

# Gas Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2008

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New South Wales

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New South Wales

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# Gas Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2008



New South Wales

## Part 1 Preliminary

### 1 Name of Regulation

This Regulation is the *Gas Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2008*.

### 2 Commencement

This Regulation commences on 1 September 2008.

#### Note—

This Regulation replaces the *Gas Supply (Safety Management) Regulation 2002* which is repealed on 1 September 2008 by section 10 (2) of the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1989*.

### 3 Definitions

(1) In this Regulation:

**AS 1697** means the Australian Standard entitled AS 1697—2005, *Installation and maintenance of steel pipe systems for gas*.

**AS 2885** means the Australian Standards entitled as follows:

- (a) AS 2885.1—2007, *Pipelines—Gas and liquid petroleum, Part 1: Design and construction*,
- (b) AS 2885.2—2007, *Pipelines—Gas and liquid petroleum, Part 2: Welding*,
- (c) AS 2885.3—2001, *Pipelines—Gas and liquid petroleum, Part 3: Operation and maintenance*,
- (d) AS/NZS 2885.5—2002, *Pipelines—Gas and liquid petroleum, Part 5: Field pressure testing*.

**AS 3723** means the Australian Standard entitled AS 3723—1989, *Installation and maintenance of plastics pipe systems for gas*.

**AS 4041** means the Australian Standard entitled AS 4041—2006, *Pressure piping*.

**AS 4564** means the Australian Standard entitled AS 4564—2005, *Specification for general purpose natural gas*.

**AS 4645** means the Australian Standard entitled AS 4645—2005, *Gas distribution network management*.

**AS 5601** means the Australian Standard entitled AS 5601—2004, *Gas installations*.

**AS/NZS 1596** means the Australian and New Zealand Standard entitled AS/NZS 1596:2008, *The storage and handling of LP Gas*.

**Australian Standard** or **Australian and New Zealand Standard** means such a standard published by Standards Australia as in force for the time being.

**basic metering equipment** has the same meaning as in clause 11 of Schedule 1.

**consumer service** means that part of a gas installation that conveys, or controls the conveyance of, gas from a gas network up to and including the first isolation valve of the basic metering equipment.

**Director-General** means the Director-General of the Department of Water and Energy.

**gas network** means a distribution pipeline or a distribution system.

**gasfitting rules** means gasfitting rules established by the network operator in accordance with clause 12 of Schedule 1.

**Note—**

The Act defines **gas installation** as the gas pipes and associated equipment that are used to convey and control the conveyance of gas within premises to which gas is supplied, whether from distribution pipeline or a distribution system or otherwise, but does not include anything connected to and extending or situated beyond a gas outlet socket.

**hazardous event** means an event that causes, or has the potential to cause, physical injury to, or damage to the health of, a person or damage to property or the environment.

**nominated auditor**, in relation to a network operator's safety and operating plan, means a person who is, for the time being, a person nominated by the network operator under clause 13 in respect of the plan.

**safety and operating plan** means a safety and operating plan referred to in clause 10 (1).

**the Act** means the [Gas Supply Act 1996](#).

(2) Notes in this Regulation do not form part of this Regulation.

## **Part 2 Network safety**

### **4 Network operators to ensure safe gas supply**

- (1) A network operator must develop, maintain and operate a safe gas network.
- (2) A network operator is to ensure that matters concerning the design, construction or operation of, or extension to, a gas network are carried out in accordance with:
  - (a) the requirements of AS/NZS 1596, AS 1697, AS 2885, AS 3723, AS 4041 and AS 4645 (as appropriate), or
  - (b) the requirements of other standards (as appropriate) identified in the safety and operating plan that are no less stringent than the standards referred to in paragraph (a).

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

### **5 Emergency services**

- (1) A network operator must:
  - (a) provide the public with an emergency telephone number, accessible 24 hours a day every day, for reporting any escape of gas from the operator's gas network or from gas pipe work within premises directly connected to the network, and
  - (b) provide the public with a means of making such reports in person, during normal business hours, at the network operator's business premises, and
  - (c) provide an effective system for receiving and dealing with such reports, and
  - (d) cause every such report to be promptly acted on, and ensure that, as far as possible, everything is done that needs to be done to stop the escape of, and to disperse, any gas that is at risk of igniting or exploding, or that risks suffocating or otherwise harming any person, and
  - (e) ensure that adequate publicity is given of the ways in which the network operator can be contacted for the purpose of reporting any escape of gas, and
  - (f) make available to any person on request the details of the network operator's emergency services.
- (2) The details of a network operator's emergency services referred to in subclause (1) (f) must include a statement:
  - (a) to the effect that the operator will make safe any escape of gas from its gas network, and from that part of a gas installation directly connected to its gas network up to and including the gas meter outlet, and

- (b) of the circumstances in which a gas user may be liable for the cost of repairs associated with a gas escape.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

## 6 Gasfitting work

- (1) This clause applies to the following kinds of gasfitting work:

- (a) the connection or disconnection of gas supply to or from a gas installation,
- (b) the installation or maintenance of any part of a gas installation up to the gas meter outlet,
- (c) the installation or replacement of a gas meter or any part of the basic metering equipment.

### Note—

See Part 5 for requirements in relation to other gasfitting work.

