not conform to modern safety standards.

Other safety issues are addressed in the section of the handbook dealing with the provision of manses (➤ 061).