

***IGEM/GL/6 Edition 2
Communication 1747***

Permitry for the safe flow of gas



*Founded 1863
Royal Charter 1929
Patron: Her Majesty the Queen*



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© The Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers
IGEM House
26-28 High Street
Kegworth
Derbyshire, DE74 2DA
Tel: 0844 375 4436
Fax: 01509 678198
Email: general@igem.org.uk

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SECTION 1 : INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Standard supersedes IGE/GL/6 Edition 1, Communication 1631, which is obsolete.
- 1.2 This Standard is part of a series of Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers (IGEM) publications providing practical guidance to support the Gas Safety (Management) Regulations (GS(M)R), Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations (GS(I&U)R) and the Pipelines Safety Regulations (PSR). It has been drafted by an IGEM Panel appointed by IGEM's Gas Transmission and Distribution Committee, and has been approved by IGEM's Technical Co-ordinating Committee on behalf of IGEM's Council.
- 1.3 This Standard contains requirements for all those organisations working and or maintaining pipelines, pipework and associated gas installations. It includes requirements for formal written procedures for working or maintaining a gas supply. The Standard applies irrespective of pressure and, in circumstances in which they are required, their content, preparation, approval and authorisation and monitoring of their application. Where relevant, it should be read in conjunction with HSG250 and HSG47.
- 1.4 The relevant parts of this Standard may be cited in a gas transporter's (GT's) safety case, but the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) will need to be satisfied that they are appropriate and have been properly applied in each case.
- 1.5 Terms such as maximum operating pressure (MOP) are included to reflect gas pressure terminology used in European standards.
- 1.6 This Standard makes use of the terms "must", "shall" and "should". Notwithstanding Sub-Section 1.9,
- the term "must" identifies a requirement by law in Great Britain (GB) at the time of publication
 - the term "shall" prescribes a requirement which, it is intended, will be complied with in full and without deviation
 - the term "should" prescribes a requirement which, it is intended, will be complied with unless, after prior consideration, deviation is considered to be acceptable.

Such terms may have different meanings when used in legislation, or HSE ACoPs or guidance, and reference needs to be made to such statutory legislation or official guidance for information on legal obligations.

- 1.7 It is now widely accepted that the majority of accidents in industry generally 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 in a more appropriate manner to avert them.

It is therefore necessary to give proper consideration to the management of these human factors and the control of risk. To assist in this, it is recommended that due regard be paid to HSG48.

- 1.8 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:
- 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”
 - 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
 - have systems and procedures in place to ensure that the exercise of professional judgement is subject to appropriate monitoring and review
 - not require “responsible engineers” to undertake tasks which would necessitate the exercise of professional judgement that is not within their competence. There should be written procedures defining the extent to which “responsible engineers” can exercise their professional judgement. When “responsible engineers” are asked to undertake tasks which deviate from this they should refer the matter for higher review.
- 1.9 Notwithstanding Sub-Section 1.6, this Standard does not attempt to make the use of any requirement obligatory against the judgement of the responsible engineer.
- New and improved practices may be adopted prior to this Standard being updated. Amendments to this Standard will be issued when necessary and their publication will be announced in the Journal of IGEM and elsewhere as appropriate.
- 1.10 Requests for interpretation of this Standard in relation to matters within its scope, but not precisely covered by the current text, should be addressed to Technical Services, IGEM, IGEM House, 26-28 High Street, Kegworth, Derbyshire, DE74 2DA. Such requests will be submitted to the relevant Committee. Any advice given by or on behalf of IGEM does not imply acceptance of any liability, and does not relieve any party of their obligations.
- 1.11 This Standard was published in October 2010.

SECTION 2 : SCOPE

- 2.1 This Standard applies to permitry for the safe flow of gas, in pipelines, installation pipework and associated equipment/installations intended to convey primarily Natural Gas, a 2nd family gas as defined by BS EN 437 and includes the following types of permits:
- Non-Routine Operation (NRO)
 - Routine Operation (RO)
 - Permits to Work (PTW)
 - Other ancillary permitry for work procedures and maintenance.
- 2.2 This Standard primarily addresses Natural Gas (in either gaseous or liquid state). However, the items of legislation under Section 3 do not have similar scopes with respect to gases covered. For example, GS(M)R address Natural Gas only whereas GS(I&U)R cover virtually all fuel gases. This Standard applies in full for Natural Gas.
- 2.3 The intent of this Standard is to provide appropriate guidance for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) which is not covered by, for example, GS(M)R. However, for most issues, the guidance (as opposed to the legislation) is the same for LPG as for Natural Gas.
- 2.4 For gases other than Natural Gas the majority of this Standard is appropriate, but due account may need to be taken of differences in gas properties and legislative requirements.
- 2.5 This Standard applies to:
- gas transporters (GTs)
 - gas conveyors
 - independent gas transporters (IGTs)
 - utility infrastructure providers (UIPs)
 - meter asset managers (MAMs)
 - LPG network owners
 - independent gas users such as the Ministry of Defence (MOD), Hospitals, commercial and industrial organisations.
- 2.6 The principles contained within this Standard can be applied wherever written procedures are required and Appendices 5 and 7 provide suitable examples of templates that could be used.
- 2.7 All pressures are gauge pressures unless otherwise stated.
- 2.8 Italicised text is informative and does not represent part of a formal Standard.
- 2.9 Appendices are informative and do not represent part of a formal Standard unless specifically referenced in the main sections via the prescriptive terms "must", "shall" or "should".
- 2.9 Individual organisations, for example Distribution Network Owners, may have designated titles for roles, such as Responsible Engineer (RE), Network Controller (NC), Authorising Engineer (AE) and Competent Person (CP). These roles are defined in either IGEM/G/4 or Appendix 1.