

1975 No. 156

GAS

Gas (Meter) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975

<i>Made</i>	28th May 1975
<i>Coming into operation</i>	1st July 1975

The Department(a) of Commerce, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Weights and Measures Act 1904(b), as extended by section 12 of the Gas Regulation Act 1920(c), now vested in it(d) and saved by section 42 of the Weights and Measures Act (Northern Ireland) 1967(e) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation

1. These regulations may be cited as the Gas (Meter) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975 and shall come into operation on 1st July 1975.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations—

“the Act” means the Gas Regulation Act 1920;

“diaphragm meter” means a meter constructed so that it contains a flexible partition;

“meter examiner” means a meter examiner appointed under the Sale of Gas Act 1859(f).

Prescribed standards for meters

3.—(1) The standards with which a meter examiner is to be satisfied that a meter conforms so that he may stamp, or authorise the stamping of, the meter in accordance with section 13 of the Act are as follows:

(a) the meter is such that no gas or air will escape from it;

(b) in the case of any diaphragm meter, the meter, when used for the purpose of ascertaining the quantity of either gas or air passing through it—

(i) at any rate of flow not less than one-fiftieth of the greatest rate of flow for which it is designed and not more than the greatest rate of flow, will register such quantity of gas or air as does not differ from the actual quantity of gas or air passing through the meter by more than 2 per cent of that actual quantity; and

(ii) at the rate of flow specified in column 1 of Table A below which corresponds to the greatest rate of flow for which it is designed specified in column 2 of the Table, will register the passage of gas or air;

(a) Formerly Ministry: see 1973 c. 36 section 40 and Schedule 5 paragraph 8(1)

(b) 1904 c. 28

(c) 1920 c. 28

(d) S.R. & O. 1922 No. 183 (Rev. vol. XVI p. 993)

(e) 1967 c. 6 (N.I.)

(f) 1859 c. 66

TABLE A

Column 1	Column 2
<i>Rate of flow in cubic feet per hour</i>	<i>Greatest rate of flow for which the meter is designed in cubic feet per hour</i>
0.5	Not exceeding 212
1.0	Exceeding 212 but not exceeding 883
2.0	Exceeding 883 but not exceeding 2296
5.0	Exceeding 2296

(c) in the case of a meter other than a diaphragm meter, the meter, when used for the purpose of ascertaining the quantity of either gas or air passing through it—

- (i) at any rate of flow not less than one-fifth of the greatest rate of flow for which it is designed and not more than that greatest rate of flow, will register such quantity of gas or air as does not differ from the actual quantity of gas or air passing through the meter by more than 1 per cent of that actual quantity; and
- (ii) at any rate of flow not less than the smallest rate of flow for which it is designed and less than one-fifth of the greatest rate of flow for which it is designed, will register such quantity of gas or air as does not differ from the actual quantity of gas or air passing through the meter by more than 2 per cent of that actual quantity;

(d) in the case of a diaphragm meter designed to operate at a pressure of not more than 1 bar, the mean difference between the pressure of air at the inlet of the meter and the pressure of air at the outlet of the meter, where air is passing through the meter at the greatest rate of flow for which it is designed, will not exceed the amount specified in column 1 of Table B below which corresponds to that greatest rate of flow specified in column 2 of the Table; and

TABLE B

Column 1	Column 2
<i>Mean difference in millibars</i>	<i>Greatest rate of flow for which the meter is designed in cubic feet per hour</i>
2.0	Not exceeding 566
3.0	Exceeding 566 but not exceeding 2296
4.0	Exceeding 2296

- (e) in the case of any diaphragm meter, the difference between the pressure at the inlet of the meter and the pressure at the outlet of the meter, when air is passing through the meter at the rate of flow which is 1 per cent of the greatest rate of flow for which the meter is designed, will not exceed the amount specified in column 1 of Table C below which corresponds to that greatest rate of flow specified in column 2 of the Table.

TABLE C

Column 1 <i>Difference in millibars</i>	Column 2 <i>Greatest rate of flow for which the meter is designed in cubic feet per hour</i>
0.6 1.0	Not exceeding 2296 Exceeding 2296

(2) A meter shall be deemed to conform with a standard prescribed by sub-paragraph (d) or (e) of the preceding paragraph, notwithstanding that gas instead of air is passing through the meter, where the results of testing for that standard show that, if it has been conducted with air passing through the meter at a density of 1.2 kilogram per cubic metre, the meter would have conformed with that standard.

Re-examination of disputed meters

4.—(1) Where there is a dispute between any person to whom gas is supplied and the person supplying the gas as to the accuracy with which a meter stamped under section 13 of the Act registers the quantity of gas supplied to that person and either party to the dispute requires a meter examiner to re-examine the meter, and the names and addresses of both parties to the dispute are communicated in writing to the meter examiner, it shall be the duty of the meter examiner on payment of the fee prescribed to re-examine the meter.

(2) If a meter examiner, on re-examining the meter, is satisfied that the meter does not conform with the standards prescribed by regulation 3, it shall be the duty of the meter examiner to cancel the stamp with which the meter is already stamped by defacing it.

(3) If a meter examiner on re-examining a meter is satisfied that the meter does not conform either with the standard prescribed by sub-paragraph (b)(i) or a standard prescribed by sub-paragraph (c) of regulation 3, it shall be the duty of the meter examiner to give each of the parties to the dispute a certificate signed by the meter examiner stating the degree exceeding the degree permissible for that standard to which the meter when re-examined registered erroneously.

(4) If a meter examiner on re-examining a meter is satisfied that the meter conforms either with the standard prescribed by sub-paragraph (b)(i) or the standards prescribed by sub-paragraph (c) of regulation 3, it shall be the duty of the meter examiner to give to each of the parties to the dispute a certificate signed by the meter examiner stating that the meter when re-examined registered accurately.

Revocations

5. The Gas (Meter) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1974(g) are hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Commerce for Northern Ireland on 28th May 1975.

(L.S.)

Derek McVitty

Assistant Secretary

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the regulations but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These regulations—

- (a) prescribe standards to which gas meters submitted for stamping or re-examining by a meter examiner must conform;
- (b) provide for re-examining, in the case of disputes, meters already stamped, for cancelling the stamp on any meter which does not conform with the prescribed standards and for the issue of certificates to the consumer and supplier stating either that the meter registers accurately or the degree of its inaccuracy.