

Managing gas safety in a changing landscape

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Helping
Great Britain
work well

Background: Helping Great Britain work well



Acting together
Promoting broader ownership of health and safety in Great Britain



Tackling ill health
Highlighting and tackling the costs of work-related ill health



Managing risk well
Simplifying risk management and helping business to grow



Supporting small employers
Giving SMEs simple advice so they know what they have to do



Keeping pace with change
Anticipating and tackling new health and safety challenges




Sharing our success
Promoting the benefits of Great Britain's world-class health and safety system

19 Sector Plans

Agriculture	Manufacturing
Bioeconomy	Mines
Chemicals	Offshore energy
Commercial consumer services	Onshore oil and gas
Construction	Public services
Explosives	Quarries
Fairgrounds and theme parks	Sports and leisure
Film broadcasting, theatre and events	Utilities
Gas and pipelines	Waste and recycling
Logistics and transport	

Sector Plans: Utilities


Health and Safety Executive

Sector plan for health and safety: **Utilities**

This sector covers electricity generation, distribution and supply, low-pressure domestic and commercial gas, liquefied petroleum gas, water, sewerage and telecommunications industries. Excluding gas, this sector contributes around £57 billion to the economy.

Around 500 000 people work in the sector, with a high proportion in skilled and technical roles. The different industries covered are subject to high levels of political and regulatory scrutiny.

Current position

Generally, these industries have relatively mature, stable health and safety systems, with influential and well-informed intermediaries and trade associations who are well placed to develop and deliver improvements. However, there are areas where the health and safety system is less mature and industry fragmentation and greater use of contractors pose a threat.

Annually, around 3% of workers (11 000) across the sector (excluding those in gas) suffer an illness they believe to be work-related, while 1% of such workers (4000) are injured in non-fatal incidents.


A particular focus of the gas sub-sector is on protecting gas consumers from fires, explosion and carbon monoxide poisoning. The number of fatal injuries has fallen significantly over the last 15 years, with a 5-year rolling average of 7 members of the public killed each year associated with gas appliances and installations.


Key challenges for this sector are an ageing workforce, maintaining and upgrading essential assets and infrastructure, and managing rapid developments in technology.

Outcomes and priorities

Our ambition is for health and safety performance not to be detrimentally affected by rapid developments in the sector, and in particular to achieve the following outcomes:

- Ensure new large infrastructure projects, and ageing plant and assets, do not lead to an increase in injuries or ill health
- Acknowledge there is no acceptable level for harm to consumers by unsafe gas work
- Ensure that worker competence is maintained and managed for the future




Health and Safety Executive

What HSE will do to #HelpGBworkwell

We will secure effective management and control of risk by:

- ensuring industry delivers a safe smart meter programme by:
 - using HSE, industry and government intelligence to develop a clear understanding of any emerging health and safety issues;
 - engaging with industry and the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to clearly communicate the findings of emerging issues and action required;
- working with the Gas Safe Register to reduce the number of members of the public being harmed by unsafe gas work;
- delivering interventions across the different sub-sectors focused on priority risks;
- adapting flexibly and proportionately to technological and commercial developments.

We will lead and engage with others to improve workplace health and safety by:

- securing the best deal for consumer safety from the current and future Gas Safe Register by:
 - managing the current Gas Safe Register contract;
 - delivering an effective and efficient future Gas Safe Register in 2019;
- supporting and promoting strategic industry initiatives that show leadership in tackling key problems in the telecommunications, water, sewerage, electricity generation distribution and supply, low-pressure domestic and commercial gas industries by maintaining and strengthening relationships with key stakeholders, such as:
 - the National Electricity Industry Health and Safety Committee HESAC (comprising Energy Networks Association, Energy UK, HSE, GMB, Prospect, Unison and Unite);
 - Energy Networks Association Powering Improvement Steering Group and Working Groups;
 - Mast and Tower Safety Group;
 - Water UK Occupational Health and Safety Group;
 - BT Open Reach.

We will provide an effective regulatory framework by:

- developing and communicating HSE's regulatory position, specifically to ensure the safe delivery of major programmes of work, such as the smart meter programme.