- (2) A person must not carry out gasfitting work to which this clause applies otherwise than in accordance with the requirements of the gasfitting rules of the network operator for the gas network to which the gasfitting work relates.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

- (3) A person who carries out any gasfitting work to which this clause applies that is not done on behalf of a network operator:

- (a) must be the holder of a licence under the *Home Building Act 1989* authorising its holder to contract to do that work, or must be carrying out the work on behalf of an individual, partnership or corporation that is the holder of such a licence, and
- (b) must be authorised by the network operator for the gas network to which the gasfitting work relates to conduct such work in accordance with the requirements of the network operator's gasfitting rules.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

- (4) To ensure that a gas installation is safe to be supplied with gas from a gas network, a person carrying out gasfitting work to which this clause applies must, immediately before completing the gasfitting work, conduct a leak test of:

- (a) that part of the gas installation that extends from the basic metering equipment, and



- (b) if the gasfitting work involves the installation or maintenance of a consumer service, the consumer service.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

## **7 Notice to network operator and consumer after leak test**

- (1) After testing the gas installation as required under clause 6, the person conducting the test must give a notice, in accordance with this clause, to the network operator and the consumer concerned specifying:

- (a) if the test demonstrates the gas installation is safe to connect to the gas network—that the gas installation has been tested and the gas supply to the premises has been established or re-established or is ready to be established or re-established, or
- (b) if the test demonstrates that the gas installation is unsafe to connect to the gas network—that the gas installation is defective and unsafe to connect to the gas network.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

- (2) A notice issued under subclause (1):

- (a) must include, but is not limited to, the following:
  - (i) the name of the consumer concerned,
  - (ii) the full address of the location,
  - (iii) the date and results of the test,
  - (iv) the name of the person who conducted the test and the name of the person's employer (if any),
  - (v) the person's, or the person's employer's, licence number and details,
  - (vi) if the notice is given under subclause (1) (b)—details of the faults identified, and
- (b) must be given to the network operator and consumer:
  - (i) for a notice given under subclause (1) (a)—within 7 days after the test is carried out, and
  - (ii) for a notice given under subclause (1) (b)—as soon as practicable after the test is carried out.

- (3) The person who conducted the test must keep a copy of the notice given to the network operator and consumer for 5 years from the date on which it was issued.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

- (4) Upon receipt of a notice, the network operator must:

- (a) for a notice given under subclause (1) (a)—record details of the notice and keep the record for at least 10 years from the date of the test or until another notice is received under that subclause in relation to the gas installation concerned, whichever is the sooner, and
- (b) for a notice given under subclause (1) (b)—record details of the notice and keep the notice until receipt of a further notice indicating that the installation has been retested and that the gas installation is safe to connect to the gas network and the gas supply has been established or re-established, or is ready to be established or re-established.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

## **8 Network operator to notify of defective workmanship or unsafe appliance**

If at any time a network operator becomes aware that the workmanship of a gas installation does not comply with the appropriate codes and standards, or that any gas appliance on the premises concerned is in an unsafe condition, the network operator must give a written report, providing full details of the matter, to the Director-General (within the meaning of the *Fair Trading Act 1987*).

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

### **Note—**

The *Fair Trading Act 1987* defines Director-General as the Commissioner for Fair Trading, Department of Commerce or if there is no such position in that Department, the Director-General of that Department.

## **9 Refusal or discontinuance of supply**

- (1) A network operator may refuse or discontinue the supply of gas to a person if, in the opinion of the operator:
- (a) the supply or continued supply of gas is dangerous to life, health or property, or
- (b) the person's gas installation, or any gas appliance connected to it, is not installed in accordance with the relevant Australian Standard.
- (2) A network operator may discontinue a supply of gas to a person:

- (a) by disconnecting the person's gas installation from its gas network, or
  - (b) by disconnecting any gas appliances from the person's gas installation, or
  - (c) by otherwise rendering the person's gas installation or any such gas appliances inoperable.
- (3) A network operator that refuses or discontinues the supply of gas to a person under this clause must cause written notice of the reasons for the refusal or discontinuance of supply to be given:
- (a) to the person and any relevant supplier, and
  - (b) to the Director-General.

### **Part 3 Safety and operating plans**

#### **10 Network operators to lodge and implement safety and operating plans**

- (1) A network operator must:
- (a) lodge with the Director-General a safety and operating plan for its gas network that complies with the requirements of this Regulation, and
  - (b) implement that plan.
- Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).
- (2) The safety and operating plan must be lodged:
- (a) within 6 months from the date of the grant of the authorisation or licence to operate the gas network to which the plan relates, or
  - (b) within such further period as may be approved by the Director-General in writing.
- (3) The safety and operating plan:
- (a) must be in writing (but may include diagrams), and
  - (b) must be approved of in writing by an officer of the network operator who is competent and specifically authorised by the network operator to do so.
- (4) A network operator must not construct, alter, extend, maintain, repair or operate a gas network except in accordance with:
- (a) a safety and operating plan, or
  - (b) a draft safety and operating plan (being a plan that complies with the requirements of this Regulation relating to the form and content, and review and

availability, of safety and operating plans but which has not yet been audited in accordance with clause 14) that has been lodged with the Director-General.

- (5) Nothing in subclause (4) affects the requirement made by subclause (2).
- (6) The Director-General has the same powers under this Part in relation to a draft safety and operating plan as the Director-General has in relation to a safety and operating plan.

#### **11 Network operators to review safety and operating plans**

- (1) The network operator is to review and, if necessary, revise the safety and operating plan:
  - (a) as soon as practicable after any significant change (including significant incremental change) occurs in relation to the operation or maintenance of the gas network, and
  - (b) in any case, at least once every 2 years (starting from the date of lodgment of the safety and operating plan under clause 10).

