

Safety Recommendations
IGE/SR/18 Edition 2
Communication 1678

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Her Majesty The Queen

***Safe working practices to ensure the
integrity of gas pipelines and associated
installations***

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SECTION 1 : INTRODUCTION

1.1 These Recommendations supersede IGE/SR/18 Part 1 and IGE/SR/18 Part 2 (respectively Communications 1447 and 1599). They combine the scopes of the former Parts 1 and 2.

1.2 These Recommendations have been drafted by a Panel appointed by the Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers' (IGEM's) Safety and Environment Committee, were subsequently approved by that Committee and were published by the authority of the Council of the Institution.

1.3 These Recommendations provide guidance on safe working practices in the vicinity of gas pipelines and associated gas installations (hereafter referred to as gas plant).

The Recommendations include advice for both the operator/owner of the respective gas plant (hereafter referred to as the operator) and for the promoter/contractor responsible for the work (hereafter referred to as the promoter).

Usually, work will be carried out with respect to a service other than gas plant, for example water pipes, but may on occasion be with respect to another item of gas plant.

The Recommendations are intended to ensure the continued integrity of gas plant.

1.4 It is now widely accepted that the majority of accidents in industry are in some measure attributable to human as well as technical factors in the sense that actions by people initiated or contributed to the accidents, or people might have acted better to avert them.

It is therefore necessary to give proper consideration to the management of these human factors and the control risk. To assist in this, it is recommended that due cognisance be taken of HS(G)48.

The primary responsibility for compliance with legal duties rests with the employer. The fact that certain employees, for example "responsible engineers", are allowed to exercise their professional judgement does not allow employers to abrogate their primary responsibilities. Employers must:

- (a) Have done everything to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that there are no better protective measures that can be taken other than relying on the exercise of professional judgement by "responsible engineers".
- (b) Have done everything to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that "responsible engineers" have the skills, training, experience and personal qualities necessary for the proper exercise of professional judgement.
- (c) Have systems and procedures in place to ensure that the exercise of professional judgement by "responsible engineers" is subject to appropriate monitoring and review.
- (d) Not require "responsible engineers" to undertake tasks which would necessitate the exercise of professional judgement that is beyond their competence. There should be written procedures defining the extent to which "responsible engineers" can exercise their judgement. When "responsible engineers" are asked to undertake tasks that deviate from this, they should refer the matter for higher review.

Note: The responsible engineer is a suitably qualified, competent and experienced engineer or a suitably qualified, competent and experienced person acting under his or her supervision, appointed to be responsible for the application of all or part of these Recommendations.

- 1.5 These Recommendations do not attempt to make the use of any method or specification obligatory against the judgement of the responsible engineer. Where new and better techniques are developed and proved, they should be adopted without waiting for modification of these Recommendations. Amendments to these Recommendations will be issued when necessary and their publication will be announced in the Journal of the Institution and other publications as appropriate.
- 1.6 Requests for interpretation of these Recommendations in relation to matters within their scope, but not precisely covered by the current text, should be addressed to Technical Services, IGEM, 12 York Gate, London NW1 4QG email: technical@igem.org.uk and will be submitted to the relevant Committee for consideration and advice, but in the context that the final responsibility is that of the engineer concerned. If any advice is given by or on behalf of IGEM, this does not relieve the responsible engineer of any of his or her obligations.

SECTION 2 : SCOPE

2.1 These Recommendations outline management procedures and safety precautions affecting the design, construction, maintenance and demolition of services, structures and other works in the vicinity of gas plant.

Note: HS(G)47 provides guidance on avoiding danger from underground services.

2.2 These Recommendations cover work in the vicinity of gas plant in easements, under highways and on private land.

2.3 These Recommendations apply to gas plant of all materials and at any maximum operating pressure (MOP).

2.4 These Recommendations do not cover emergency work or normal agricultural work but the recommendations may be considered and observed as far as possible.

2.5 All pressures are gauge pressures unless otherwise stated.