

1980 No. 420

GAS

Gas (Meter) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1980

Made 18th November 1980

Coming into operation 1st January 1981

The Department of Commerce, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 8(1) and (3) of the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1977(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Gas (Meter) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1980 and shall come into operation on 1st January 1981.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

“the Order” means the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1977;

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

“meter examiner” means a person who is appointed under Article 8 of the Order as a meter examiner.

Prescribed standards for meters

3.—(1) The standards with which a meter shall conform are that—

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

(b) in the case of a diaphragm meter, the meter, when it is used for the purpose of ascertaining the quantity of either gas or air which passes through it—

(i) at a rate of flow which is not less than one-fiftieth of the greatest rate of flow for which it is designed and is not more than that greatest rate of flow, will register the quantity of gas or air which passes through the meter with an error of not more than 2% of the actual quantity of gas or air so passing through the meter; and

(ii) at a rate of flow set out in column 1 of Table A which is opposite the greatest rate of flow for which the meter is designed set out in column 2 of Table A, will register the passage of gas or air;

TABLE A

1 Rate of flow in cubic decimetres per hour	2 Greatest rate of flow for which the meter is designed in cubic metres per hour
15 30 60 150	Not exceeding 6 Exceeding 6 but not exceeding 25 Exceeding 25 but not exceeding 65 Exceeding 65

- (c) in the case of a meter other than a diaphragm meter, the meter, when it is used for the purpose of ascertaining the quantity of either gas or air which passes through it—
- (i) at a rate of flow which is not less than one-fifth of the greatest rate of flow for which it is designed and is not more than that greatest rate of flow, will register the quantity of gas or air which passes through the meter with an error of not more than 1% of the actual quantity of gas or air so passing through the meter; and
 - (ii) at a rate of flow which is not less than the smallest rate of flow for which the meter is designed and which is less than one-fifth of the greatest rate of flow for which the meter is designed, will register the quantity of gas or air which passes through the meter with an error of not more than 2% of the actual quantity of gas or air so passing through the meter;
- (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 set out in column 1 of Table B which is opposite the greatest rate of flow set out in column 2 of Table B; and

TABLE B

1 Mean difference in millibars	2 Greatest rate of flow for which the meter is designed in cubic metres per hour
2.0 3.0 4.0	Not exceeding 16 Exceeding 16 but not exceeding 65 Exceeding 65

- (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% of the greatest rate of flow for which the meter is designed, will not exceed the amount set out in column 1 of Table C opposite the greatest rate of flow set out in column 2 of Table C.

TABLE C

1 Difference in millibars	2 Greatest rate of flow for which the meter is designed in cubic metres per hour
0.6	Not exceeding 65
1.0	Exceeding 65

(2) A meter shall be deemed to conform with a standard prescribed by sub-paragraph (d) or (e) of paragraph (1), notwithstanding that gas instead of air is passing through that meter, where the results of testing for that standard show that, if the test had 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 which has been stamped under Article 8(1)(b) of the Order registers the quantity of gas supplied to that person and either party to the dispute requires a meter examiner to re-examine that 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 by Regulation 5 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 by defacing it to cancel the stamp with which the meter is already stamped.

(3) If a meter examiner on re-examining a meter is satisfied that the meter does not conform either with the standard prescribed by Regulation 3(b)(i) or with a standard prescribed by Regulation 3(c), 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 extent exceeding the percentage of error permissible for that standard which the meter registered erroneously when re-examined.

(4) If a meter examiner on re-examining a meter is satisfied that the meter conforms either with the standard prescribed by Regulation 3(b)(i) or with a standard prescribed by Regulation 3(c), 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 registered accurately when re-examined.

Fees

5.—(1) Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (2) to (4), the fee to be paid to the Department of Commerce for the examining or re-examining by a meter examiner, with or without stamping, of a meter described in column 1 of the Schedule which is used or is intended to be used for ascertaining the quantity of gas supplied to any person shall be the fee set out in column 2 of the Schedule opposite such meter.

(2) Where a party to a dispute as mentioned in Regulation 4(1) requires a meter to be re-examined, there shall be paid to the Department of Commerce, in addition to any fee mentioned in paragraph (1) of this Regulation, for the re-examination of such meter a fee of 33p.

(3) Subject to the provisions of paragraph 8(4) of Schedule 1 to the Order, any fee mentioned in paragraphs (1) or (2) of this Regulation shall on demand be paid to the Department of Commerce by the person who requires the meter to be examined or re-examined.

(4) Where any person requires the re-examination of any meter which is not owned by him but through which gas is supplied to him and that meter when it is examined on the premises at which it is situated for the purpose of ascertaining the quantity of the gas is found to register erroneously to an extent exceeding the percentage of error permissible under Regulation 3(b)(i) or Regulation 3(c), the owner of the meter shall pay to the person requiring the re-examination the amount of all fees which he has paid under this Regulation.

Revocation

6. The Gas (Meter) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975(b) are hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Commerce on 18th November 1980.

(L.S.)

R. A. Burden

Assistant Secretary

1 Meter	2 Fee
For examining, with or without stamping, or re-examining any meter (other than a prototype meter) with measuring capacity—	£
(a) not exceeding 13 cubic metres per hour	0.70
(b) exceeding 13 cubic metres per hour but not exceeding 19 cubic metres per hour	1.00
(c) exceeding 19 cubic metres per hour but not exceeding 53 cubic metres per hour	3.00
(d) exceeding 53 cubic metres per hour but not exceeding 228 cubic metres per hour	10.00
(e) exceeding 228 cubic metres per hour	25.00

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations supersede the Gas (Meter) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975. They—

- (a) prescribe standards to which gas meters submitted for stamping or re-examining by a meter examiner must conform (Regulation 3);
- (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 extent of its inaccuracy (Regulation 4);
- (c) determine the fees to be paid for the examining or re-examining of meters by meter examiners, with or without stamping, and the persons by whom they are to be paid (Regulation 5);
- (d) express in metric units all quantities formerly expressed in imperial units. This is necessary in order to comply with the Units of Measurement Regulations 1980 (S.I. 1980/1070), which implement Council Directive No. 71/354/EEC (O.J. No. L243, 29.10.1971, p. 29) as amended by Council Directive No. 76/770/EEC (O.J. No. L262, 27.9.76, p. 204), in so far as it had not been implemented, and Council Directive No. 80/181/EEC (O.J. No. L39, 15.2.80, p. 40) which amends the former Directive and replaces it from 1st October 1981.