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

- (2) For the purposes of subclause (1) (a), significant change includes (but is not limited to):
  - (a) any upgrade or modification in the engineering design of the gas network, and
  - (b) any other change in the risks to be managed by the network operator in relation to the gas network or in relation to the measures to be taken to manage such risks.

#### **12 Matters to be included in safety and operating plans**

- (1) The object of a safety and operating plan is to ensure the safe operation of the gas network to which it relates, having regard to a range of matters including gas quality, operating personnel, plant, equipment, the community and the environment.
- (2) A safety and operating plan must include (but is not limited to) the following matters in relation to each distribution district of the network operator:
  - (a) a description of the gas network operation and an outline of operating and maintenance procedures,
  - (b) an analysis of hazardous events that might be expected to occur and the measures to be taken to prevent any such occurrence,
  - (c) the procedures to be implemented in case of emergencies,

- (d) the gas quality standards to be applied and the procedures to be implemented to ensure that the gas conveyed or supplied meets those standards,
  - (e) specification of the plan's objectives and of appropriate performance indicators developed by the network operator.
- (3) If the Director-General so approves in writing, any matter that under this Regulation is to be included in a safety and operating plan in relation to each distribution district of a network operator may instead be included in relation to distribution districts of the network operator as a group.
- (4) A safety and operating plan must comply with Schedule 1.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

### **13 Nomination of persons to audit safety and operating plans**

- (1) A network operator must give the Director-General a nomination in writing of a person as an auditor of its safety and operating plan at least one month before the person is first required to give a certificate in relation to the plan under this Part.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

- (2) A person may not be nominated as an auditor under this clause unless the person is:
- (a) independent of the network operator, and
  - (b) competent to exercise the functions of an auditor under this Regulation in respect of the network operator's safety and operating plan.
- (3) If the Director-General advises a network operator in writing that a nomination is not accepted or is no longer acceptable, the nomination ceases to have effect for the purposes of this Regulation.

### **14 Initial audit of safety and operating plans**

- (1) A safety and operating plan must, when lodged, be accompanied by a report on the plan from a nominated auditor that includes a certificate by the auditor that:
- (a) the plan complies with this Regulation, and
  - (b) the plan is appropriate having regard to the size and complexity of the gas network (subject to any exemptions granted by the Director-General), and
  - (c) all measures intended to prevent hazardous events identified in the plan from occurring, and intended to protect operating personnel, plant, equipment, the community and the environment should they occur, are in place, and

(d) there are properly trained and equipped personnel available to implement the plan.

(2) The Director-General may, before the expiration of the period within which a safety and operating plan must be lodged by a network operator under clause 10, extend that period by notice in writing if the network operator provides the Director-General with a report from a nominated auditor indicating:

(a) an audit has been carried out, and

(b) any failure to comply with subclause (1) (a), (b), (c) or (d), and

(c) the measures that the network operator proposes to take to rectify any such non-compliance, and

(d) the time within which the network operator has undertaken to rectify any such non-compliance.

### **15 Periodical audits of safety and operating plans**

(1) A network operator must lodge with the Director-General in respect of its safety and operating plan a report on the plan from a nominated auditor that complies with subclause (2):

(a) within the period of 28 days after each anniversary of the date of lodgment of the safety and operating plan under clause 10, or

(b) within such other periods, of a lesser frequency, as the Director-General approves in writing in relation to the particular network operator.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

(2) The report must include a certificate by the nominated auditor that:

(a) the safety and operating plan complies with Schedule 1, and

(b) the measures implemented to prevent hazardous events identified in the plan from occurring, and intended to protect operating personnel, plant, equipment, the community and the environment should they occur, are being maintained, and

(c) there are properly trained and equipped personnel available to maintain the plan, and

(d) the plan is adequate and appropriate having regard to any changes in the gas network since a certificate was last issued by a nominated auditor in accordance with this clause or clause 14, and

(e) any measures to rectify non-compliance with the plan detected in any previous

audit have been undertaken and are effective.

- (3) The Director-General may, before the expiration of a period within which a certificate must be lodged by a network operator under subclause (1), extend that period by notice in writing if the network operator provides the Director-General with a report from a nominated auditor indicating:
  - (a) the reasons why the network operator requires the period to be extended, and
  - (b) whether an audit has been carried out, and
  - (c) any failure to comply with the safety and operating plan, and
  - (d) the measures that the network operator proposes to take to rectify any such non-compliance, and
  - (e) the time within which the network operator has undertaken to rectify any such non-compliance.

#### **16 Additional audits may be required**

- (1) The Director-General may, by notice in writing to a network operator, require the network operator to carry out, or to provide such assistance and co-operation as is reasonable for the purposes of carrying out, a further audit of its safety and operating plan.
- (2) Such a requirement may be made if:
  - (a) the Director-General is satisfied that the further audit is required in order to verify that the safety and operating plan is being properly implemented, or
  - (b) the Director-General is not satisfied as to any aspect of an audit carried out by an auditor nominated by a network operator.
- (3) The Director-General may require such a further audit to be carried out by an auditor nominated or appointed by the Director-General.
- (4) The audit may relate to any or all of the matters to which an initial audit under clause 14 or a periodical audit under clause 15 may relate.
- (5) A network operator must comply, as soon as practicable, with a requirement made by the Director-General under this clause.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

