STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1983 No. 363

GAS

The Gas Quality Regulations 1983

Made - - - -	9*th March* 1983
Laid before Parliament	14*th March* 1983
Coming into Operation	12*th April* 1983

The Secretary of State, after consultation with the British Gas Corporation and such other persons and organisations as he considered appropriate, and in exercise of the powers conferred on him by sections 29B(1), (2) and (4) and 42(2) of the Gas Act 1972 (**a**) and all other powers in that behalf enabling him, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

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Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Gas Quality Regulations 1983 and shall come into operation on 12th April 1983.

(**a**) 1972 c. 60; section 29B was inserted by section 13(1) of the Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Act 1982 (c. 23); section 42(2) was amended by sections 40, 46 and 54 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982 (c. 48).

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

"the Act" means the Gas Act 1972;

"the Corporation" means the British Gas Corporation.

"quarter" means the period of 3 months in any year beginning on 1st January, 1st April, 1st July or 1st October;

"relative density", in relation to any gas, means the ratio of the mass of a volume of the gas when containing no water vapour to the mass (expressed in the same units) of the same volume of air containing no water vapour under the same conditions of temperature and pressure;

"Wobbe number" means the number derived by dividing the calorific value of gas by the square root of the relative density of the gas.

Standard of pressure

3. No person shall supply any gas through any service pipe having an internal diameter of 50 mm. or more, or through any main, at a pressure less than that specified in Column 2 of the Schedule hereto in relation to the range of Wobbe numbers specified in Column 1 of the Schedule applicable to the gas supplied.

Standard of purity

4. No person shall supply through pipes any gas which contains more than 5 milligrams of hydrogen sulphide per cubic metre.

Distinctive smell

5. No person shall supply through pipes any gas which does not possess a distinctive smell.

Uniformity of calorific value

6. Where the Corporation charge for gas supplied by them according to the number of therms supplied, they shall maintain the calorific value of the gas supplied at not less than the declared calorific value of the gas and, in particular they shall not cause or permit—

(a) where there is a continuous record of the calorific value of the gas, the average calorific value of the gas in any quarter to be less than its declared calorific value, or

(b) where there is no such continuous record, the average of the calorific values of the gas in any quarter shown by not less than six tests at each place at which the gas is tested carried out by any person appointed by the Secretary of State under section 29B(3) of the Act to be less than the declared calorific value of the gas.

Information

7. Any person other than the Corporation who supplies gas through pipes shall furnish to the Secretary of State any information which he may require as necessary or expedient for the purposes of section 29B of the Act.

Amendment of the Gas (Testing) Regulations 1949

8. The Gas (Testing) Regulations 1949 (**a**) shall have effect subject to the following modifications:—

(a) in Regulations 1(1) and (2), 2 and 4, for references to the Corporation, there shall be substituted references to any person supplying gas through pipes or that person as the case may be; and

(b) after Regulation 3 there shall be inserted the following Regulation—

"Publication of results of test – private suppliers

3A. The Secretary of State will, in respect of tests of gas supplied through pipes during any quarter by any person other than the British Gas Corporation carried out in the area of a Regional Gas Consumer's Council, send to the supplier and to the Council a quarterly statement relating to these tests, and the supplier shall—

(a) cause the quarterly statement to be made available to the public by exhibiting a copy thereof in a prominent position at each of their offices in the area and shall forward a copy to any owner or occupier of premises so supplied in the area at his request; and

(b) cause the following notification to be printed on each such owner or occupier's gas account rendered after the issue of the first quarterly statement:—

"Gas Act 1972

Regulations under the above require a supplier of gas to send to any owner or occupier of premises supplied at his request a copy of a statement issued by the Secretary of State relating to the tests of the gas supplied to such owner or occupier during the preceding quarter."

Penalties

9. Subject to Regulation 10 below, if any person contravenes or fails to comply with, any provision of Regulations 3 to 5 and 6*(a)* and *(b)* and 7 above or, being a supplier of gas, Regulations 1(2) and 2, 3 and 3A of the Gas (Testing) Regulations 1949, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000.

Exception as to liability

10. No person shall be guilty of an offence by reason of any contravention, or failure to comply with, any provision specified in Regulation 9 above in any case in which he can show that any such contravention or failure was due to circumstances beyond his control and that he took all reasonable steps to prevent the contravention or failure, nor shall he be guilty of more than one offence by reason of any contravention or failure to comply with a particular provision specified in Regulation 9 above during any period of 24 hours in respect of gas tested by any person appointed by the Secretary of State under section 29B(3) of the Act at one place.

(**a**) S.I. 1949/789, amended by the Gas Act 1972, section 49(1) and Schedule 6, paragraph 19.

Exemptions

11. The Secretary of State may exempt any person from any provision of Regulations 3 to 5 above and the Corporation from any provision of Regulation 6 above in the case of the supply of gas to any premises for industrial purposes through any main not used for the supply of gas to other premises for other purposes.

Revocation

12. Part II of the Gas Quality Regulations 1972 **(a)** shall cease to have effect.

Hamish Gray,
Minister of State,
Department of Energy.

9th March 1983.

Regulation 3

SCHEDULE

PRESSURE OF GAS SUPPLIED THROUGH PIPES

Column 1	Column 2
Ranges of Wobbe Numbers	Pressure measured in millibars in excess of atmospheric pressure
Not exceeding 31	5 millibars
Exceeding 31 but not exceeding 40	10 millibars
Exceeding 40 but not exceeding 72	12.5 millibars
Exceeding 72	20 millibars

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations prescribe standards of pressure, purity and smell to be complied with by any person supplying gas through pipes and a standard of uniformity of calorific value to be complied with by the British Gas Corporation in supplying gas through pipes. They also make provision for the furnishing of information by persons other than the British Gas Corporation supplying gas through pipes and apply the Gas (Testing) Regulations 1949 with modifications to such persons. Other provisions deal with penalties, exceptions to liability and exemptions and the revocation of Part II of the Gas Quality Regulations 1972 which is superseded by these Regulations.

(a) S.I. 1972/1804, amended by S.I. 1978/230, 1980/1851.

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