
S T A T U T O R Y I N S T R U M E N T S

1972 No. 1178

G A S

The Gas Safety Regulations 1972

<i>Make</i>	- - -	<i>2nd August 1972</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>		<i>8th August 1972</i>
<i>Coming into Operation</i>		<i>1st December 1972</i>

The Secretary of State, in exercise of powers conferred by section 67 of the Gas Act 1948(a) and now vested in him (b), hereby makes the following regulations:—

PART I

GENERAL

Citation and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Gas Safety Regulations 1972 and shall come into operation on 1st December 1972.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these regulations—

“building regulations” means regulations under section 4 of the Public Health Act 1961(c);

“building standards regulations” has the same meaning as in section 3(1) of the Building (Scotland) Act 1959(d);

“factory” has the same meaning as in the Factories Act 1961(e);

“gas appliance” means an appliance designed for use by consumers of gas to be used for lighting, heating, motive power or any other purpose for which gas can be used;

“governor” means a device for regulating the pressure of gas;

“heat input” means the gas consumption of an appliance expressed in terms of the quantity of heat supplied to the appliance in a specific time;

“installation pipe” means any pipe not being a service pipe for the use of gas on the premises of a consumer and includes any valve or cock inserted therein;

“meter bypass” means any pipes (including valves or cocks inserted therein) through which a supply of gas may pass direct from a service pipe to an installation pipe without passing through a meter;

(a) 1948 c. 67.

(b) S.I. 1969/1498, 1970/1537 (1969 III, p. 4797; 1970 III, p. 5293).

(c) 1961 c. 64.

(d) 1959 c. 24.

(e) 1961 c. 34.

“meter control” means a valve or cock adjacent to and on the inlet side of a meter controlling the supply of gas from the Area Board to the consumer;

“meter governor” means an outlet pressure governor fitted between the meter control and the meter which is designed to operate at an inlet pressure which could not be such as to balance a column of water exceeding 30 inches in height;

“operating pressure” means the pressure of gas at which a gas appliance operates;

“outlet pressure governor” means a governor for automatic control of pressure of gas at a point on its outlet;

“pressure test point” means a fitting to which a pressure gauge can be connected;

“primary meter” means a meter connected to a service pipe, the index reading of which constitutes the basis of charge by the Area Board for gas used on the premises;

“purging” means the removal from a service pipe, meter or installation pipe or other gas fitting of all air and gas other than the gas to be supplied;

“secondary meter” means a meter which is not a primary meter;

“services” means pipes, drains, sewers, cables, conduits and electrical apparatus serving any premises;

“service governor” means an outlet pressure governor installed in a service pipe;

“service pipe” means the pipe between the gas main of the Area Board and a primary meter control for the use of gas on the premises of a consumer;

“service valve” means a valve or cock inserted in the service pipe outside a building for shutting off the supply of gas;

“sleeve” means a tubular case inserted in a prepared hole in a structure for the reception of a service pipe or installation pipe;

“temporary continuity bonding” means an electrical connection made to bridge a gap caused by the temporary absence of a continuous single gas pipe or any gas fitting to safeguard against the risk of fire, explosion or electric shock caused by contact with other services;

“thermal cut-off device” means a device designed to cut off automatically the flow of gas in the event of the temperature exceeding 203 degrees Fahrenheit;

“venting” means the removal of gas from a service governor to the external air.

(2) References in these regulations to the supply of gas shall be construed as references to gas supplied by an Area Board to a consumer and references to the use of gas shall be construed as references to the use of gas so supplied.

(3) The Interpretation Act 1889(a) shall apply to the interpretation of these regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

PART II

INSTALLATION OF SERVICE PIPES

3.—(1) No person shall install a service pipe, service pipe fitting, service valve or service governor on any premises unless he is employed by an Area Board under a contract of service, a person approved in writing by an Area Board for the purpose or a person employed by such a person under a contract of service.

(2) Any person who installs a service pipe, service pipe fitting, service valve or service governor on any premises shall comply in so doing with the following provisions in this Part of these regulations.

(3) Where such a person carries out the installation in the performance of a contract of service his employer shall ensure that the following provisions in this Part of these regulations are duly complied with.