#### **17 Availability of safety and operating plans**

- (1) A network operator:

- (a) must cause the following to be kept at its principal office and to be made available to the Director-General:
  - (i) a complete and up-to-date copy of its safety and operating plan, and
  - (ii) details of any incremental change (other than that requiring the plan to be revised under clause 11) that has occurred in relation to the operation or maintenance of the gas network and that is not yet reflected in the plan, and
- (b) must cause the following to be made available to persons likely to be involved in the implementation of the plan:
  - (i) complete and up-to-date copies of the provisions of the plan that relate to safety, and
  - (ii) details of any incremental change (as referred to in paragraph (a) (ii)) but only to the extent that such change relates to safety.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

- (2) In subclause (1), a reference to a complete and up-to-date copy of a safety and operating plan (or the provisions of a safety and operating plan) is a reference to a complete copy of the most recent version of the plan (or the relevant provisions) including any revisions required to be made under clause 11 and any amendments required to be made under clause 18.

### **18 Director-General may direct amendment of safety and operating plans**

- (1) If the Director-General is of the opinion:
  - (a) that a network operator's safety and operating plan will not produce a safe outcome, or
  - (b) that its implementation has given rise to, or will give rise to, an unsafe situation,the Director-General may, by order in writing, direct the network operator to amend the plan in such manner, and within such period of time, as is specified in the order.
- (2) A network operator must, as soon as practicable, comply with any direction under this clause and must furnish a copy of the amended safety and operating plan to the Director-General within 7 days after complying with the direction.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

### **19 Director-General may direct compliance with safety and operating plans**

- (1) If the Director-General is of the opinion that a network operator is not:



(a) complying with the requirements of its safety and operating plan or any codes, standards or specifications set out or referred to in that plan, or

(b) following any procedures set out or referred to in that plan,

the Director-General may, by order in writing, direct the network operator to take such action as is specified in the order to comply with those requirements, codes, standards or specifications, or to follow those procedures.

(2) A network operator must, as soon as practicable, comply with any direction under this clause.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

## 20 Exemptions

(1) The Director-General may, by notice in writing, exempt a network operator from any requirement as to the content of a safety and operating plan if the Director-General is of the opinion that the requirement is inappropriate having regard to the size or complexity of the network operator's gas network.

(2) An exemption under this clause may be given unconditionally or subject to conditions.

(3) The Director-General may, by further notice in writing, vary or revoke any such exemption.

## Part 4 Natural gas standards

### 21 Definitions

In this Part:

**compliant natural gas** means natural gas that complies with the standards set out under AS 4564.

**non-compliant natural gas** means natural gas that is not compliant natural gas.

**reticulator** means an authorised reticulator.

**supplier** means an authorised supplier.

**testing agency** means a reticulator or other person who tests natural gas for the purpose of compliance by the reticulator with clause 25.

### 22 Natural gas in pipelines to comply with standards

(1) A reticulator must not convey non-compliant natural gas through a distribution pipeline.

- (2) A supplier must not supply non-compliant natural gas to an end user customer through a distribution pipeline.
- (3) A person must not inject non-compliant natural gas, or cause such gas to be injected, into a distribution pipeline.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

### **23 Exception from natural gas standards in special cases**

- (1) A reticulator does not commit an offence under clause 22 (1) by conveying non-compliant natural gas through a distribution pipeline if the gas is conveyed in accordance with this clause.
- (2) Non-compliant natural gas is conveyed by a reticulator in accordance with this clause if:
  - (a) the reticulator reasonably believes that the conveyance of the gas is necessary to ensure the safety of the public or the security of the reticulator's distribution pipeline, or
  - (b) the reticulator reasonably believes that the gas that is, or is to be, delivered to the end user customer is compliant natural gas.
- (3) A reticulator conveying non-compliant natural gas in accordance with this clause must notify the Director-General of the point of injection of the non-compliant natural gas:
  - (a) by telephone, facsimile or email as soon as practicable after the time when the non-compliant natural gas began to be conveyed in the reticulator's distribution pipeline, and
  - (b) in writing within 14 days after that time.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

- (4) A supplier does not commit an offence under clause 22 (2) if the non-compliant natural gas has been conveyed through the distribution pipeline by a reticulator in accordance with this clause.

### **24 Reticulator may obtain information and documents regarding natural gas standards**

- (1) If a reticulator has reason to believe that a person has information or a document that may assist the reticulator in determining whether natural gas being injected into, or conveyed through, the reticulator's distribution pipeline is compliant natural gas, the reticulator may by notice in writing served on the person require the person to give the reticulator the information or a copy of the document.

- (2) The notice must:
  - (a) identify the type of information or document that is being sought, and
  - (b) specify:
    - (i) a reasonable time by which the requirement must be complied with, and
    - (ii) the form in which the information or copy of the document is to be given to the reticulator, and
  - (c) state that the requirement is made under this clause.
- (3) A person must not, in purported compliance with a requirement under this clause, give a reticulator information that the person knows, or ought to know, is false or misleading.
- (4) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with any requirement under this clause.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

## 25 Testing of natural gas

- (1) A reticulator must not convey natural gas through a distribution pipeline unless the reticulator has tested the gas, or caused the gas to be tested, in accordance with the reticulator's safety and operating plan, to ascertain whether the gas is compliant natural gas.

### Note—

If the reticulator does not itself test the gas, the person actually testing the gas is referred to in this Part as the **testing agency**. See clause 21.