Sector plan: Outcomes & priorities



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Incidents, injuries & fatalities

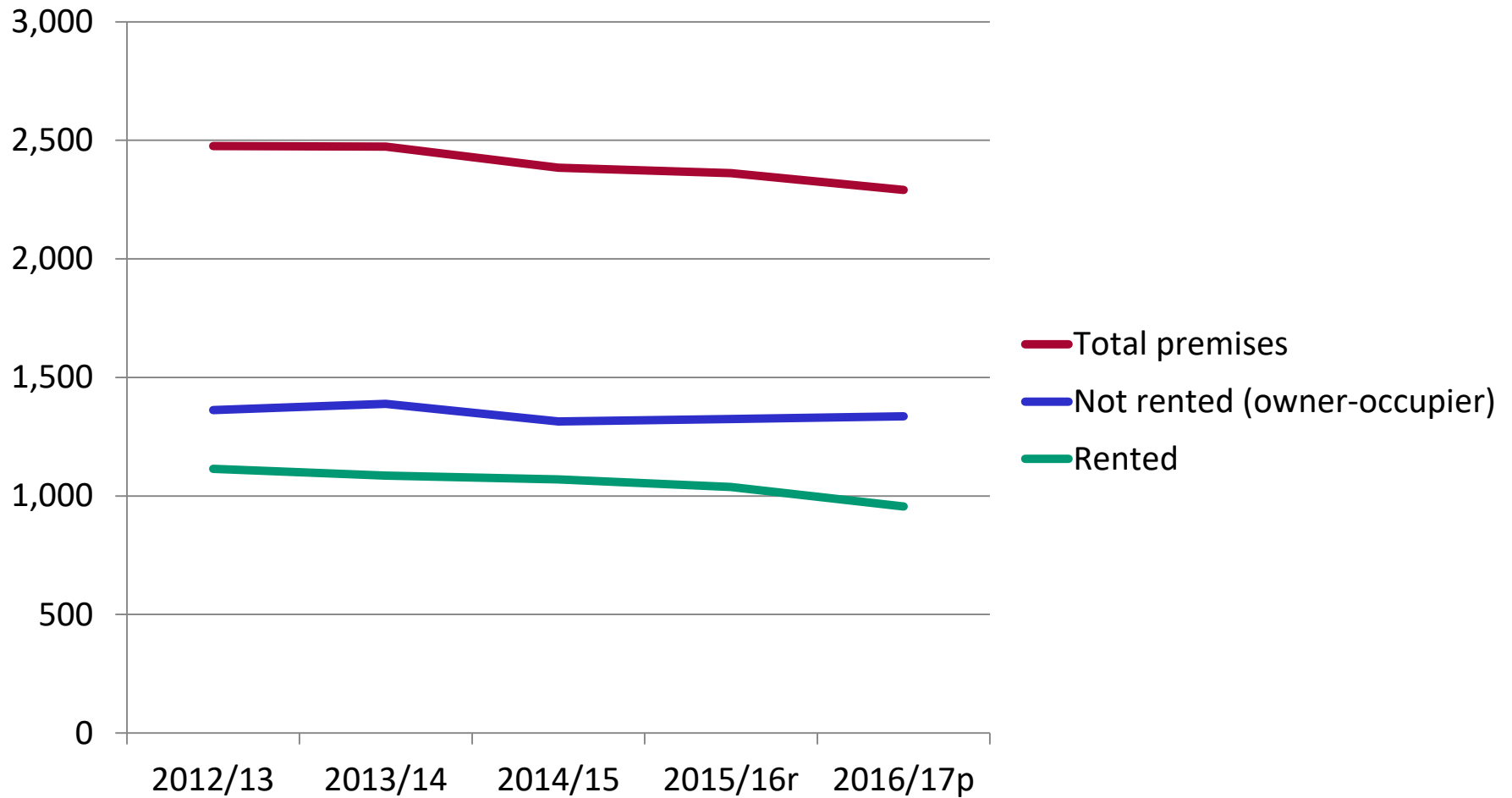
5 year rolling average 2012/3 – 2016/7p

Flammable gas incidents¹ resulting in injury in GB

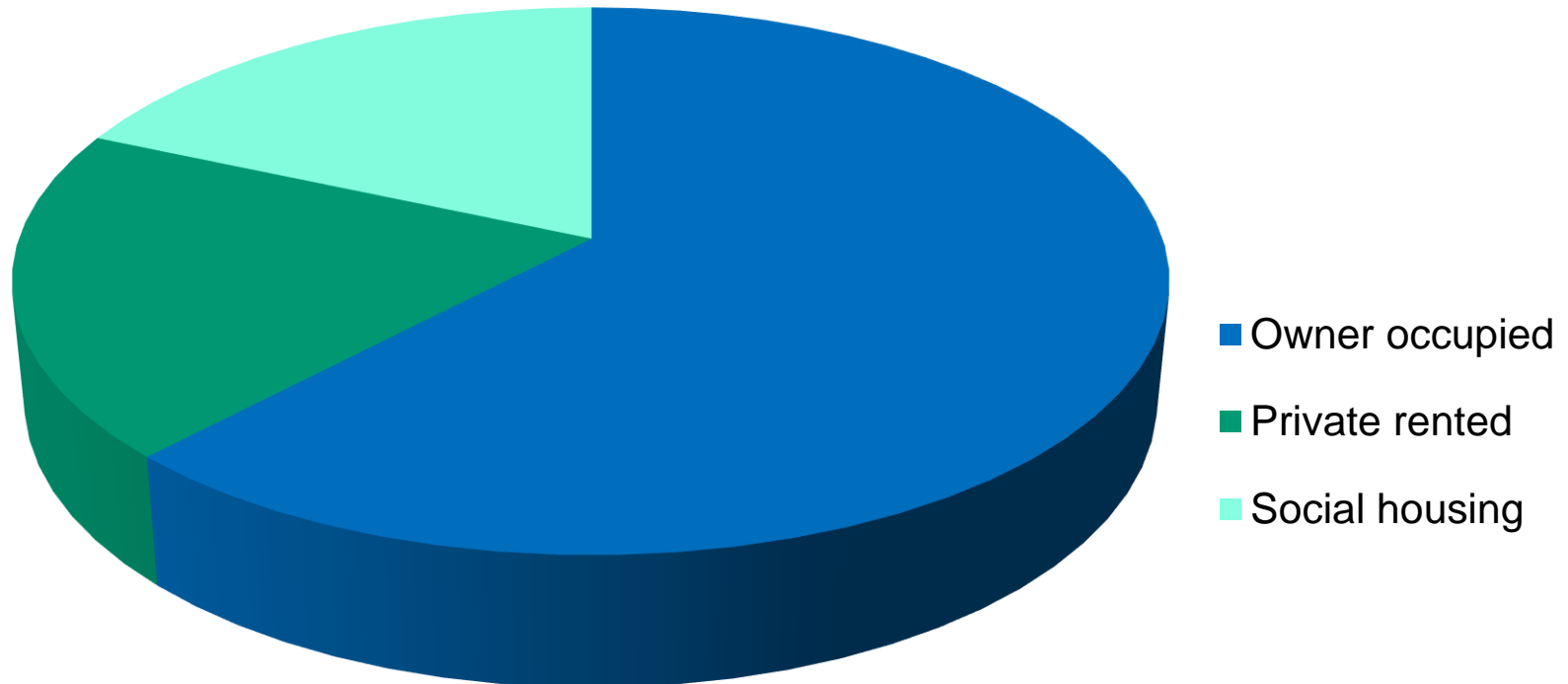
	Incidents	Fatalities	Non-Fatalities
Carbon Monoxide poisoning	158.2	6.25	261.4
Explosion/ Fire	25.4	1.7	30.4
Other	4.4	0	5.2
All	188	7.5	297

¹ An incident may result in more than one injury/ fatality

Dangerous gas fittings reported



Dwelling by population type



The total housing stock with gas was calculated by first gathering data, updated in 2016, from the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) on the total number of dwellings by tenure and district in England, Wales and Scotland. A report by the then-Department for Energy & Climate Change (DECC) suggests that in 2014, approximately 10% of households were not connected to the gas network

Prosecutions 2011 - 2017

Gas Safety (Installation and use) Regulations 1998 regulation 36

Prosecution cases taken by HSE and, in Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service under s36 of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 where a verdict has been reached, 2011/12 - 2016/17p

	Cases that include at least one offence under s36	Cases where a conviction was secured against a s36 offence in year	Sentencing outcome for cases where conviction was secured					Total Fines
			Immediate Custody	Suspended Sentence	Community Sentence	Fine	Other	
2011/12	14	12	0	1	1	8	3	£19,965
2012/13	13	12	0	4	2	6	1	£94,775
2013/14	8	8	1	2	0	7	0	£60,450
2014/15	13	12	0	1	2	10	0	£47,760
2015/16r	12	10	0	1	1	8	0	£73,275
2016/17p	4	3	0	2	0	0	1	-

Case study 1 – Landlord Fined

Landlord fined £15,000 over dangerous appliances

- Failing to maintain gas appliances at domestic property
- BG classified the gas fire and the boiler as Immediately Dangerous (ID)
- Not arranged landlords gas safety check despite been send several letters and an Improvement Notice
- Put residence and other members of the public at risk