4.—(1) All service pipes, service pipe fittings, service valves and service governors installed shall be of good construction and sound material and of adequate strength and size to secure safety.

(2) All service pipes, service pipe fittings, service valves and service governors shall be installed and jointed in a sound and workmanlike manner and so as to be gastight.

5. Where—

- (a) a service pipe is installed of internal diameter of 2 inches or more; or
- (b) a service pipe is installed for the supply of gas to any premises where the nature of the premises or of any activity carried on or to be carried on upon the premises is such that the person who installs the service pipe knows or has reason to suspect that there is a special risk of personal injury, fire, explosion or other dangers arising from the use of gas; or
- (c) a service pipe is installed which supplies more than one primary meter in a building,

a service valve shall be fixed in the service pipe in a readily accessible position as near as practicable to the boundary of the premises through or to which the service pipe is laid and the position of the service valve shall be clearly indicated.

6. A service pipe shall not be installed in any position in which it cannot be used with safety having regard to the position of other nearby services and to such parts of the structure of any building through which it is laid as might affect its safe use.

7.—(1) No service pipe shall be installed in a cavity wall nor so as to pass through a cavity wall otherwise than by the shortest practicable route.

(2) Where a service pipe is installed so as to pass through any wall or is installed so as to pass through any floor of solid construction—

- (a) the service pipe shall be enclosed in a sleeve; and
- (b) the service pipe and sleeve shall be so constructed and installed as to prevent gas passing along the spaces between the pipe and the sleeve and between the sleeve and the wall or floor and so as to allow normal movement of the pipe.

- (3) No service pipe shall be installed in an unventilated void space.
- (4) No service pipe shall be installed under the foundations of a building or under the base of walls or footings.
- 8.** All service pipes installed shall be constructed of material which is inherently resistant to corrosion or shall be protected against corrosion externally and, unless there is no risk of internal corrosion, internally.
- 9.—**(1) No service pipe shall be connected to the gas main except by a suitable connector.
- (2) Every service pipe installed shall be of such diameter as will permit it to be connected to the main without causing damage to the main.
- 10.** All service pipes installed underground shall be installed in accordance with the following conditions—
- (a) the pipes shall be bedded on firm ground throughout their length;
 - (b) the pipes shall be laid at such a depth as to ensure that there is no undue risk of accidental damage to the pipes or of damage by frost;
 - (c) the pipes shall not be laid in the same trench as other services unless the authorities responsible for those other services have first been consulted;
 - (d) where condensation of water is likely to occur the pipes shall be laid, where practicable, with a fall of at least one inch in ten feet from the meter to the gas main; and
 - (e) where condensation of water is likely to occur and such a fall is not practicable—
 - (i) a suitable vessel for the reception of any condensate which may form in any pipe shall be fixed to the pipe in a conspicuous and readily accessible position and means shall be provided for the removal of the condensate; and
 - (ii) a notice in permanent form to the effect that there is a vessel for the collection of condensate shall be fixed to the service pipe adjacent to the meter control.
- 11.** All service pipes installed above ground shall be properly supported and so placed or protected as to ensure that there is no undue risk of accidental damage to the pipes.
- 12.** No service pipe shall be installed in such a way as to impair the structure of any building nor so as to impair the fire resistance of any part of its structure.
- 13.** Where both a service governor and a bypass to the governor are installed a governor shall be fitted on the bypass.
- 14.** Where a service governor is installed and the pressure at which the gas will be supplied at the inlet of the governor could be such as to balance a column of water not less than 30 inches in height a relief valve or seal and vent pipe of adequate size and capable of venting safely shall be installed in the outlet of the governor.
- 15.** A person who has installed a service governor shall forthwith after installation adequately seal the governor to prevent unauthorised persons interfering with it without breaking the seal.

16. A person who has installed a service pipe, service pipe fitting, service valve or service governor shall ensure—

- (a) that it is forthwith after installation adequately tested to verify that it is gastight and examined to verify that it has been installed in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this Part of these regulations;
- (b) that after such testing any necessary protective coating is applied to the joints of all service pipes installed;
- (c) that after complying with the provisions of sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) purging is carried out throughout every service pipe installed to the external air and throughout any gas fitting installed on a previous occasion through which gas could not flow at the time of installation; and
- (d) that immediately after such purging every service pipe which has been installed and is not to be put into immediate use is temporarily sealed off, capped or plugged at the meter control with the appropriate pipe fitting.

