



I.S. 265 : Part 2 : 1994

IRISH STANDARD

**INSTALLATION OF GAS SERVICE PIPES.
PART 2: OPERATION**

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DECLARATION

OF

SPECIFICATION

ENTITLED

INSTALLATION OF GAS SERVICE PIPES.

PART 2: OPERATION

AS

THE IRISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR

INSTALLATION OF GAS SERVICE PIPES.

PART 2: OPERATION

Forfás in exercise of the power conferred by section 20 (3) of the Industrial Research and Standards Act, 1961 (No. 20 of 1961) and the Industrial Development Act, 1993 (No. 19 of 1993), and with the consent of the Minister for Enterprise and Employment, hereby declares as follows:

1. This instrument may be cited as the Standard Specification (Installation of Gas Service Pipes. Part 2: Operation) Declaration, 1994.

2. (1) The Specification set forth in the Schedule to this declaration is hereby declared to be the standard specification for Installation of Gas Service Pipes. Part 2: Operation.

(2) The said standard specification may be cited as Irish Standard 265:Part 2:1994 or as I.S. 265:Part 2:1994.

SCHEDULE

INSTALLATION OF GAS SERVICE PIPES

PART 2: OPERATION

1. Scope

- 1.1** This Part 2 of the Standard covers the operation of gas service pipes for the supply of manufactured gas, natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas, at operating pressures not exceeding 7 bar.
- 1.2** It covers the requirements of gas service pipes up to and including the primary meter control valve. The meter installation and pipework downstream of the primary meter control valve are outside the scope of this standard.
- 1.3** Where services are to be upgraded refer to I.S. 265, Part 1.
- 1.4** The requirements of this Part 2 of the Standard are not intended to apply retroactively.

2. Definitions

These definitions are to be read in conjunction with the list of definitions in I.S. 265, Part 1.

Decommissioning The activities required to put a gas-filled service pipe and associated equipment, which will be disconnected from the system, out of service.

Gas operator The private or public organisation which has the responsibility for operating and maintaining a gas distribution network of mains and services.

Leak An uncontrolled emission of gas.

Leak classification procedure An established method for ranking leak indications in order of severity.

Leak survey A programme of checking the soundness of the gas distribution network by using either appropriate gas detectors or other adequate means, supported by a Leak Classification Procedure.

L.E.L. (Lower explosive limit) The lowest concentration of flammable gas in air to just sustain combustion. This term is the equivalent of the term Lower Flammable Limit.

3. Responsibility

- 3.1** No person shall authorise, disconnect, alter or repair any gas service pipe and/or authorise or make any connection to any gas main, other than a competent employee of the gas operator, or a competent person approved in writing by the gas operator for the purpose, or a competent employee of such a person under contract of service.
- 3.2** Any person who installs or repairs a gas service pipe, service pipe fitting, service valve or service regulator to any premises shall comply in so doing with the provisions of this standard.
- 3.3** Where such a person carries out the service laying work or repair of a gas service pipe in the performance of a contract of service, that person's employer shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this standard.

4. Service monitoring

- 4.1** The gas operator shall undertake periodic reviews of all the gas service pipe records. From the results of such a review, the gas operator shall take appropriate action in the locations deemed necessary, which may include a Leak Survey.
- 4.2** It is not a requirement of this Part 2 of the Standard to carry out Programmed Leak Surveys on gas service pipes.
- 4.3** Each gas operator shall have a Leak Classification Procedure and a Leak Location Procedure. Part of the Scope of these procedures shall include routines for the pinpointing of leaks and identifying required follow-up action.

5. Decommissioning

- 5.1** A gas service pipe shall be decommissioned if it is to be abandoned. The decommissioning process shall include purging the gas service pipe free from gas and sealing it in such a way that it cannot act as a conduit for any leaking gas.
- 5.2** The service is to be disconnected at the live main taking appropriate safety measures, and the connection-hole in the main shall be positively sealed off.
- 5.3** When the disconnected service pipe has been allowed to vent to atmosphere and the gas readings in the service pipe are below the L.E.L., the disconnected end of the service shall be permanently sealed off.
- 5.4** When a meter is removed the open end at the former meter position shall be sealed by capping off or other equivalent appropriate means.

5.5 Where live services are being decommissioned as part of a mains abandonment, it is a requirement only that the services are sealed as in 5.3 above.

5.6 Should the gas service pipe be removed, any hole in the outer wall of a building, caused by the removal or installation of any pipe, shall be sealed.

6. Repairs to service lines

6.1 Total or partial renewal of gas service pipes shall be to the requirements of I.S. 265, Part 1. The use of internal repair methods may be considered where appropriate.

6.2 Where repairs are made to steel service pipes, care should be taken to ensure that the protection (either coating or cathodic) against corrosion is restored to at least the original effectiveness. Metallic services which are leaking due to extensive corrosion should be replaced rather than repaired.

6.3 Repairs to PE services require that the defective area be cut out and replaced with a new section. Compatibility between PE materials is essential when fusion techniques, other than electrofusion are employed.

7. Records

The gas operator shall keep records of key data relating to the operation and repair of services for as long as the services are in commission.

This information shall include reason for action, location, date and type of repair and if appropriate, date of leak, classification of leak and observed condition of pipe, at the repair.

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