
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1998 No. 2451

The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998

PART A

GENERAL

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 and shall come into force on 3rd October 1998.

General interpretation and application

2.—(1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“appropriate fitting” means a fitting which—

- (a) has been designed for the purpose of effecting a gas tight seal in a pipe or other gasway;
- (b) achieves that purpose when fitted; and
- (c) is secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, against unauthorised opening or removal;

“distribution main” means any main through which a transporter is for the time being distributing gas and which is not being used only for the purpose of conveying gas in bulk;

“emergency control” means a valve for shutting off the supply of gas in an emergency, being a valve intended for use by a consumer of gas;

“flue” means a passage for conveying the products of combustion from a gas appliance to the external air and includes any part of the passage in a gas appliance duct which serves the purpose of a flue;

“gas” means any substance which is or (if it were in a gaseous state) would be gas within the meaning of the Gas Act 1986(1) except that it does not include gas consisting wholly or mainly of hydrogen when used in non-domestic premises;

“gas appliance” means an appliance designed for use by a consumer of gas for heating, lighting, cooking or other purposes for which gas can be used but it does not include a portable or mobile appliance supplied with gas from a cylinder, or the cylinder, pipes and other fittings used for supplying gas to that appliance, save that, for the purposes of regulations 3, 35 and 36 of these Regulations, it does include a portable or mobile space heater supplied with gas from a cylinder, and the cylinder, pipes and other fittings used for supplying gas to that heater;

“gas fittings” means gas pipework, valves (other than emergency controls), regulators and meters, and fittings, apparatus and appliances designed for use by consumers of gas for heating, lighting, cooking or other purposes for which gas can be used (other than the purpose of an industrial process carried out on industrial premises), but it does not mean—

- (a) any part of a service pipe;

- (b) any part of a distribution main or other pipe upstream of the service pipe;
- (c) a gas storage vessel; or
- (d) a gas cylinder or cartridge designed to be disposed of when empty;

“gas storage vessel” means a storage container designed to be filled or re-filled with gas at the place where it is connected for use or a re-fillable cylinder designed to store gas, and includes the vapour valve; but it does not include a cylinder or cartridge designed to be disposed of when empty;

“gas water heater” includes a gas fired central heating boiler;

“installation pipework” means any pipework for conveying gas for a particular consumer and any associated valve or other gas fitting including any pipework used to connect a gas appliance to other installation pipework and any shut off device at the inlet to the appliance, but it does not mean—

- (a) a service pipe;
- (b) a pipe comprised in a gas appliance;
- (c) any valve attached to a storage container or cylinder; or
- (d) service pipework;

“meter by pass” means any pipe and other gas fittings used in connection with it through which gas can be conveyed from a service pipe or service pipework to installation pipework without passing through the meter;

“primary meter” means the meter nearest to and downstream of a service pipe or service pipework for ascertaining the quantity of gas supplied through that pipe or pipework by a supplier;

“re-fillable cylinder” means a cylinder which is filled other than at the place where it is connected for use;

“the responsible person”, in relation to any premises, means the occupier of the premises or, where there is no occupier or the occupier is away, the owner of the premises or any person with authority for the time being to take appropriate action in relation to any gas fitting therein;

“room-sealed appliance” means an appliance whose combustion system is sealed from the room in which the appliance is located and which obtains air for combustion from a ventilated uninhabited space within the premises or directly from the open air outside the premises and which vents the products of combustion directly to open air outside the premises;

“service pipe” means a pipe for distributing gas to premises from a distribution main, being any pipe between the distribution main and the outlet of the first emergency control downstream from the distribution main;

“service pipework” means a pipe for supplying gas to premises from a gas storage vessel, being any pipe between the gas storage vessel and the outlet of the emergency control;

“service valve” means a valve (other than an emergency control) for controlling a supply of gas, being a valve—

- (a) incorporated in a service pipe; and
- (b) intended for use by a transporter of gas; and
- (c) not situated inside a building;

“supplier” in relation to gas means—

- (a) a person who supplies gas to any premises through a primary meter; or
- (b) a person who provides a supply of gas to a consumer by means of the filling or re-filling of a storage container designed to be filled or re-filled with gas at the place where it is

connected for use whether or not such container is or remains the property of the supplier;
or