- (2) A testing agency must keep a register at the agency's main office containing copies of all test results.
- (3) If a test has been made to determine a derived value (such as a Wobbe Index value), the test results required to be kept in the register include the raw measurements used to determine that derived value.
- (4) The testing agency must ensure that the register of test results is open for public inspection during ordinary business hours, and copies of or extracts from the register are to be made available:
  - (a) to the Director-General—on request and at no cost, and
  - (b) to any other person—on request and on payment of a reasonable fee fixed by the testing agency.

- (5) A testing agency must maintain all testing equipment used to test natural gas, or cause that testing equipment to be maintained, in accordance with the reticulator's safety and operating plan.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

## **26 Testing agencies and suppliers to report non-compliant natural gas**

- (1) A testing agency must notify the Director-General without delay if the testing agency becomes aware of any test result that shows that natural gas in a reticulator's distribution pipeline is non-compliant.
- (2) A supplier who knows or becomes aware that any non-compliant natural gas is being, or is to be, conveyed through a reticulator's distribution pipeline must notify the Director-General without delay.
- (3) Notice under this clause may be given by telephone, facsimile or email.
- (4) A testing agency or supplier who gives notice of any matter under this clause by telephone must, within 7 days after doing so, send written notice of that matter to the Director-General.
- (5) A testing agency or supplier must not send to the Director-General a copy of, or notice of, any test result that the testing agency or supplier knows, or ought to know, is false or misleading.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

## **27 Director-General may obtain information regarding non-compliant natural gas**

- (1) If the Director-General believes that non-compliant natural gas is being, or is to be, injected into or conveyed through a reticulator's distribution pipeline, the Director-General may by notice in writing served on any person require that person to give the Director-General such information regarding the injection or conveyance of the non-compliant natural gas as the Director-General specifies.
- (2) The notice must:
  - (a) specify:
    - (i) a reasonable time by which the requirement must be complied with, and
    - (ii) the form in which the information is to be given to the Director-General, and
  - (b) state that the requirement is made under this clause.
- (3) A person must not, in purported compliance with a requirement made by a notice

under this clause, give the Director-General information that the person knows, or ought to know, is false or misleading.

- (4) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with any requirement made by a notice issued by the Director-General under this clause.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

## **28 Director-General may issue directions and take other measures regarding non-compliant natural gas**

- (1) If the Director-General believes that non-compliant natural gas is being, or is to be, injected into or conveyed through a reticulator's distribution pipeline, the Director-General may issue directions to a reticulator or supplier regarding the injection or conveyance of the non-compliant natural gas.
- (2) Without limiting subclause (1), the directions issued by the Director-General in accordance with this clause may require a reticulator or supplier to notify end user customers who may be supplied with the non-compliant natural gas that such gas is being, or is to be, injected into or conveyed through the distribution pipeline concerned.
- (3) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with any direction issued by the Director-General under this clause.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

## **29 Natural gas must have odour**

A reticulator must ensure that natural gas being conveyed, or to be conveyed, through the reticulator's distribution pipeline has a distinctive and unpleasant odour that is discernible at a level specified in the reticulator's safety and operating plan.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

## **30 Exemptions**

- (1) The Director-General may, by notice in writing, exempt a reticulator from any or all of the requirements of this Part.
- (2) The Director-General may, by a further notice in writing, revoke any such exemption.
- (3) If the Director-General grants an exemption to a reticulator under this clause, the Director-General may issue directions to the reticulator regarding the conveyance of natural gas through the reticulator's distribution pipeline.

- (4) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with any direction issued by the Director-General under subclause (3).

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

## Part 5 Gasfitting work

### 31 Application of Part

- (1) This Part applies to gasfitting work carried out:
- (a) on a gas installation to which gas is supplied from a gas network, or
  - (b) for the purpose of connecting a gas appliance to, or disconnecting a gas appliance from, such a gas installation.
- (2) This Part does not apply to:
- (a) gasfitting work to which clause 6 applies, or
  - (b) gasfitting work carried out on a gas installation to which gas is supplied otherwise than from a gas network.

### 32 Gasfitting work to be carried out by, or under the supervision of, suitably qualified gasfitters

- (1) A person must not carry out gasfitting work to which this Part applies, or employ any other person to carry out any such work, unless the person by whom the work is carried out does so:
- (a) under the authority of an appropriate supervisor certificate, or
  - (b) under the authority of an appropriate tradesperson certificate and under the general supervision of the holder of an appropriate supervisor certificate, or
  - (c) under the immediate supervision of the holder of an appropriate supervisor certificate.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

- (2) In this clause:

**supervisor certificate**, in relation to a particular kind of gasfitting work, means a supervisor certificate in force under the [Home Building Act 1989](#) authorising the holder to carry out, and to supervise, that kind of work, and includes a licence endorsed under that Act to show that it is the equivalent of such a certificate.

**tradesperson certificate**, in relation to a particular kind of gasfitting work, means a

tradesperson certificate in force under the *Home Building Act 1989* authorising the holder to carry out that kind of work under general supervision.

