



Gas Act 1986

1986 CHAPTER 44

PART I

GAS SUPPLY

[^{F1} Gas conveyed by public gas transporters and others]

18 Safety regulations.

^{F1}(1)

(2) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for empowering any officer authorised by the relevant authority—

- (a) to enter any premises in which there is a service pipe connected with a gas main, for the purpose of inspecting any gas fitting on the premises, any flue or means of ventilation used in connection with any such gas fitting, or [^{F2}any part of the gas system on the premises, that is to say,]any service pipe or other apparatus (not being a gas fitting) which is on the premises and is used for the [^{F2}conveyance or]supply of gas or is connected with a gas main;
- (b) where he so enters any such premises, to examine or apply any test to any such object as is mentioned in paragraph (a) above and (where the object is a gas fitting) to verify what supply of air is available for it; and
- (c) where in his opinion it is necessary to do so for the purpose of averting danger to life or property, and notwithstanding any contract previously existing, to disconnect and seal off any gas fitting or any part of the [^{F3}gas system on the premises, or disconnect the premises or, if the premises are not connected, to signify the refusal of the relevant authority to convey gas or, as the case may be, allow gas to be conveyed to the premises].

(3) Where any regulations under subsection (2) above confer any power in accordance with paragraph (c) of that subsection, the regulations shall also include provision—

- (a) for securing that, where any such power is exercised, the consumer will be notified as to the nature of the defect or other circumstances in consequence of which it has been exercised;

Changes to legislation: Gas Act 1986, Section 18 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (b) for enabling any consumer so notified to appeal to the Secretary of State on the grounds that the defect or other circumstances in question did not constitute a danger such as to justify the action taken in the exercise of the power, or did not exist or have ceased to exist; and
 - (c) for enabling the Secretary of State to give such directions as may in accordance with the regulations be determined by him to be appropriate in consequence of any such appeal.
- (4) Regulations made under subsection (2) above may make provision for prohibiting any person, except with the consent of the relevant authority or in pursuance of any directions given by the Secretary of State as mentioned in subsection (3)(c) above, from—
- (a) reconnecting any gas fitting or [^{F4}any part of any gas system] which has been disconnected by or on behalf of the relevant authority in exercise of a power conferred by the regulations; or
 - (b) [^{F5}reconnecting any premises which have been disconnected] by or on behalf of the relevant authority in the exercise of any such power; or
 - (c) causing gas from a gas main to be [^{F6}conveyed] to any premises where in pursuance of the regulations the refusal of the relevant authority to [^{F7}convey gas or, as the case may be, allow gas to be conveyed] to those premises has been signified and that refusal has not been withdrawn.
- (5) Where in pursuance of any powers conferred by regulations made under subsection (2) above, entry is made on any premises by an officer authorised by the relevant authority—
- (a) the officer shall ensure that the premises are left no less secure by reason of the entry; and
 - (b) the relevant authority shall make good, or pay compensation for, any damage caused by the officer, or by any person accompanying him in entering the premises, in taking any action therein authorised by the regulations, or in making the premises secure.
- (6) Any officer exercising powers of entry conferred by regulations made under subsection (2) above may be accompanied by such persons as may be necessary or expedient for the purpose for which entry is made, or for the purposes of subsection (5) above.
- (7) If any person intentionally obstructs any officer exercising powers of entry conferred by regulations made under subsection (2) above, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
- (8) The ^{M1}Rights of Entry (Gas and Electricity Boards) Act 1954 (entry under a justice's warrant) shall apply in relation to any powers of entry conferred by regulations made under subsection (2) above as if [^{F8}any reference to a gas operator were a reference to the relevant authority].
- [^{F9}(9) In this section “the relevant authority”—
- (a) in relation to dangers arising from the conveyance of gas by a [^{F10}gas transporter], or from the use of gas conveyed by such a transporter, means that transporter; and
 - (b) in relation to dangers arising from the conveyance of gas by a person other than a [^{F10}gas transporter], or from the use of gas conveyed by such a person, means the Secretary of State.