- (c) a person who provides gas in re-fillable cylinders for use by a consumer whether or not such cylinders are filled or re-filled directly by that person and whether or not such cylinders are or remain the property of that person, but a retailer shall not be deemed to be a supplier when he sells a brand of gas other than his own;

“transporter” in relation to gas means a person who conveys gas through a distribution main;

“work” in relation to a gas fitting includes any of the following activities carried out by any person, whether an employee or not, that is to say—

- (a) installing or re-connecting the fitting;
- (b) maintaining, servicing, permanently adjusting, disconnecting, repairing, altering or renewing the fitting or purging it of air or gas;
- (c) where the fitting is not readily movable, changing its position; and
- (d) removing the fitting;

but the expression does not include the connection or disconnection of a bayonet fitting or other self-sealing connector.

(2) For the purposes of these Regulations—

- (a) any reference to installing a gas fitting includes a reference to converting any pipe, fitting, meter, apparatus or appliance to gas use; and
- (b) a person to whom gas is supplied and who provides that gas for use in a flat or part of premises let by him shall not in so doing be deemed to be supplying gas.

(3) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5) below, these Regulations shall apply to or in relation to gas fittings used in connection with—

- (a) gas which has been conveyed to premises through a distribution main; or
- (b) gas conveyed from a gas storage vessel.

(4) Save for regulations 37, 38 and 41 and subject to regulation 3(8), these Regulations shall not apply in relation to the supply of gas to, or anything done in respect of a gas fitting at, the following premises, that is to say—

- (a) a mine or quarry within the meaning of the Mines and Quarries Act 1954⁽²⁾ or any place deemed to form part of a mine or quarry for the purposes of that Act;
- (b) a factory within the meaning of the Factories Act 1961⁽³⁾ or any place to which any provisions of the said Act apply by virtue of sections 123 to 126 of that Act;
- (c) agricultural premises, being agricultural land, including land being or forming part of a market garden, and any building thereon which is used in connection with agricultural operations;
- (d) temporary installations used in connection with any construction work within the meaning assigned to that phrase by regulation 2(1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994⁽⁴⁾;
- (e) premises used for the testing of gas fittings; or
- (f) premises used for the treatment of sewage,

but they shall apply in relation to such premises or part thereof used for domestic or residential purposes or as sleeping accommodation.

(2) 1954 c. 70.

(3) 1961 c. 34.

(4) S.I. 1994/3140; regulation 2(1) was amended by S.I. 1996/1513.

(5) Nothing in these Regulations shall apply in relation to the supply of gas to, or anything done in respect of a gas fitting on—

- (a) a self-propelled vehicle except when such a vehicle is—
 - (i) hired out in the course of a business; or
 - (ii) made available to members of the public in the course of a business carried on from that vehicle;
- (b) a sea-going ship;
- (c) a vessel not requiring a national or international load line certificate except when such vessel is—
 - (i) hired out in the course of a business;
 - (ii) made available to members of the public in the course of a business carried out from that vessel; or
 - (iii) used primarily for domestic or residential purposes;
- (d) a hovercraft; or
- (e) a caravan used for touring otherwise than when hired out in the course of a business.

(6) Nothing in these Regulations shall apply in relation to—

- (a) the supply of gas to the propulsion system of any vehicle or to any gas fitting forming part of such propulsion system;
- (b) the supply of gas to, or anything done in respect of, a bunsen burner used in an educational establishment; or
- (c) work in relation to a control device on a gas appliance if—
 - (i) the device is intended primarily for use by a consumer of gas; and
 - (ii) the work does not involve breaking into a gasway.

(7) These Regulations shall not apply in relation to a gas fitting used for the purpose of training gas fitting operatives in a college or other training establishment, except that paragraphs (1) to (5) and (7) of regulation 3 shall apply to work in relation to a gas fitting carried out by a person providing such training.

(8) These Regulations shall not apply in relation to a gas fitting used for the purpose of assessing the competence of a gas fitting operative at an assessment centre where such assessment is carried out for the purposes of a nationally accredited certification scheme, except that regulation 3(1) and (2) shall apply to work in relation to a gas fitting carried out by a person carrying out such assessment.