### **33 Gasfitting work to comply with certain standards**

- (1) A person must not carry out gasfitting work to which this Part applies otherwise than in accordance with:
  - (a) in the case of all gasfitting work:
    - (i) AS 5601, or
    - (ii) if that standard is not applicable to the work, AS 4041, and
  - (b) in the case of gasfitting work involving installations or systems that convey liquefied petroleum gas, AS/NZS 1596.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (2) Without affecting the generality of subclause (1), a person must not connect a gas appliance to a gas installation or modify a gas appliance connected to a gas installation unless the appliance (or appliance as modified) is a certified gas appliance within the meaning of the *Gas Supply (Gas Appliances) Regulation 2004*.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

### **34 Testing for defects and certificates of compliance**

- (1) Immediately after completing gasfitting work on a gas installation, the person responsible for the carrying out of the gasfitting work:
  - (a) must test the installation for defects, and
  - (b) must inspect all gas appliances connected to the installation.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (2) Immediately after testing a gas installation following the completion of gasfitting work, the person responsible for the carrying out of the gasfitting work must issue a certificate of compliance with respect to that work:
  - (a) to the owner of the installation, or
  - (b) to a person having the control or management of the installation.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (3) The person responsible for the carrying out of the gasfitting work must, within 7 days after completing the gasfitting work, send a copy of the certificate of compliance to the relevant network operator.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

(4) A certificate of compliance:

- (a) must be in a form approved by the Director-General, and
- (b) must indicate the nature of the gasfitting work that has been carried out, and
- (c) must state that the gasfitting work has been carried out in accordance with any relevant gasfitting rules, AS 5601 or AS/NZS 1596, whichever is appropriate, and
- (d) must indicate whether or not the gas installation is in safe working order.

(5) A person who issues a certificate of compliance must retain a copy of the certificate for 5 years from the date on which it was issued.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

(6) This clause does not apply to gasfitting work involving the disconnection of a gas appliance from a gas installation.

(7) In this clause:

**person responsible**, in relation to the carrying out of gasfitting work means the person who carries out the gasfitting work, or who supervises the carrying out of the gasfitting work, under the authority of an appropriate supervisor certificate referred to in clause 32 (1).

## Part 5A Infrastructure protection

### 34A Definitions

(1) In this Part:

**development consent** means:

- (a) a development consent under Part 4 of the [Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979](#), or
- (b) an approval under Part 3A of that Act.

**gas pipelines information** means information provided by the designated information provider or a network operator in response to a request by a person under section 64C (1) of the Act.

**notifiable excavation work** means excavation work to which section 64C of the Act applies (as set out in clause 34B).

**utility service** means a water, gas, electricity, sewerage, drainage or telecommunications service.



- (2) Words and expressions used in this Part have the same meaning as they have in Part 4A of the Act.

**34B Excavation work requiring contact with designated information provider**

- (1) Work of the following kind, that is carried out within the distribution network of a distribution network service provider, is excavation work to which section 64C of the Act applies:
- (a) excavation for which development consent is required or that is carried out under a development consent,
  - (b) excavation that is, or is carried out in connection with, an activity within the meaning of Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*,
  - (c) excavation of any land conducted by or on behalf of a public authority,
  - (d) excavation of any land on which an underground utility service is located, or proposed to be located, by or on behalf of the owner or proposed owner of the service,
  - (e) excavation of any land on which an underground utility service is located for the purpose of the repair or maintenance of works connected with the utility service.
- (2) Despite subclause (1), work of the following kind is not excavation work to which section 64C of the Act applies:
- (a) excavation conducted with the use of machinery or powered tools to a depth of less than 150 mm,
  - (b) excavation for the purposes of ploughing, to a depth of less than 250 mm, on land within a rural zone or a rural-residential zone under an environmental planning instrument,
  - (c) excavation conducted without the use of machinery or powered tools to a depth of less than 300 mm,
  - (d) excavation conducted under a lease, licence or mineral claim under the *Mining Act 1992*,
  - (e) excavation conducted in an emergency, including (but not limited to) work to prevent or mitigate injury or death or to prevent or mitigate serious damage to property or the environment,
  - (f) excavation conducted without the use of machinery or powered tools by, or on behalf of, the owner of a utility service for the purpose of ascertaining the location of the service or testing the integrity of the service,
  - (g) excavation conducted by, or on behalf of, the owner of a utility service to stop loss

of water, if urgently required in response to water main leaks and breaks.

### **34C Requirements for carrying out excavation work: s64C (4) of Act**

- (1) **Notification of network operator** Subclauses (2) and (3) apply if gas pipelines information provided to a person contains a requirement that notice of proposed notifiable excavation work must be given to the network operator that owns underground gas pipelines in the vicinity of the proposed work before the work is commenced.
- (2) A person must not commence to carry out, or authorise the commencement of, the notifiable excavation work unless the person has first given notice of the proposed work to the network operator.
- (3) The person must also provide to the network operator any information about the proposed work that is requested by the network operator.
- (4) **Recent request for information** A person who carries out notifiable excavation work must have made a request for information under section 64C of the Act not earlier than 30 days before the work is commenced, unless a request has been made by another person in relation to that work within that period.
- (5) **Regard to be had to information** A person who carries out notifiable excavation work must, in carrying out that work, have regard to the following:
  - (a) any information, provided by the designated information provider or a network operator, as to the location and type of any underground gas pipeline in the vicinity of the work,
  - (b) any other information provided to the person by a network operator or the designated information provider in respect of underground gas pipelines.

#### **Note—**

A person who undertakes excavation work is subject to duties and responsibilities under the [Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000](#). The WorkCover Authority has prepared the *Work Near Underground Assets Guideline*, which contains practical advice for working near underground utility services and guidance as to how to meet the requirements of the [Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000](#) when carrying out excavation work.

