

GAS INDUSTRY UNSAFE SITUATIONS PROCEDURE EXPLAINED

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This factsheet explains the *Gas Industry Unsafe Situations Procedure* which aims to protect you from unsafe gas situations.

Overview

The Gas Industry Unsafe Situations Procedure (GIUSP) is a guidance document available to all gas engineers which is designed to protect you from unsafe gas appliances/chimneys/flues/pipework (referred to as gas installations in this factsheet).

GIUSP provides gas engineers with guidance on how to deal with the risks from unsafe gas installations, based on the level of risk posed to the occupiers. It assists gas engineers to make sure you are safe and helps them comply with gas safety law, including *the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998*.

The guidance is relevant to all gas installations fuelled by different types of gas and applies in both homes and businesses.

Assessing the risk

When looking at existing installations a Gas Safe engineer will do his best to make sure you are safe. It is important that gas engineers can take actions on gas installations, which are proven to be unsafe, and then tell you about them in a way you can understand. You need to appreciate that if a gas engineer tells you of an unsafe installation, it is your (or your landlord's/agent's if appropriate) responsibility to make sure it is not used again until it has been repaired. If appropriate the Gas Safe engineer should also tell your landlord/agent that he has found an unsafe situation.

All gas equipment, including pipework, should be installed correctly and safely by a Gas Safe registered engineer. They should follow manufacturer's instructions and current industry standards. Over time, these may change and, as a result, existing installations may not always meet the current safety requirements.

This does not necessarily mean they are unsafe, as any changes might not have been because of safety concerns.

When a registered gas engineer identifies an unsafe situation they should explain what the fault is and try to find the cause and repair any faults to your ensure safety. Where this is not possible they should tell you that the fault(s) should be repaired before the installation is used again. If it can't be corrected immediately they should make the installation safe, after first seeking your permission to do so. This is normally done by disconnecting or by turning off the gas to the affected part of the installation. This will be dependent upon how bad the defects are.

Defect categories

The gas engineer uses the GIUSP, as guidance to classify the unsafe gas situation. There are two categories depending on how bad the defects are. Depending on the level of risk there will be different actions you (or your landlord) should take. The categories are:

'Immediately Dangerous' (ID)

An "immediately dangerous" installation is one which, if operated or left connected to a gas supply, is considered to be an immediate danger to life or property.

The installation will be disconnected, with your permission, and must not be used until the necessary work has been carried out to repair the defect(s). If you continue to use an immediately dangerous installation you could be putting you or your family's lives in danger.

For Natural Gas installations, if you refuse the gas engineer permission to disconnect the installation or an individual appliance, they will report the situation to the Gas Emergency Service Provider (ESP). The ESP has legal powers to demand entry to make the situation safe or may disconnect the gas supply to the property. The ESP does not have the same legal powers with Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) installations.

'At Risk' (AR)

An "at risk" installation is where one or more recognised faults are present which could **constitute a danger to life or property** without further faults developing.

With your permission, the installation will be turned off and should not be used again until the fault has been repaired. However, in a limited number of cases, turning off the gas supply will not remove, or reduce the risk. In such circumstances, you will be issued with a warning notice and advised whom to contact for further investigation.

Further information relating to a Gas Emergency

You may be advised that the installation is not in accordance with current standards. Whereas it is always a good idea to bring an installation up to current standards, but that will often depend upon whether the work can be undertaken at reasonable cost, or whether any other work is likely to be carried out on the installation in the near future, such as a replacement appliance.

Service Providers

If the Gas Emergency Service Provider has visited a property as a result of a smell of gas or fumes and cannot confirm the installation is safe, they may also attach a Danger Do Not Use Warning Label to the installation/appliance and issue you with an appropriate warning notice.

Where a warning notice has been issued, by the Gas Emergency Service Provider, you will be told not to use the installation until it has been checked by an appropriately qualified Gas Safe registered engineer. It is your (or your landlords) responsibility to get the installation checked.

The Gas Safe registered engineer should keep you (or your landlord where appropriate) informed of the actions they are taking. Please be aware that they are carried out for you & your family's safety. If you have any concerns you can contact Gas Safe Register.