PART III

INSTALLATION OF METERS

17.—(1) No person shall install a meter, meter control, meter bypass, meter governor or other gas fitting to be used in connection with a meter on any premises unless he is employed by an Area Board under a contract of service, a person approved in writing by an Area Board for the purpose or a person employed by such a person under a contract of service.

(2) Any person who installs a meter, meter control, meter bypass, meter governor or other gas fitting to be used in connection with a meter on any premises shall comply in so doing with the following provisions in this Part of these regulations.

(3) Where such a person carries out the installation in the performance of a contract of service his employer shall ensure that the following provisions in this Part of these regulations are duly complied with.

(4) In paragraph (1) of this regulation “meter” means primary meter.

(5) Where a person installs a secondary meter or a meter control, meter bypass, meter governor or other gas fitting to be used in connection with a secondary meter on any premises forming part of a factory, the occupier shall ensure that the following provisions in this Part of these regulations are duly complied with.

18.—(1) Every meter, meter control, meter bypass, meter governor and other gas fitting to be used in connection with a meter installed shall be of good construction and sound material.

(2) Every meter, meter control, meter bypass, meter governor and other gas fitting to be used in connection with a meter shall be installed and jointed in a sound and workmanlike manner and so as to be gastight.

19.—(1) Every meter, meter control, meter bypass, meter governor and other gas fitting to be used in connection with a meter shall be installed in a readily accessible position for inspection and maintenance, and, in the case of the meter control, for operation by the consumer.

(2) Every meter installed shall be so placed as to ensure that there is no undue risk of accidental damage to the meter.

20.—(1) Every meter installed shall be provided with a suitable meter control as near as practicable to the inlet connection to the meter.

(2) Where the meter control has a detachable key or lever, which is not so attached as to move only horizontally, it shall be so attached to the meter control that when it has been moved as far as possible in a downward direction gas cannot be supplied to an installation pipe.

(3) Every detachable key or lever of the meter control shall be securely held in place.

21. No meter or meter control shall be installed in contact with, or close to, any floor, wall or ceiling in such a manner as to be liable to be affected by corrosion.

22.—(1) No meter shall be installed in a building, which has two or more floors above the ground floor of the building, on or under a stairway or elsewhere, where the stairway or other part of the building provides the only means of escape in case of fire.

(2) Every meter and its connections installed in a building other than one mentioned in paragraph (1) on or under a stairway or elsewhere, where the stairway or other part of the building provides the only means of escape in case of fire, shall either be of fire-resistant construction or be housed in a compartment of which the enclosing sides, top and bottom including the doors have a fire resistance of not less than half an hour and of which the doors shall be fitted with automatic self-closing devices or the meter shall be connected to a service pipe which incorporates a thermal cut-off device near the meter.

23. Where a meter is installed, a notice in permanent form shall be prominently mounted on or near the meter indicating that the consumer should—

- (a) shut off the supply of gas immediately in the event of an escape of gas in the consumer's premises;
- (b) where any gas continues to escape after the supply has been shut off, as soon as practicable give notice to the Area Board of the escape; and
- (c) not re-open the supply until all necessary steps have been taken to prevent the gas from again escaping.

24. Where a service pipe is installed which supplies more than one primary meter installed in the same premises or in different premises, a notice in permanent form shall be prominently mounted on or near each primary meter indicating this fact.

25. Where secondary meters are installed, a notice in permanent form shall be prominently mounted on or near the primary meter indicating the number of secondary meters installed.

26. Where a secondary meter is installed no primary meter through which gas passes to the secondary meter shall be a prepayment meter.

27.—(1) Every meter installed shall be supported.

(2) Where a meter is installed having bosses or side pipes attached to the meter by a soldered joint only, rigid pipe connections shall not be made to the meter.

28. Every meter installed shall be so placed as to ensure that there is no risk of damage to the meter from a nearby electricity meter or other electrical apparatus.

