1974. No. 276 **[NC]**

GAS

Gas (Meter) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1974

REGULATIONS, DATED 31ST OCTOBER 1974, MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 12 OF THE GAS REGULATION ACT 1920.

The Department of Commerce, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections 11 and 12 of the Gas Regulation Act 1920(**a**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation

1. These regulations may be cited as the Gas (Meter) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1974 and shall come into operation on 1st November 1974.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations—

"the Act" means the Gas Regulation Act 1920;

"diaphragm meter" means a meter constructed so that it contains a flexible partition;

"meter examiner" means a meter examiner appointed under the Sale of Gas Act 1859(**b**);

"relevant Community provisions" means the provisions of Council Directive No. 71/316/EEC(**c**) as amended by Council Directive No. 72/427/EEC(**d**) on the approximation of the laws of Member States relating to common provisions for both measuring instruments and methods of meterological control and Council Directive No. 71/318/EEC(**e**) on the approximation of the laws of Member States relating to gas volume meters and the provisions of any Council Directive by which any of those Council Directives are replaced or amended.

Authorised manner in which meters may be stamped

3. A meter to be used for the purpose of ascertaining the quantity of gas supplied to any person which is stamped in any of the countries of the European Economic Community in the manner which accords with the relevant Community provisions shall be regarded as stamped in a manner authorised for the purposes of section 13 of the Act.

Prescribed standards for meters

4.—(1) The standards with which a meter examiner is to be satisfied that a meter conforms so that he may stamp, or authorise the stamping of, the meter in accordance with section 13 of the Act are as follows:

(*a*) the meter is such that no gas or air will escape from it;

(a) 10 & 11 Geo. 5 c. 28.
(b) 22 & 23 Vict. c. 66.
(c) OJ No. L202, 6.9.71, p. 1 (OJ/SE 1971 (II) p. 707).
(d) OJ No. L291, 28.12.71, p. 156 (OJ/SE 1972 (28-30 Dec.) p. 71).
(e) OJ No. L202, 6.9.71, p. 21 (OJ/SE 1971 (III) p. 729).

(*b*) in the case of any diaphragm meter, the meter, when used for the purpose of ascertaining the quantity of either gas or air passing through it—

(i) at any rate of flow not less than one-fiftieth of the greatest rate of flow for which it is designed and not more than the greatest rate of flow, will register such quantity of gas or air as does not differ from the actual quantity of gas or air passing through the meter by more than 2 per cent of that actual quantity; and

(ii) at the rate of flow specified in column 1 of Table A below which corresponds to the greatest rate of flow for which it is designed specified in column 2 of the Table, will register the passage of gas or air;

TABLE A

Column 1 *Rate of flow in cubic feet per hour*	Column 2 *Greatest rate of flow for which the meter is designed in cubic feet per hour*
0·5	Not exceeding 212
1·0	Exceeding 212 but not exceeding 883
2·0	Exceeding 883 but not exceeding 2296
5·0	Exceeding 2296

(*c*) in the case of a meter other than a diaphragm meter, the meter, when used for the purpose of ascertaining the quantity of either gas or air passing through it—

(i) at any rate of flow not less than one-fifth of the greatest rate of flow for which it is designed and not more than that greatest rate of flow, will register such quantity of gas or air as does not differ from the actual quantity of gas or air passing through the meter by more than 1 per cent of that actual quantity; and

(ii) at any rate of flow not less than the smallest rate of flow for which it is designed and less than one-fifth of the greatest rate of flow for which it is designed, will register such quantity of gas or air as does not differ from the actual quantity of gas or air passing through the meter by more than 2 per cent of that actual quantity;

(*d*) in the case of a diaphragm meter designed to operate at a pressure of not more than 1 bar, the mean difference between the pressure of air at the inlet of the meter and the pressure of air at the outlet of the meter, where air is passing through the meter at the greatest rate of flow for which it is designed, will not exceed the amount specified in column 1 of Table B below which corresponds to that greatest rate of flow specified in column 2 of the Table; and

TABLE B

Column 1 *Mean difference in millibars*	Column 2 *Greatest rate of flow for which the meter is designed in cubic feet per hour*
2·0	Not exceeding 566
3·0	Exceeding 566 but not exceeding 2296
4·0	Exceeding 2296

(*e*) in the case of any diaphragm meter, the difference between the pressure at the inlet of the meter and the pressure at the outlet of the meter, when air is passing through the meter at the rate of flow which is 1 per cent of the greatest rate of flow for which the meter is designed, will not exceed the amount specified in column 1 of Table C below which corresponds to that greatest rate of flow specified in column 2 of the Table.

TABLE C

Column 1 *Difference in millibars*	Column 2 *Greatest rate of flow for which the meter is designed in cubic feet per hour*
0·6	Not exceeding 2296
1·0	Exceeding 2296

(2) A meter shall be deemed to conform with a standard prescribed by sub-paragraph (*d*) or (*e*) of the preceding paragraph, notwithstanding that gas instead of air is passing through the meter, where the results of testing for that standard show that, if it has been conducted with air passing through the meter at a density of 1·2 kilogram per cubic metre, the meter would have conformed with that standard.

