

## 1972 No. 1804

## GAS

**The Gas Quality Regulations 1972**

*Made* - - - 27th November 1972

*Laid before Parliament* 4th December 1972

*Coming into Operation* 1st January 1973

The Secretary of State, after consultation with the Gas Council, in exercise of his powers under sections 26 and 31 of and paragraph 13(1) of Schedule 7 to the Gas Act 1972(a) and all other powers in that behalf enabling him hereby makes the following regulations:—

## PART I

## GENERAL

*Citation and commencement*

1. These regulations may be cited as the Gas Quality Regulations 1972 and shall come into operation on 1st January 1973.

*Interpretation*

2.—(1) In these regulations—

“the Act” means the Gas Act 1972;

“the Corporation” means the British Gas Corporation;

“a gas examiner” has the meaning assigned by regulation 7;

“quarter” means the period of 3 months in any year beginning on 1st January, 1st April, 1st July or 1st October;

“relative density”, in relation to gas, means the ratio of the weight of a volume of gas when containing no water vapour to that of the same volume of air containing no water vapour under the same conditions of temperature and pressure;

“Wobbe number” means the number derived by dividing the calorific value of gas by the square root of the relative density of the gas.

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

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(a) 1972 c. 60.

(b) 1889 c. 63.

## PART II

## QUALITY OF GAS SUPPLIED BY THE CORPORATION

*Standard of pressure*

3. The Corporation shall not supply any gas in any pipe laid between a main and a meter having an internal diameter of 2 or more inches, or in any main, at a pressure less than that specified in column 2 of the Table set out in the Schedule hereto in relation to the range of Wobbe numbers specified in column 1 applicable to the gas supplied.

*Standard of purity*

4. The Corporation shall not supply any gas which contains more than 3.3 parts per million by volume of hydrogen sulphide.

*Distinctive smell*

5. The Corporation shall not supply any gas which does not possess a distinctive smell.

*Penalties*

6. If the Corporation contravene any provision of the three foregoing regulations they shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £400.

*Uniformity of calorific value*

7.—(1) Where the Corporation charge for gas supplied by them according to the number of therms supplied, the Corporation shall maintain the calorific value of the gas supplied at not less than the declared calorific value and if—

- (a) where there is a continuous record of the calorific value of the gas, the calorific value for any period of two hours is continuously more than five per cent. below the declared calorific value, or
- (b) where there is no such continuous record, the calorific value ascertained by a person appointed by the Secretary of State under section 26(2) of the Act (in these regulations referred to as a "gas examiner") on the average of two tests, with an interval of not less than one hour and not more than two hours between them, is more than five per cent. below the declared calorific value,

the Corporation shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £10 for each complete one per cent. in excess of five per cent. by which the calorific value for two hours or the said average, as the case may be, is less than the declared calorific value:

Provided always that the Corporation shall not be liable to a fine exceeding £400.

(2) If the Corporation are under a duty under paragraph (1) to maintain the calorific value of gas at not less than the declared calorific value and if—

- (a) where there is a continuous record of the calorific value of the gas, in any quarter the average calorific value is less than the declared calorific value, or

(b) where there is no such continuous record, the average of the calorific values shown by not less than six tests at each place, where the gas is tested, made by any gas examiner in any quarter is less than the declared calorific value,

the Corporation shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £400.

#### *Exemptions*

8. The Secretary of State may exempt the Corporation from any provision of regulations 3, 4, 5 and 7 in the case of the supply by the Corporation of gas for industrial purposes through any main not used for the supply of gas for domestic purposes.

#### *Exception as to liability*

9. The Corporation shall not be guilty of an offence by reason of any contravention or failure to comply with any provision of the foregoing regulations in any case in which they can show that any such contravention or failure was due to circumstances beyond their control and that they took all reasonable steps to prevent the contravention or failure, nor shall they be guilty of more than one offence by reason of any contravention or failure to comply with any one provision of the foregoing regulations during any period of twenty-four hours in respect of gas tested by a gas examiner at any one place.

### PART III

#### QUALITY OF GAS TRANSMITTED OR DISTRIBUTED BY THE CORPORATION

##### *Purity*

10. The Corporation shall not transmit or distribute any gas which contains more than 3.3 parts per million by volume of hydrogen sulphide.

##### *Distinctive smell*

11. The Corporation shall not transmit or distribute any gas which does not possess a distinctive smell.

##### *Penalties*

12. If the Corporation contravene any provision of the two foregoing regulations they shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £400:

Provided that the Corporation shall not be guilty of an offence in any case in which they can show that the contravention was due to circumstances beyond their control and that they took all reasonable steps to prevent the contravention.

*Exemptions*

13. The Secretary of State may exempt the Corporation from any provision of regulation 10, if he is satisfied that the safety of the public will not be prejudiced in consequence of the granting of the exemption.

Dated 27th November 1972.

*Peter Emery,*  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,  
Department of Trade and Industry.

## SCHEDULE

Regulation 3 Pressure of gas supplied by the Corporation.

TABLE

Column 1	Column 2
Ranges of Wobbe Numbers	Pressure measured in millibars in excess of atmospheric pressure
Up to and including 840	5 millibars
Exceeding 840 but not exceeding 1075	10 millibars
Exceeding 1075 but not exceeding 1940	15 millibars
Exceeding 1940	20 millibars

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)*

1. These Regulations prescribe standards of pressure, purity, smell and uniformity of calorific value to be complied with by the British Gas Corporation in supplying gas. They also lay down similar requirements in respect of purity and smell to be observed by the Corporation in transmitting or distributing gas.

2. Penalties are provided for non-compliance.



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