29. An electrical connection shall be maintained while a meter is being installed between the service pipe and installation pipe by a suitable temporary continuity bonding, except when the inlet and outlet of the meter form a continuous single pipe.

30. Where both a meter governor and a meter bypass are installed a governor shall be fitted on the bypass.

31. Where a meter governor is installed—

- (i) the governor shall be so constructed and installed as to cut off the supply of gas automatically in the event of the pressure at the outlet of the governor exceeding the pressure to which the installation pipes and the gas appliances connected thereto are designed to be subject;
- (ii) the person who installs the governor shall, if he has reason to suspect that foreign matter may block or otherwise interfere with the safe operation of the governor, fit to the governor a suitable filter or other suitable protection.

32. A person who has installed a meter governor shall forthwith after installation adequately seal the governor to prevent unauthorised persons interfering with it without breaking the seal.

33. A person who has installed a meter, meter control, meter bypass, meter governor or any other gas fitting to be used in connection with a meter shall ensure—

- (a) that it is forthwith after installation adequately tested to verify that it is gastight and examined to verify that it has been installed in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this Part of these regulations; and
- (b) that immediately after such testing and examination purging is carried out throughout the meter and every other gas fitting installed through which gas can then flow including gas fittings installed on a previous occasion through which gas could not flow at the time of installation.

PART IV

INSTALLATION OF INSTALLATION PIPES

34.—(1) Any person who installs an installation pipe or installation pipe fitting on any premises shall comply in so doing with the following provisions in this Part of these regulations.

(2) Where such a person carries out the installation in the performance of a contract of service his employer shall ensure that the following provisions in this Part of these regulations are duly complied with.

(3) Where a person installs an installation pipe or installation pipe fitting on any premises forming part of a factory, the occupier shall ensure that the following provisions in this Part of these regulations are duly complied with.

35.—(1) All installation pipes and installation pipe fittings installed shall be of good construction and sound material and of adequate strength and size to secure safety.

(2) All installation pipes and installation pipe fittings shall be installed and jointed by competent persons in a sound and workmanlike manner and so as to be gastight.

36.—(1) An installation pipe shall not be installed in any position in which it cannot be used with safety having regard to the position of other nearby services and to such parts of the structure of any building through which it is laid as might affect its safe use.

(2) A person who installs an installation pipe shall ensure that any necessary electrical bonding is carried out by a competent person so as to connect the pipe electrically to any other nearby services.

37.—(1) No installation pipe shall be installed in a cavity wall nor so as to pass through a cavity wall otherwise than by the shortest practicable route.

(2) Where an installation pipe is installed so as to pass through any wall or is installed so as to pass through any floor of solid construction—

(a) the installation pipe shall be enclosed in a sleeve; and

(b) the installation pipe and sleeve shall be so constructed and installed as to prevent gas passing along the spaces between the pipe and the sleeve and between the sleeve and the wall or floor and so as to allow normal movement of the pipe.

(3) No installation pipe shall be installed under the foundations of a building or under the base of walls or footings.

38. Every installation pipe installed, which passes through or is in contact with or is likely to be exposed to any material liable to cause the corrosion of the pipe, shall be constructed of material which is inherently resistant to corrosion or shall be protected against corrosion.

39. Where installation pipes are installed with changes in pipe levels and condensation of water is likely to occur, a suitable vessel for the reception of any condensate which may form in any pipe shall be fixed to the pipe in a conspicuous and readily accessible position and means shall be provided for the removal of the condensate.

40. All installation pipes installed shall be properly supported and so placed or protected as to ensure that there is no undue risk of accidental damage to the pipes.

41. No installation pipe shall be installed in such a way as to impair the structure of any building nor so as to impair the fire resistance of any part of its structure.

42. Where installation pipes supplied from primary meters are installed in a building for the supply of gas to which a service pipe of internal diameter of more than 2 inches is installed and the supply of gas is required for purposes other than domestic use—

- (a) a valve or cock shall be properly fixed in a conspicuous and readily accessible position in the following cases:—
 - (i) in the case of a building having two or more floors to which gas is supplied, in the incoming installation pipe to each such floor; and
 - (ii) in the case of a floor of a building having self-contained areas to which gas is supplied (whether or not the building has more than one floor), in the incoming installation pipe to each such self-contained area;
- (b) a line diagram shall be attached to the building in a readily accessible position as near as practicable to the primary meter indicating the position of all installation pipes, meters, meter controls, valves or cocks, pressure test points, condensate receivers and electrical bonding.

