



## THE GAS INDUSTRY REGULATIONS 1978, AMENDMENT NO. 1

KEITH HOLYOAKE, Governor-General

### ORDER IN COUNCIL

At the Government House at Wellington this 17th day of December 1979

Present:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL

PURSUANT to the Gas Industry Act 1958, His Excellency the Governor-General, acting by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, hereby makes the following regulations.

### ANALYSIS

1. Title and commencement
2. Interpretation
3. Application of regulations
4. Fees for meter testing
5. Permits to do gasfitting
6. Completion of gasfitting
7. Emergency work

8. Power to charge for inspections and tests
9. Restrictions on use of gas installations and gas appliances
10. Reticulation
11. Charging for natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas
12. Offences

### REGULATIONS

**1. Title and commencement**—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Gas Industry Regulations 1978, Amendment No. 1, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Gas Industry Regulations 1978\* (hereinafter referred to as the principal regulations).

(2) These regulations shall come into force on the 1st day of January 1980.

**2. Interpretation**—(1) Regulation 2 of the principal regulations is hereby amended by revoking the definition of the term “calorific value”, and substituting the following definition:

“‘Calorific value’ means the amount of heat, expressed in megajoules, that is evolved by the complete combustion in air, at constant pressure, of one standard cubic metre of gas measured at 15°C at an absolute pressure of 101.325 kPa and

free from water vapour; the temperature of the gas, air, and products of combustion being 15°C, and all of the water formed by combustion being condensed to a liquid state.”.

(2) The said regulation 2 is hereby further amended by omitting from the definition of the term “cubic metre” the words “a pressure”, and substituting the words “an absolute pressure”.

(3) The said regulation 2 is hereby amended by inserting, after the definition of the term “gas appliance”, the following definition:

“‘Gasfitting’ means the work of fixing or unfixing pipes, whether principal, subsidiary, or branch pipes, reticulating or conveying or intended to reticulate or convey gas in or on any premises beyond the outlet connection of the gas meter or meters on those premises; and includes the work of fixing or unfixing pipes and flue pipes to any appliance that uses gas; but does not include—

“(a) Any such work done in respect of a gas cylinder or gas cylinders that contains or together contain less than 15 kilograms net weight of gas; or

“(b) The fixing or unfixing of any such gas cylinder:”.

**3. Application of regulations**—Regulation 3 (2) of the principal regulations is hereby amended by revoking paragraph (b), and substituting the following paragraph:

“(b) To a gas installation that supplies gas into or within—

“(i) An electric power generating system controlled by the Ministry of Energy; or

“(ii) A petrochemical plant.”

**4. Fees for meter testing**—The principal regulations are hereby amended by inserting, after regulation 16, the following regulation:

“16A. (1) The Gas Referees, after consultation with the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, may from time to time—

“(a) Fix the fee or fees payable by the owners of gas undertakings and assemblers and repairers of gas meters in respect of the examination and testing of gas meters; and

“(b) Specify the person or body to whom or to which fees fixed under paragraph (a) of this subclause are payable.

“(2) Every determination made by the Gas Referees under subclause (1) of this regulation shall be published in the *Gazette*.”

**5. Permits to do gasfitting**—(1) The principal regulations are hereby amended by revoking regulation 18, and substituting the following regulation:

“18. (1) Subject to subclause (4) of this regulation and to regulation 22 of these regulations, no person shall, in installing, extending, adding to, or connecting any gas installation or gas appliance, carry out any gasfitting unless the gasfitting is authorised by, and is done in accordance with, a permit issued—

“(a) By the owner of the gas undertaking that is supplying or will be supplying gas to that installation or appliance; or

“(b) If the gas is being supplied, or will be supplied, to that installation or appliance by the Natural Gas Corporation of New Zealand Limited, by that Corporation.

“(2) Every application for a permit under this regulation shall be made—

“(a) By a craftsman gasfitter; or

“(b) By a person authorised, by or pursuant to section 57 of the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 1976, to carry out the gasfitting involved.

“(3) An owner of a gas undertaking or the Natural Gas Corporation of New Zealand Limited may decline to consider an application for a permit under this regulation before the expiry of the period of 3 working days after the application is received.

“(4) Nothing in subclause (1) of this regulation shall apply in respect of the maintenance or adjustment of any gas installation or gas appliance.”

**6. Completion of gasfitting**—The principal regulations are hereby amended by revoking regulation 20, and substituting the following regulation:

“20. The craftsman gasfitter or other person to whom a permit is issued under regulation 18 of these regulations shall, on completion of the gasfitting, give the owner of the gas undertaking a notice stating:

“(a) That the gasfitting has been completed:

“(b) That the gas installation (and the gas appliances connected to it) or the gas appliance, as the case may require, are, or is, to the best of the knowledge and belief of the gasfitter or other person to whom the permit was issued, safe to connect to the gas undertaking’s gas supply:

“(c) The results of such safety and functional tests (if any) as the Gas Referees may for the time being reasonably prescribe in respect of gasfitting of that kind:

“(d) Where the permit was issued to a craftsman gasfitter, the name and registration number of the craftsman gasfitter:

“(e) Where the permit was not issued to a craftsman gasfitter, the name and address of the person to whom the permit was issued.”

**7. Emergency work**—The principal regulations are hereby amended by revoking regulation 22, and substituting the following regulation:

“22. (1) In any case of emergency due to a breakdown or other accident, any person permitted by or pursuant to the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 1976 to do any gasfitting involved may, without obtaining a permit under regulation 18 of these regulations, begin any gasfitting necessary to repair a gas installation or gas appliance.