### **34D Provision of information by network operator**

- (1) A network operator that is notified of proposed notifiable excavation work in the vicinity of underground gas pipelines owned by the network operator must ensure that the person who notifies the work, or the person proposing to carry out the work, is informed of the existence of the *Work Near Underground Assets Guideline* published in 2007 by the WorkCover Authority.
- (2) The network operator must provide a copy of the *Guideline* if requested to do so by the person who notifies the work or who is proposing to carry out the work.

### **34E Notification of damage to underground gas pipelines**

A person who is required to notify a network operator under section 64D (1) of the Act of damage to an underground gas pipeline must notify the network operator:

- (a) by telephoning the contact telephone number provided to the person by the designated information provider for that purpose, or
- (b) if no such contact telephone number is provided, by telephoning the emergency contact telephone number for the network operator that is listed in a telephone or internet directory.

### **34F Maximum amount of civil monetary liability**

The maximum amount of civil monetary liability of a designated information provider, any officer or employee of a designated information provider or any person acting on behalf of a designated information provider for an act or omission of a kind referred to in section 64F (2) of the Act done or made through negligence is \$10 million.

## **Part 6 Miscellaneous**

### **35 Reports to the Director-General**

- (1) A safety and operating plan must include a schedule of reports to be made to the Director-General in relation to the maintenance and safety aspects of the operation of the gas network.
- (2) If the Director-General directs that the schedule should provide for:
  - (a) reports in respect of particular maintenance or safety aspects of the operation of the gas network, or
  - (b) all or any of the reports referred to in subclause (3),the network operator must comply with that direction.
- (3) The Director-General may direct a network operator to prepare reports, and the network operator must comply with any such direction, in relation to all or any of the following matters:
  - (a) gas network assets (for example, reports concerning the total length of the gas network, or descriptions of the gas network),
  - (b) the safety and integrity of the gas network (for example, reports on the number of incidents of mechanical damage occurring in network operations, or the number of emergency exercises conducted),
  - (c) the reliability of the gas network and consumer-related matters (for example, reports concerning incidents of poor pressure supply, deviations from gas quality

specifications, or unaccounted for gas),

- (d) any matter relating to high-pressure gas operations, that is, gas operations involving pressure exceeding 1050 kilopascals (for example, reports concerning corrosion inspections, or third-party activities impacting on high-pressure gas operations),
- (e) any matters which, under this Regulation or the safety and operating plan, require immediate reporting (for example, reports concerning the reporting of emergencies, accidents, non-compliant gas, or any other incident that the plan requires to be reported as soon as practicable after the incident occurs).

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units (in the case of a corporation) and 25 penalty units (in any other case).

### **36 Delegations**

The Director-General may delegate to any person the exercise of all or any of the Director-General's functions (other than this power of delegation) under this Regulation.

### **37 Repeal**

The *Gas Supply (Savings and Transitional) Regulation 1991* is repealed.

### **38 Savings**

Any act, matter or thing that, immediately before the repeal of the *Gas Supply (Safety Management) Regulation 2002*, had effect under that Regulation continues to have effect under this Regulation.

## **Schedule 1 Safety and operating plans**

(Clause 12 (4))

### **1 General provisions of safety and operating plan**

The general matters that must be included in a safety and operating plan are as follows:

- (a) a statement that sets out the objectives of the plan,
- (b) a description of the management structure of the network operator and a schedule identifying each person designated by the network operator as being responsible for the development, approval and implementation of the plan,
- (c) identification of the distribution districts to which the plan applies and of those procedures set out or referred to in the plan that apply only in relation to a particular distribution district,
- (d) a description of the gas network within each distribution district, and of its operation and maintenance,

- (e) a statement to the effect that all procedures set out or referred to in the plan are in place and have been tested and proved,
- (f) if the plan sets out requirements relating to high-pressure gas operations (that is, gas operations involving pressure exceeding 1050 kilopascals), a statement to the effect that such requirements are consistent with the requirements of AS 2885.

## **2 Description of gas network**

A description of a gas network, and its operation and maintenance, within each distribution district of the network operator must include all of the following:

- (a) the range of supply pressures applied within each distribution district,
- (b) references to maps showing the location of the gas works of each distribution district and the procedures for gaining access to those maps,
- (c) a description of the gas works within each distribution district,
- (d) a description of the engineering records that the network operator maintains, the location of those records, and the procedures for maintaining, filing and gaining access to those records.

## **3 Analysis of hazardous events**

- (1) An analysis of hazardous events must be prepared in relation to each distribution district of the network operator unless subclause (2) applies.
- (2) A common analysis of hazardous events may be prepared in relation to those distribution districts of the network operator that possess the same characteristics from which the risk of hazardous events may be identified.
- (3) If a new gas network is to be constructed or an existing gas network extended, an analysis of hazardous events must be prepared in relation to the construction or extension before its construction is commenced.
- (4) An analysis of hazardous events must, consistent with the size and complexity of each distribution district or proposed distribution district, concerned:
  - (a) identify the range of supply pressures applied within each distribution district (or to be applied within each proposed distribution district, as the case may be), and
  - (b) systematically identify hazardous events that might be expected to occur, and
  - (c) identify the potential causes of those events, and
  - (d) identify the possible consequences of those events, and
  - (e) specify operational, maintenance and organisational measures intended to

prevent those events from occurring or, should they occur, intended to protect operating personnel, plant, equipment, the community and the environment.

