



Notification Number: 1995/319/UK

The Gas Safety (Management) Regulations 199-(GS(M)R)

Date received : 05/10/1995

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Message

MINISTERE DE L'INDUSTRIE ET DE LA RECHERCHE
ATT. M. MORTUREUX

INSTITUT BELGE DE NORMALISATION,
ATT. M. CROON

INSPECTION DU TRAVAIL ET DES MINES
VIA MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
ATT. M. A. SCHUSTER

MINISTERE DE L'INDUSTRIE
ATT. M. CAVANNA

DEPT. OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, QUALITY AND EDUCATION DIVISION,
ATT. MR. K. LAWLESS

GOVERNMENT SERVICE OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, NSAI
ATT. MR. J. NULTY

MINISTERIE VAN ECONOMISCHE ZAKEN, (DG BEB),
ATT. MR. B. SIEBRING

ERHVERVSFREMME STYRELSEN
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ATT. MR. KELD DYBKJAER

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY
ATT. MR. Z.P. MAVROUKAS

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ATT. MR. MELAGRAKIS

MIN WIRTSCHAFT
ATT. DR. WINKEL

BUNDESMINISTERIUM FUR WIRTSCHAFTLICHE ANGELEGENHEITEN
ATT. ABT I/A/4 FRAU GREGORITH / FRAU HAZLINGER-FENZEL



MIN PARA RELACIONES CON LA COMUNIDA
ATT MR. D. ALFREDO RAMBLA JOVANI

MIN INDUSTRIA
ATT MR. ADALBERTO PEREA MARTIN, ESPAGNE

INSTITUTO PORTUGUES DA QUALIDADE
ATT MR. CANDIDO DOS SANTOS, PORTUGAL

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ATT. MS. KERSTIN CARLSSON

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
ATT. MS. TOLONEN

DGS INTERNATIONAL BELGIUM

REP PERMANENTE ROYAUME UNI

REP PERMANENTE IRLANDE

REP PERMANENTE GRECE

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY
ATT. M. BOHR

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION
ATT. MS. MEADEN

TELEX 001

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (95) D/51522
DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC, 88/182/EEC AND 94/10/EC

NOTIFIKATION - NOTIFIZIERUNG - NOTIFICATION - NOTIFICACION
NOTIFICATION - NOTIFICA - KENNISGEVING - NOTIFICACAO - ILMOITUS
ANMÄLAN : 95/0319/UK.

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1. Structured Information Line

TLX 001 IND- 95 0319 UK- EN ----- 951004 --- ---

2. Member State

United Kingdom



3. Department Responsible

Department of Trade and Industry: Standards Policy Unit.

3. Originating Department

Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

4. Notification Number

95/0319/UK

5. Title

The Gas Safety (Management) Regulations 199-(GS(M)R)

6. Products Concerned

Product covered by the draft regulation:

- Natural or other gas which meets the following definition in the draft regulations; "gas" means any substance in a gaseous state which consists wholly or mainly of methane".

7. Notification Under Another Act

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8. Main Content

A.

a) the management of the safe flow of gas and gas emergencies

i) no person shall convey gas in a network unless he has prepared and had accepted, a safety case;

ii) when there are two or more gas conveyors on a network, a network emergency coordinator (NEC) to be appointed with limited powers of override in supply emergency situations, to prepare and have accepted a safety case;

iii) a requirement for each gas conveyor to manage and control their operations in compliance with the safety case;

iv) a duty on conveyors to provide an effective emergency response to gas escapes and other emergencies;

b) in relation to gas quality:

v) a duty to convey only gas of the appropriate composition, odour, and pressure (see schedule 3);

vi) standards for the content of gas (see schedule 3);

vii) gas outside normal gas quality requirements may be conveyed in the network to prevent a supply emergency,



by authority of the NEC, subject to limits on composition and time.

B. The United Kingdom would like to be informed by other Member States of their own standards or regulations offering an equivalent level of safety and security.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

At present virtually all natural gas in Great Britain is transported by British Gas (BG) and the vast majority of gas used by the public is supplied by BG. Competition already exists in the supply of gas to industrial and commercial users. The British Government plan now to open up the domestic supply market to competition.

In response to a formal invitation by the Ministers for Industry and Energy to comment on proposals for introducing competition into the domestic gas market, made in a joint DTI/OFGAS/ consultation document "Competition and Choice in the Gas Market", the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) made recommendations in its report "Britain's Gas Supply: A Safety Framework", which has been accepted by the British Government.

The HSC report found that, while existing legislation was acceptable when the national transportation and storage network was under the unitary control of BG, specific legislation would be needed to address the situation when a larger number of businesses transported gas to the public. The draft regulations transpose this policy approach. Issues relating to the composition and supply pressure of gas are critical if British domestic appliances are to burn gas safely. Domestic appliances are designed to work safely and economically within a fairly narrow specification of gas composition and pressure. The quality and composition of natural gas used in individual European countries varies - most countries set parameters around the most commonly available source. Council Directive 90/396/EEC about burning gaseous fuels recognises this point; "whereas these conditions are not harmonised because each Member State's energy supply and distribution system is peculiar to it". This Directive was implemented in Britain by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), under the Gas Appliances (Safety) Regulations 1992.

Appliances on sale in a particular state must be able to burn that state's gas safely. This is a vital aspect of the draft British regulations, which will set the regulatory basis in Britain in respect of gas supply pressure and gas quality needed for continued safe use on domestic gas appliances; and to underpin the Gas Appliances (Safety) Regulations 1992.



The proposed regulations formalise the range of gases already allowed into networks supplying domestic consumers in Great Britain.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

i. Consultative Document CD 91 "Proposals for Gas Safety (Management) Regulations

(GS(M)R), and Guidance to support the GS(M)R

HSC report "Britains Gas Supply: A Safety Framework"

DTVOFGAS consultation document "Competition and Choice in the Gas Market"

ii. -

iii. None provided. Natural gas is not among the substances included in the lists of priority under Article 8 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 93/93, and therefore natural -as does not require a risk evaluation under the provisions of Article 10 of 793/93.

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

NO.

12. Grounds for the Emergency

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13. Confidentiality

NO.

14. Fiscal measures

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D. WILLIAMSON
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