

***IGEM/GL/8 Edition 3  
Communication 1776***

# ***Reporting and investigation of gas-related incidents***



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



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Communication 1776***

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## SECTION 1 : INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Standard supersedes IGE/GL/8 Edition 2, Communication 1721, which is obsolete.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) and the Pipelines Safety Regulations (PSR). IGEM/GL/8 also supports certain requirements under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations (GS(I&U)R) and Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR). It has been drafted by an IGEM Panel appointed by IGEM's Gas Transmission and Distribution and Gas Utilization Committees, and has been approved by IGEM's Technical Co-ordinating Committee on behalf of the Council.

1.3 This Standard is for gas transporters (GTs), gas conveyors and suppliers, consumers, gas operatives and others and covers reporting and investigating incidents and dangerous occurrences (including gas fittings found to be dangerous) associated directly with the supply and use of fuel gases.

*Note: Later references to GT's responsibility, equally applies to a gas conveyor.*

1.4 The principles of sound health and safety management need to be taken into account to ensure the gas system can be constructed, operated and maintained safely and effectively.

Guidance on such principles is set out in HSG65.

1.5 The relevant parts of IGEM/GL/8 may be cited in a GT's safety case.

1.6 This Standard makes use of the terms "must", "shall" and "should" when prescribing particular procedures. Notwithstanding clause 1.7:

- 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 Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Approved Codes of Practice (ACoPs) or Guidance, and reference needs to be made to such statutory legislation or official guidance for information on legal obligations.

1.7 Notwithstanding clause 1.6, this Standard does not attempt to make the use of any method or specification 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 the Institution and other publications, as appropriate.

1.8 The primary responsibility for compliance with legal duties rests with the employer. The fact that certain employees, for example "responsible persons", 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 it is reasonably practicable, that "responsible persons" 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 by “responsible persons” is subject to appropriate monitoring and review
- not require “responsible persons” 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 persons” are asked to undertake tasks which deviate from this, they should refer that matter for higher review.

1.9 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 people’s actions 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 to the control of risk. To assist in this, it is recommended that due cognizance should be taken of HSG48 and HSG65.

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 in writing to Technical Services, IGEN, IGEN House, High Street, Kegworth, Derbyshire, DE74 2DA or by e-mail to [technical@igem.org.uk](mailto: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/responsible person concerned. If any advice is given by or on behalf of IGEN, this does not relieve the engineer/responsible person of any of his or her obligations.

1.11 This Standard was published in December 2014.

## SECTION 2 : SCOPE

### 2.1 LEGISLATION

Relevant legislation addressed by this Standard is:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act (HSWA)
- Environmental Protection Act (EPA)
- Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations (GS(I&U)R)
- Gas Safety (Management) Regulations (GS(M)R)
- Pipelines Safety Regulations (PSR)
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)
- Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (COMAH).

The legislation listed above covers a number of different fuel gases either specifically or generally.

The devolution of power to the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland Assemblies means that there may be variations to the legislation described below for each of them and consideration of their particular requirements needs to be made.

### 2.2 SUBSTANCES

2.2.1 This Standard primarily addresses Natural Gas (NG) (in either gaseous or liquid state).

The items of legislation under Sub-Section 2.1 do not have similar scopes with respect to gases covered. For example, GS(M)R address NG only whereas GS(I&U)R cover virtually all fuel gases. As the legislation listed covers NG, this Guidance applies in full for NG.

The intent is to also provide appropriate requirements for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) which is not covered by, for example, GS(M)R. However, for most issues, the requirements (as opposed to the legislation) are the same for LPG as for NG. Where there is a difference, LPG is mentioned specifically.

2.2.2 For gases other than NG and LPG, for example LPG/air, landfill or biogases, the majority of this Standard is appropriate but due account may need to be taken of differences in gas properties and legislative requirements.

### 2.3 INCIDENTS

#### 2.3.1 General

For the purposes of this Standard, "incidents" and "dangerous occurrences" are often termed collectively as "incidents".

This Standard covers the reporting and investigation of incidents and dangerous occurrences associated directly with the supply and use of gas (see Sub-Section 2.2).

2.3.2 This Standard covers onshore incidents:

- on gas supply networks, for example loss of gas or ingress of water
- on gas storage sites, for example loss of gas



- on any gas pipework/appliances involving explosions that cause damage to life and/or property
- involving carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning arising from the burning of gas.

2.3.3 With respect to RIDDOR, this Standard covers onshore:

- dangerous occurrences - Reg 7 and Schedule 2
- gas incidents causing death or major injury – Reg 11(1)
- gas fittings found to be dangerous – Reg 11(2).

2.3.4 All pressures are gauge pressures unless otherwise stated.

2.3.5 Italicised text is informative and does not represent formal requirements.

2.3.6 Appendices are informative and do not represent formal requirements unless specifically referenced in the main sections via the prescriptive terms "must", "shall" or "should".