Re-examination of disputed meters

5.—(1) Where there is a dispute between any person to whom gas is supplied and the person supplying the gas as to the accuracy with which a meter stamped under section 13 of the Act registers the quantity of gas supplied to that person and either party to the dispute requires a meter examiner appointed under the Sale of Gas Act 1859 to re-examine the meter, and the names and addresses of both parties to the dispute are communicated in writing to the meter examiner, it shall be the duty of the meter examiner on payment of the fee prescribed by regulation 6 to re-examine the meter.

(2) If a meter examiner, on re-examining the meter, is satisfied that the meter does not conform with the standards prescribed by regulation 4, it shall be the duty of the meter examiner to cancel the stamp with which the meter is already stamped by defacing it.

(3) If a meter examiner on re-examining a meter is satisfied that the meter does not conform either with the standard prescribed by sub-paragraph (*b*)(i) or a standard prescribed by sub-paragraph (*c*) of regulation 4, it shall be the duty of the meter examiner to give each of the parties to the dispute a certificate signed by the meter examiner stating the degree exceeding the degree permissible for that standard to which the meter when re-examined registered erroneously.

(4) If a meter examiner on re-examining a meter is satisfied that the meter conforms either with the standard prescribed by sub-paragraph (*b*)(i) or the standards prescribed by sub-paragraph (*c*) of regulation 4, it shall be the duty of the meter examiner to give to each of the parties to the dispute a certificate signed by the meter examiner stating that the meter when re-examined registered accurately.

Fees

6.—(1) Subject to the provisions of the next following paragraphs, the fee to be paid for examining or re-examining by a meter examiner, with or without stamping, a meter described in column 1 of Schedule 1 to these regulations used or intended to be used for ascertaining the quantity of gas supplied to any person shall be the corresponding fee specified in column 2 of that Schedule.

(2) Where the meter has not been delivered to the office of a meter examiner for the purpose of examination, or re-examination, there shall be paid in addition to any fee mentioned in the preceding paragraph of this regulation a fee equivalent to the amount of—

(*a*) all reasonable expenses, including incidental expenses, incurred by the meter examiner, and any other meter examiner assisting him in the examination, in travelling to and from the premises at which the meter is situated, in preparing for the examination of the meter and in dismantling any equipment used therefor; and

(*b*) a sum calculated at the rate of £2 for every hour, or part of an hour exceeding thirty minutes, spent by the examiner and any such other meter examiner respectively in so travelling, preparing and dismantling as aforesaid.

(3) Where the meter is required to be re-examined by a party to a dispute mentioned in regulation 5(1), there shall be paid in addition to any fee mentioned in the preceding paragraphs of this regulation, a fee of 33p.

(4) Where a meter is removed for the purpose of being examined by a meter examiner in accordance with these regulations, the person at whose request the examination is to be carried out shall, unless the meter is found to register erroneously to a degree exceeding the degree permissible under the regulations, defray the expenses incurred in removing, examining and replacing the meter, and the said expenses shall, if the meter is found to register erroneously, be defrayed by the owner of the meter.

(5) Where any person requires the re-examination of any meter not owned by him through which gas is supplied to him and that meter, when examined on the premises at which it is situated for the purpose of ascertaining the quantity of the gas, is found to register erroneously to a degree exceeding the degree permissible under sub-paragraphs (*b*)(i) or (*c*) of regulation 4, the owner of the meter shall pay to that person the amount of all fees paid by him under this regulation.

Revocations

7. The regulations specified in Schedule 2 to these regulations are hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Commerce for Northern Ireland this 31st day of October 1974.

(L.S.)

Derek McVitty,
Assistant Secretary.

SCHEDULE 1

Fees

Column 1 *Meter*	Column 2 *Fee*
	£
1. For examining, with or without stamping, or re-examining any meter (not being a prototype) with measuring capacity—	
(*a*) not exceeding 650 cubic feet per hour	0·30
(*b*) exceeding 650 cubic feet, but not exceeding 1,850 cubic feet per hour	0·80
(*c*) exceeding 1,850 cubic feet, but not exceeding 8,050 cubic feet per hour	4·00
(*d*) exceeding 8,050 cubic feet, but not exceeding 15,050 cubic feet per hour	10·00
(*e*) exceeding 15,050 cubic feet per hour	20·00
2. For examining the prototype of any meter with measuring capacity—	
(*a*) not exceeding 650 cubic feet per hour	20·00
(*b*) exceeding 650 cubic feet per hour	40·00

SCHEDULE 2

Column 1 *Regulations revoked*	Column 2 *References*
The Gas Meter Regulations 1920	S.R. & O. 1920, No. 2354
The Gas Meter (Fees) Rules (Northern Ireland) 1971	S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1971, No. 156

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These regulations—

(*a*) prescribe new standards to which gas meters submitted for stamping or re-examining by a meter examiner must conform;

(*b*) implement any Community obligation of the United Kingdom not to prevent, prohibit or restrict the use in Northern Ireland of gas meters stamped in any of the countries of the European Economic Community in accordance with Council Directives by providing that a meter so stamped is stamped in a manner authorised for the purposes of section 13 of the Gas Regulation Act 1920;

(*c*) provide for re-examining, in the case of disputes, meters already stamped, for cancelling the stamp on any meter which does not conform with the prescribed standards and for the issue of certificates to the consumer and supplier stating either that the meter registers accurately or the degree of its inaccuracy;

(*d*) determine the fees to be paid for the examining or re-examining of meters by meter examiners, with or without stamping, and the persons by whom they are to be paid.