

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 gives gas engineers 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 try to find the cause and repair any faults. 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 three 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 three 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 installation 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.

'Not to Current Standards' (NCS)

A "not to current standards" installation is one which does not meet with current standards, but is safe. You may however wish to improve the installation to meet current standards as this could improve the reliability and lifespan of the installation. If the installation has been carried out recently, you should contact the registered gas business that carried out the work to correct any identified faults. For older installations your gas engineer can advise you whether the installation should be brought in line with current standards.

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.

Further information specific to Gas Emergency 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 use a further category – 'Concern for Safety' and issue an appropriate notice.

Where a 'Concern for Safety' 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 a 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.