
POLICY FOR

**INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING OF
SUPPLIES TO HIGH RISE BUILDINGS**

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JULY 2011

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FOREWORD

This Policy was approved by Engineering Policy Manager on 15th July 2011 for use by managers, engineers, supervisors and field force/contractors throughout National Grid Gas.

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BRIEF HISTORY

First published as T/PL/LC20 Editorial update to reflect Safety Case version 3 taking into account issues as detailed in the comments below. Additionally, compliance with mandatory terms along with the removal of non-specific normative phrases. Editorial update to comply with GRM Editorial update for National Grid re-branding Update to reflect new surveying requirements Updated to reflect changes to T/PM/LC/21, the Management Procedure that supports this Policy	May 2002 July 2004 October 2004 October 2005 March 2007 April 2008	EPSG/I01/300 EPSG/T07/1982
Updated to reflect changes to T/PM/LC/21, the management procedure that supports this Policy	April 2011	SEDDS/186

KEY CHANGES (Identify the changes from the previous version of this document)

Section	Amendments
Scope	Extension to include all external metallic risers and laterals
Policy	Requirement for inspection frequency to be risk based from April 2012
Policy	Maximum frequency of five years.
Background	New section

DISCLAIMER

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MANDATORY AND NON-MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

In this document:

Shall: indicates a mandatory requirement.

Should: indicates best practice and is the preferred option. If an alternative method is used then a suitable and sufficient risk assessment shall be completed to show that the alternative method delivers the same, or better, level of protection.

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INTRODUCTION

To comply with current legislation, National Grid as a gas transporter, shall satisfy the requirements of Regulation 13 of the Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996 and ensure pipelines are '*maintained in an efficient state, in efficient working order and in good repair*'

The scope of this policy is detailed below and defines the minimum requirements necessary to satisfy National Grid's legislative responsibilities.

The distribution pipe replacement policy and procedure covers supply pipes to all other buildings/structures (refer to T/PL/REP/1).

1. SCOPE

This policy applies to all high rise buildings of six storeys and above that contains an upstream pipe-work system and covers the inspection, maintenance and monitoring of all (internal and external) metallic risers and laterals, up to the consumer's emergency control valve. **(Basements/cellars shall NOT be regarded as a storey within the context of this policy.)**

2. POLICY

The supplies to all known high rise buildings of six storeys and above containing an upstream pipe-work system shall be subject to the following inspection frequency.

- Between April 2011 to March 2012 – inspection frequency shall be in accordance with T/PL/LC/20 dated April 2008
- From April 2012 the frequency of these inspections shall be risk based. Subsequent inspections shall be at a frequency not exceeding ten years.

Detailed records shall be held and maintained..

3. DEFINITIONS

High Rise Building - A High Rise Building is defined as a building having at least six storeys above ground level (i.e. including the ground floor) that contains an up-stream pipe-work system, including internal risers and laterals to multiple meter points.

Basements/cellars shall NOT be regarded as a storey within the context of this policy.

Riser – Risers are defined as an above ground arrangement of pipes (horizontal or vertical), which supply more than 2 supply meter installations in an individual premise or building containing many premises. A pipe is considered a riser from the base of the bend, which rises to each of the building floors.

Laterals - The length of pipe from the teed connection on the riser to the consumer's emergency control valve(s).

Emergency Control Valve – A valve for shutting off the supply of gas in an emergency, being a valve intended for use by the consumer

Tamper-proof – Protected against unauthorised operation

Basement/cellar – shall NOT be regarded as a storey within the context of this policy

Storey – Floor construction level. The ground floor is counted as a storey within the context of this policy

4. REFERENCES

- a) Health and Safety Executive - Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996 - Design, construction and installation of gas pipes.
- b) National Grid Procedure for Inspection, Maintenance and Monitoring of Metallic Supplies to High Rise Buildings –T/PM/LC/21
- c) National Grid Distribution Pipe Replacement Policy – T/PL/REP/1
- d) National Grid Policy for Safety, Health and Environmental Audit – T/PL/A2

5. COMPLIANCE

Compliance with this policy will be achieved through the application of National Grid Engineering document '**Procedure for Inspection, Maintenance and Monitoring of Metallic Supplies to High Rise Buildings – T/PM/LC/21**'

6. REVIEW

The following measures shall apply to the review process:

6.1 Audit Procedure

The audit and review process shall be carried out in accordance with National Grid's current Policy for Safety, Health and Environmental Audit

6.2 Annual Review

Network Strategy should annually review the workload achieved and associated investment required to ensure future compliance.

6.3 Policy Review

A formal review of the policy should be instigated within three years of approval.

7. BACKGROUND HISTORY

In January 2011 the Health and Safety Executive served National Grid Gas with an Improvement Notice (ref no 303084600) in relation to the arrangements for the inspection of natural gas pipelines that NGG operate and that are located at multi-occupancy buildings greater than five storeys. The Notice stated that NGG had failed to ensure that risks to members of the public, posed by the deterioration of said pipelines was as low as reasonably practicable.

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ENDNOTE**Comments**

Comments and queries regarding the technical content of this document should be directed to:

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