43. A person who has installed an installation pipe or installation pipe fitting shall ensure—

- (a) that it is forthwith after installation adequately tested to verify that it is gastight and examined to verify that it has been installed in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this Part of these regulations;
- (b) that after such testing any necessary protective coating is applied to the joints of all installation pipes installed;
- (c) that after complying with the provisions of sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) purging is carried out throughout every installation pipe installed through which gas can then flow; and
- (d) that immediately after such purging every installation pipe which has been installed and is not to be put into immediate use is temporarily sealed off, capped or plugged at every outlet of it with the appropriate pipe fitting.

PART V

INSTALLATION OF GAS APPLIANCES

44.—(1) Any person who installs a gas appliance on any premises shall comply in so doing with the following provisions in this Part of these regulations.

(2) Where such a person carries out the installation in the performance of a contract of service his employer shall ensure that the following provisions in this Part of these regulations are duly complied with.

(3) Where a person installs a gas appliance on any premises forming part of a factory, the occupier shall ensure that the following provisions in this Part of these regulations are duly complied with.

45.—(1) All gas appliances shall be installed by competent persons.

(2) No gas appliance shall be installed unless—

- (a) the appliance and the gas fittings and other works for the supply of gas to be used in connection with the appliance,

- (b) the means of removal of the products of combustion from the appliance,
- (c) the availability of sufficient supply of air for the appliance for proper combustion,
- (d) the means of ventilation to the room or internal space in which the appliance is to be used, and
- (e) the general conditions of installation including the connection of the appliance to any other gas fitting,

are such as to ensure that the appliance can be used without constituting a danger to any person or property.

46.—(1) A person shall not install a gas appliance if the appliance and the gas fittings and any flue or means of ventilation to be used in connection with the appliance do not—

- (a) if in Greater London, other than an outer London borough, comply with any such provisions of the London Building Acts and any byelaws made thereunder,
- (b) if in any other part of England or Wales, comply with any such provisions of the building regulations, or
- (c) if in Scotland, comply with any such provisions of the building standards regulations,

as are in force at the date of installation of the appliance.

(2) A person who has installed a gas appliance shall forthwith after installation test its connection to the installation pipe to verify that it is gastight and examine the appliance and the gas fittings and other works for the supply of gas and any flue or means of ventilation to be used in connection with the appliance and make any necessary adjustments in order to ensure—

- (a) that the appliance has been installed in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this Part of these regulations;
- (b) that the heat input and operating pressure are as recommended by the manufacturer;
- (c) that all gas safety controls are in proper working order; and
- (d) that, without prejudice to the generality of sub-paragraph (a), any flue system or means of removal of the products of combustion from the appliance and any means of ventilation and of supply of combustion air provided in connection with the use of the appliance are in safe working order.

PART VI

USE OF GAS

47. No person shall use or permit a gas appliance to be used if at any time he knows or has reason to suspect—

- (a) that there is insufficient supply of air available for the appliance for proper combustion at the point of combustion;
- (b) that the removal of the products of combustion from the appliance is not safely being carried out;

- (c) that the room or internal space in which the appliance is situated is not adequately ventilated for the purpose of providing air containing a sufficiency of oxygen for the persons present in the room, or in, or in the vicinity of, the internal space while the appliance is in use;
- (d) that any gas is escaping from the appliance or from any gas fitting used in connection with the appliance; or
- (e) that the appliance or any part of it or any gas fitting or other works for the supply of gas used in connection with the appliance is so faulty or maladjusted that it cannot be used without constituting a danger to any person or property.

48.—(1) If at any time any person supplied with gas by an Area Board knows or has reason to suspect that any gas is escaping in the premises supplied with gas he shall immediately shut off the supply of gas at such place as may be requisite to prevent the gas from escaping.

(2) Where any gas continues to escape in any premises after the supply of gas has been shut off, the person supplied with gas shall as soon as practicable give notice to the Area Board of the escape.