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- (10) Where the relevant authority is a [^{F10}gas transporter], any reference in this section to any officer authorised by the authority includes a reference to any officer authorised by another such transporter with whom the authority has made arrangements for officers authorised by the other transporter to discharge any functions of the authority under this section.
- (11) Except in cases of emergency, no officer shall be authorised by a [^{F10}gas transporter] to exercise any powers of entry conferred by regulations under this section unless the transporter has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that he is a fit and proper person to exercise those powers.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 18(1) repealed (6.3.1992) by [Offshore Safety Act 1992 \(c. 15\)](#), ss. 3(3)(a), 7(2), [Sch. 2](#).
- F2** Words in s. 18(2)(a) inserted (1.3.1996) by [1995 c. 45, s. 10\(1\)](#), [Sch. 3 para. 14\(1\)\(a\)](#); S.I. 1996/218, [art. 2](#)
- F3** Words in s. 18(2)(c) substituted (1.3.1996) by [1995 c. 45, s. 10\(1\)](#), [Sch. 3 para. 14\(1\)\(b\)](#); S.I. 1996/218, [art. 2](#)
- F4** Words in s. 18(4)(a) substituted (1.3.1996) by [1995 c. 45, s. 10\(1\)](#), [Sch. 3 para. 14\(2\)\(a\)](#); S.I. 1996/218, [art. 2](#)
- F5** Words in s. 18(4)(b) substituted (1.3.1996) by [1995 c. 45, s. 10\(1\)](#), [Sch. 3 para. 14\(2\)\(b\)](#); S.I. 1996/218, [art. 2](#)
- F6** Word in s. 18(4)(c) substituted (1.3.1996) by [1995 c. 45, s. 10\(1\)](#), [Sch. 3 para. 14\(2\)\(c\)](#); S.I. 1996/218, [art. 2](#)
- F7** Words in s. 18(4)(c) substituted (1.3.1996) by [1995 c. 45, s. 10\(1\)](#), [Sch. 3 para. 14\(2\)\(c\)](#); S.I. 1996/218, [art. 2](#)
- F8** Words in s. 18(8) substituted for s. 18(8)(a)(b) (1.3.1996) by [1995 c. 45, s. 10\(1\)](#), [Sch. 3 para. 14\(3\)](#); S.I. 1996/218, [art. 2](#)
- F9** S. 18(9)-(11) substituted for s. 18(9) (1.3.1996) by [1995 c. 45, s. 10\(1\)](#), [Sch. 3 para. 14\(4\)](#); S.I. 1996/218, [art. 2](#)
- F10** Words in s. 18 substituted (1.10.2001) by [2000 c. 27, s. 108](#), [Sch. 6 Pt. I para. 2\(1\)](#); S.I. 2001/3266, [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#) (subject to transitional provisions in arts. 3-20)

Marginal Citations

- M1** [1954 c. 21](#).

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 5(e) and word inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 185\(3\)](#)
- s. 5(1)(ca) inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 168\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 5(10A) inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 168\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 5(11A)(11B) inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 185\(4\)](#)
- s. 7B(5FA) inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 185\(13\)](#)
- s. 7AC inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 185\(6\)](#)
- s. 8AA(11B) inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 185\(14\)](#)
- s. 15A inserted by [1992 c. 43 s. 17](#)
- s. 23D(2)(d) and word inserted by [2013 c. 32 s. 138\(4\)\(c\)\(iii\)](#)
- s. 27(1ZA)(aa) inserted by S.I. 2019/93, Sch. 1 para. 2(2)(b) (as substituted) by [S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 17](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). The affecting statutory instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it has expired with no effect.)
- s. 28(8A) inserted by [2023 c. 52 Sch. 14 para. 3\(3\)](#)
- s. 41E(6)(d) and word inserted by [2013 c. 32 s. 138\(4\)\(f\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 4B para. 9B and cross-heading inserted by [2023 c. 52 Sch. 14 para. 4](#)