- (5) The operational and maintenance measures must include a maintenance schedule indicating, among other things, the type and frequency of inspections, coating surveys and checks on cathodic protection devices (if such coatings or devices are used).
- (6) In the case of new gas networks or extensions to existing networks, an analysis of hazardous events should also take into account hazardous events that may occur during construction.
- (7) A safety and operating plan must include a description of the methodology to be used to conduct an analysis of hazardous events.
- (8) An analysis of hazardous events in relation to any section of a distribution district that may operate at pressures exceeding 1050 kilopascals must comply with the requirements for risk assessment provided for in AS 2885.

#### **4 Emergencies**

- (1) A safety and operating plan is to identify the emergency procedures to be implemented by the network operator to ensure an effective response to emergencies.
- (2) The types of emergencies in respect of which procedures must be implemented include (as a minimum):
  - (a) fires, explosions, leaks and impacts (with particular reference to those caused by the activities of other parties), and
  - (b) natural disasters, and
  - (c) civil disturbances.
- (3) A safety and operating plan must identify the procedures implemented by the network operator that ensure:
  - (a) all emergency procedures have been tested and proved, and
  - (b) all emergency procedures are reviewed and tested on a regular basis.

#### **5 Gas quality**

The gas quality standards to be applied must include standards relating to the following:

- (a) heating value,
- (b) relative density,
- (c) composition and purity.

## **6 Procedures for ensuring that gas is malodorous**

A safety and operating plan must:

- (a) identify the procedures to be implemented by the network operator to ensure that gas conveyed or supplied has a distinctive and unpleasant odour, and
- (b) specify the odoriferous substances to be used, and
- (c) specify the odour intensities.

## **7 Procedures for testing gas**

(1) A safety and operating plan must identify the procedures to be implemented by the network operator to ensure that gas conveyed or supplied:

- (a) meets the relevant gas quality and pressure standards, and
- (b) complies with the relevant gas specification.

(2) A safety and operating plan must specify:

- (a) the equipment to be provided and maintained by or on behalf of the network operator for the testing of gas (including the order of accuracy of results the equipment delivers), and
- (b) the place or places at which the equipment is to be kept, and
- (c) how often calibration tests are to be conducted on the equipment to ensure its accuracy, and
- (d) how often gas testing is to be carried out.

## **8 Procedures for connection of gas supply to a gas installation**

A safety and operating plan is to identify the procedures to be implemented by the network operator to ensure that gas installations are safe for the connection or reconnection of the supply of gas.

## **9 Plan must incorporate any relevant management system standards**

A safety and operating plan is to incorporate any management system standards that are relevant to the management of a gas network (for example, standards relating to document control, record management, and procedures for conducting audits and management reviews).

## **10 Codes and standards**

A safety and operating plan must specify the codes and standards that the network operator intends to follow in the design, installation, operation and maintenance of the

gas network, and the year of publication of those codes and standards.

### **11 Meters, regulators and other basic metering equipment**

- (1) A safety and operating plan must require any device or equipment used in the gas network (including any basic metering equipment):
  - (a) to be suitable for the design working pressure of the part or parts of the network in which it is used, and
  - (b) if installed, to be installed so as not to interfere with metering accuracy.
- (2) A safety and operating plan must require pressure regulators operating with an outlet pressure of more than 35 kilopascals and any compensating devices to be sealed.
- (3) In this clause:

***basic metering equipment*** means a gas meter and any one or more of the following used in conjunction with gas meters:

- (a) valves to isolate gas supply,
- (b) pipework (including a combination of pipes, flanges, tees, elbows and other pipe-connecting equipment designed to convey gas),
- (c) fittings, smaller instruments used in connection with fittings, pressure sensing tubing and tube fittings, instrument valves and associated equipment,
- (d) filters (being devices designed to trap and remove foreign matter from gas streams),
- (e) pressure regulators (being devices designed to reduce and control pressure),
- (f) over-pressure protection devices (being devices designed to protect downstream equipment from exposure to excessive pressure if upstream equipment fails),
- (g) non-return valves (being devices designed to ensure that gas flow travels in one direction and to prevent reverse flow),
- (h) mechanical indexes (being devices designed to indicate consumption of raw metered gas),
- (i) meter bars and other equipment designed to support a gas meter, and associated equipment that forms part of the meter installation,
- (j) electrical connections and wiring designed to convey electrical signals for gas meters, flow correction devices, alarms and metering communications equipment,
- (k) flow correction devices or software designed to enable raw metering data to be adjusted for the effects of temperature, pressure and gas quality (or any of these)



and to be referenced to standard pressure and temperature conditions,

- (l) temperature and pressure correction devices or software designed to enable raw metering data to be adjusted for the effects of temperature and pressure,
- (m) devices and equipment designed to analyse and calculate the heating value of a gas stream (for example, chromatography equipment and calorimeters).

## **12 Gasfitting rules**

- (1) A safety and operating plan must establish rules concerning the manner in which any work to which clause 6 of this Regulation applies is to be carried out.
- (2) Any rules so established must be no less stringent than any code of practice or standard that is applied to any such work by any regulations under the Act.
- (3) A safety and operating plan must identify procedures that provide for the authorising of persons to:
  - (a) connect or disconnect gas supply to or from a gas installation,
  - (b) install or maintain a consumer service,
  - (c) install or replace a gas meter or any part of the basic metering equipment.

## **13 Identification of ownership of pipes**

A safety and operating plan must identify procedures to be implemented by the network operator to ensure that the network operator can identify its pipes as such if necessary (for example, in the case of an emergency).