(3) Where any gas escapes in any premises supplied with gas and the supply of gas is shut off, the supply shall not be opened until all necessary steps have been taken to prevent the gas from again escaping.

PART VII

REMOVAL, DISCONNECTION, ALTERATION, REPLACEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF GAS FITTINGS, ETC.

49. An electrical connection shall be maintained by means of temporary continuity bonding while a gas pipe, pipe fitting or meter is being removed or replaced until the work of disconnecting or connecting the gas pipe, pipe fitting or meter, as the case may be, has been completed, except, in the case of a meter, when its inlet and outlet form a continuous single pipe.

50. A person who disconnects a gas fitting or any part of the gas supply system on any premises shall seal it off, cap it or plug it at every outlet of every pipe to which it is connected with the appropriate pipe fitting.

51.—(1) No alteration shall be made to a gas fitting or to any part of the gas supply system on any premises (whether it has been installed before or after the date of coming into operation of these regulations) if as a result of such alteration there would have been a contravention of or failure to comply with any provision of Parts II to V of these regulations if the gas fitting or part of the gas supply system in question had been installed at the date of the alteration.

(2) On every replacement of a gas fitting or of any part of the gas supply system on any premises (whether it has been installed before or after the date of coming into operation of these regulations) the provisions of Part II, III, IV or V (as the case may be) of these regulations shall apply to its replacement as they apply to its installation after the said date:

Provided that where, in the case of the replacement of a meter in a building having two or more floors above the ground floor of the building, the said meter was installed on or under a stairway or in any other part of the building, where

the stairway or other part of the building provided the only means of escape in case of fire, the replacement meter may be placed in the former position if the meter and its connections would comply with the requirements of regulation 22(2) relating to meters installed in buildings having less than two floors above the ground floor or the replacement meter may be placed in another position if the meter would not contravene the provisions of regulation 22(1).

(3) A person who makes any alteration to or replacement of a gas fitting or any part of the gas supply system on any premises subsequent to installation shall ensure that it is forthwith adequately tested to verify that it is gastight.

(4) A person who makes any such alteration of a gas fitting or of any part of the gas supply system on any premises shall ensure that it is forthwith after such testing examined to verify that there would have been no such contravention of or failure to comply with any provision of Parts II to V of these regulations as is referred to in paragraph (1).

(5) A person who makes any such replacement of a gas fitting or of any part of the gas supply system on any premises shall ensure that it is forthwith after such testing examined to verify that it complies with such requirements of Parts II to V of these regulations as apply to the replacement by virtue of paragraph (2).

52. An Area Board supplying gas to any building shall at all times at their own expense keep all service valves inserted in the service pipes in proper working order.

PART VIII

PENALTIES

53. Any person offending against these regulations shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £100.

Dated 2nd August 1972.

Tom Boardman,
Minister for Industry,
Department of Trade and Industry.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations)

These regulations made by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry under Section 67 of the Gas Act 1948 will apply generally throughout Great Britain and, except in the Inner London Boroughs, are wholly new. In the Inner London Boroughs they take the place of certain provisions of the London Gas Undertakings Regulations 1954 made under the London Gas Undertakings (Regulations) Act 1939. Any provisions of those regulations which are inconsistent with or rendered redundant by these regulations cease to have effect from the date when these regulations come into operation, that is to say from 1st December 1972.

Parts II to V lay down certain requirements to be observed by persons installing gas pipes, meters, appliances and other fittings on consumers' premises. These are designed to ensure that the basic standards necessary to secure safety from the installation are maintained. Part VI imposes certain requirements on the use of gas appliances supplied by Area Gas Boards largely designed to prevent the public being put at risk by the continued use of gas appliances where such use is known to be dangerous or there is reason to believe so. Part VII provides requirements for work done on gas fittings after first installation and Part VIII provides penalties for contraventions.

These regulations do not affect any obligation arising under the building regulations and byelaws which apply in different parts of Great Britain, and both sets of provisions should be consulted where gas appliances are installed or other gas installation work or alterations done which affect the structure.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1972 No. 1178

GAS

The Gas Safety Regulations 1972

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