



# SAFETY ALERT

Subject: New gas pipework design and installation compliance

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Who should read this: Site Infrastructure Manager's, Maintenance Management Organisations, Top Level Budget Holders, Project Sponsors, MOD Project Managers and others within the IPT (for both Prime, PFI/PPP and traditionally procured contracts), Defence Infrastructure Organisation Advisors and Infrastructure Managers with responsibility for MOD projects and Property Management Works Services (including the legacy work of EWCs/WSMs) Coordinating Authorising Engineers, Authorising Engineers, Authorised Persons and Responsible Person (Gas).

When it takes effect: Immediately

When it is due to expire: No expiry  
except on update

Health and Safety

**Document Aim:** To raise awareness of the correct installation and protection requirements to steel and polyethylene gas pipework on MOD gas networks.

## 1. Introduction

- a. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONTENTS OF THIS ALERT WILL ENABLE COMPLIANCE WITH THE HEALTH & SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974 AND ITS SUBORDINATE REGULATIONS.

- b. The appropriate MOD officer shall arrange for the Regional Prime Contractor (RPC) / Maintenance Management Organisation (MMO) or Project Delivery Organisation to carry out all actions in accordance with this Safety Alert.
- c. Any work required as a result of this Safety Alert must be carried out in accordance with JSP 375 Volume 3 – MOD’s Safety Rules & Procedures and the Gas Safety Case and Gas Safety Management Plan unless as part of an initial installation which is part of a ‘ringfenced’ project.
- d. On MOD Establishments occupied by United States Visiting Forces (USVF) responsibility is jointly held by USVF and DIO (USF). At base level, this jointly managed organisation is to take appropriate action to implement the contents of this Safety Alert. Where this Alert contains procedures which differ significantly from USVF practice, DIO (USF) code of practice will be issued.

## **2. Background**

Following recent HSE inspections on gas networks on MOD estate it was noticed that some gas (steel) pipework was not compliant with the requirements set out in IGE/TD/3 Edition 4 and IGE/TD/4 Edition 4.

On investigation it was observed that the pipework identified by the HSE had been mistakenly treated as ‘installation pipework’ rather than ‘service pipework’ as required by the Gas Safety Case. Requiring the use of these two standards will ensure that all gas pipework across the estate is treated the same way and minimises the possibility of breach of the Gas Safety Case and therefore the Gas Safety (Management) Regulations.

## **3. Requirement**

- a. Any new steel gas pipework design and installation on gas networks on MOD estate is to be in accordance with IGE/TD/3 Edition 4 - Steel and PE pipelines for gas distribution and IGE/TD/4 Edition 4 - PE and steel gas services and service pipework.
- b. Any new steel pipe or component should be protected cathodically and the design should be in accordance with the relevant standards.

*Note: protection may be applied either by means of impressed current or sacrificial anode. Impressed current is the preferred method, particularly for longer pipe runs but requires care to avoid interference with other buried apparatus. Sacrificial anodes may be used for short lengths of steel pipe or where surrounding apparatus is so dense that the impressed current method is not suitable.*

Insulation joints or flanges should be installed to limit any impact from interference currents, to split the system into manageable parts and to control the extent of the proposed CP system. In general, insulation joints should be considered in the following circumstances:

- At the point of connection to an existing system
- At special crossings, for example bridges and waterways
- Where stray interference currents may be present
- Where systems of dissimilar materials, for example steel and cast iron, join.



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- c. Polyethelene gas pipework may be used in construction of gas pipework negating the requirement of Cathodic Protection.
- d. No retrospective work to correct situations of non compliance with IGE/TD/3 Edition 4 and IGE/TD/4 Edition 4 is required, except where condition monitoring suggests corrective action is required.