“(2) Where any gasfitting is undertaken pursuant to subclause (1) of this regulation, an application for a permit in respect of the gasfitting shall, within 24 hours after the gasfitting is begun, be made under regulation 18 of these regulations.”

**8. Power to charge for inspections and tests**—Regulation 24 of the principal regulations is hereby amended by inserting, after the word “to”, the words “a person to whom a permit is issued under regulation 18 of these regulations or to”.

**9. Restrictions on use of gas installations and gas appliances**—The principal regulations are hereby amended by revoking regulation 25, and substituting the following regulation:

“25. (1) Subject to subclause (2) of this regulation, no person shall connect any gas installation or part of a gas installation, or any gas appliance, to the gas supply of any gas undertaking unless a Gasfitting Inspector has, under regulation 23 of these regulations, certified in writing that the gas installation or part of the gas installation or the gas appliance may safely be connected to the gas supply.

“(2) Notwithstanding subclause (1) of this regulation, one or more appliances may be added to an existing installation if—

“(a) The owner of the gas undertaking that supplies gas to the installation has given permission for the connection of the appliance or appliances; and

“(b) Arrangements have been made with the owner of the gas undertaking for the appliance or appliances to be inspected by a Gasfitting Inspector within 10 working days after the date of the addition of the appliance or appliances to the existing installation.”

**10. Reticulation**—Regulation 34 of the principal regulations is hereby amended by revoking subclause (5).

**11. Charging for natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas**—Regulation 37 (3) of the principal regulations is hereby amended by revoking paragraph (c), and substituting the following paragraph:

“(c) In the case of meters registering at above base pressure, by adjusting for variation in pressure and, where necessary, for temperature and super-compressibility, in accordance with such tables as the Gas Referees shall for the time being approve.”

**12. Offences**—(1) Regulation 53 (1) of the principal regulations is hereby amended by omitting the words “7 days”, and substituting the expression “6 months”.

(2) Regulation 53 (3) of the principal regulations is hereby amended by inserting, after the words “calorific value of”, the word “manufactured”.

P. G. MILLEN,  
Clerk of the Executive Council.

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*This note is not part of the regulations, but is intended to indicate their general effect.*

These regulations, which come into force on 1 January 1980, amend the Gas Industry Regulations 1978.

Regulation 2 effects technical amendments to the definitions of the terms “calorific value” and “cubic metre”. It also inserts, for the purpose of the new regulation 18, a definition of the term “gasfitting”. The new definition follows the definition of the term in the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 1976.

*Regulation 3* amends regulation 3 (2) of the principal regulations so that the principal regulations do not apply to a gas installation that supplies gas into or within a petrochemical plant.

*Regulation 4* inserts a new *regulation 16A* in the principal regulations. The new regulation (which is authorised by the Gas Industry Supply Amendment Act 1979) empowers the Gas Referees, after consultation with the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures,—

- (a) To fix the fee or fees payable by the owners of gas undertakings and assemblers and repairers of gas meters in respect of the examination and testing of gas meters; and
- (b) To specify the person or body to whom or to which fees fixed under *paragraph (a)* are payable.

*Regulation 5* substitutes a new *regulation 18* in the principal regulations. The new regulation is designed to clarify the ambit of the work that requires a permit under that regulation. The work that requires a permit is the gasfitting involved in installing, extending, adding to, or connecting any gas installation or gas appliance. *Subclause (4)* of the new regulation makes it clear that a permit is not required in respect of the maintenance or adjustment of any gas installation or appliance. *Regulation 22* (as substituted by *regulation 7* of these regulations) makes provision for gasfitting to be carried out, in any case of emergency, without a permit.

*Subclause (1) (b)* of the new *regulation 18* empowers the Natural Gas Corporation of New Zealand Limited to issue a permit if the gas is being supplied, or will be supplied, to the installation or appliance by that Corporation.

*Subclause (2) (b)* of the new *regulation 18* enables an application for a permit under that regulation to be made not only by a craftsman gasfitter but also by a person authorised, by or pursuant to section 57 of the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 1976, to carry out the gasfitting.

*Regulations 6 and 7* substitute new regulations 20 and 22 in the principal regulations. The new regulations embody amendments that are consequential on the new *regulation 18*.

*Regulation 8* amends regulation 24 of the principal regulations. That regulation is amended so that the owner of a gas undertaking may, in respect of the inspection or testing by a Gasfitting Inspector of a gas installation, charge either the consumer or the person to whom the permit is issued under *regulation 18*.

*Regulation 9* substitutes a new *regulation 25* in the principal regulations. *Subclause (2)* of the new regulation relaxes the requirements in respect of the addition of gas appliances to existing installations.

*Regulation 10* revokes subclause (5) of regulation 34. The subclause revoked requires the location in streets of certain high pressure mains to be indicated by surface markings.

*Regulation 11* effects a technical change in regulation 37 (3) (c) of the principal regulations.

*Regulation 12 (1)*: Regulation 53 (1) of the principal regulations makes it an offence for the owner of a gas undertaking to supply, in any period of not less than 7 days, gas that has an average calorific value that is below certain prescribed levels. The minimum period over which the average value is to be measured is increased from 7 days to 6 months.

*Regulation 12 (2)* makes it clear that regulation 53 (3) of the principal regulations applies only in respect of manufactured gas.

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Issued under the authority of the Regulations Act 1936.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 20 December 1979.

These regulations are administered in the Ministry of Energy.