Case study 2 – Suspended sentence for landlord



- Landlord from Preston failed to ensure safety of gas appliances in of her properties
- Council had raised concerns about gas appliances in the property
- Failed to produces LGSR when asked
- Issued with an IN but failed to comply
- Sentenced to 26 weeks in prison suspended for 12 months & had to pay £1000 costs

Case study 3 – Suspended sentence

Devon landlord DIYed with boiler

- Landlord replaced boiler at his rented property despite having no training in gas work & not being registered
- Boiler developed faults, later he called in a gas engineer
- GE isolated boiler, made safe, told us & we investigated
- Landlord had previously been warned not to do gas work
- 9 months in prison, suspended for 18 months, fine £3,000 + costs of +£12,000

Legal requirements

- Use a gas safe registered engineer
- Maintain relevant gas fittings and flues
 - Pipework, appliances & flues
- Annual landlords gas safety check
 - Relevant appliances and flues
- Give record to tenant
- Keep records for 2 years

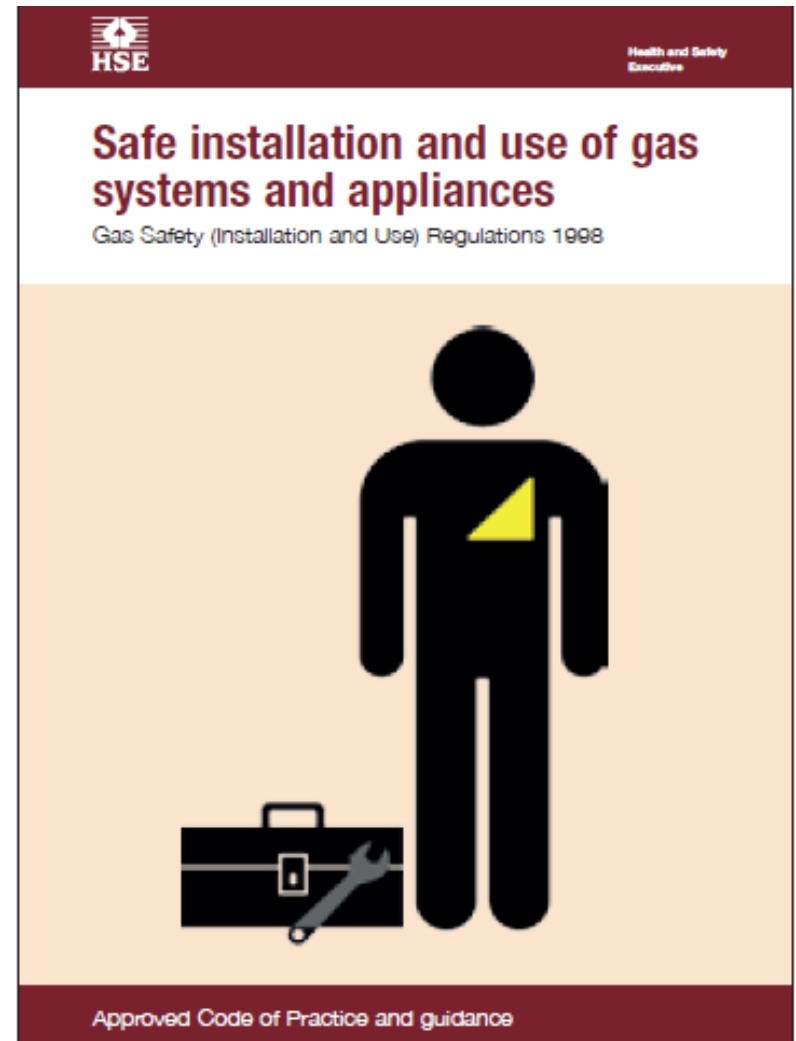
Changes to GSIUR

- Industry input
- HSE responds
- Consultation – 225 replies
- Minister authorises changes to regulations
- Common Commencement date April 2018



Summary of changes

- CNG refuelling facilities
- Regularise an existing exemption
- Service Layer Engineer disconnection work
- **Landlords gas safety check and minor word change**



Summary of changes

Landlords gas safety check

Amendment to regulation 36(3) to

a. introduce flexibility in the timing of landlords annual gas safety checks

b. clarify that only gas safety defects should be recorded

Summary of changes - Landlords - Key queries

- What if the safety check is carried out less than 10 months from the date of the previous check
- What if the safety check is carried out more than 12 months from the date of the previous check
- What records do I need to keep?

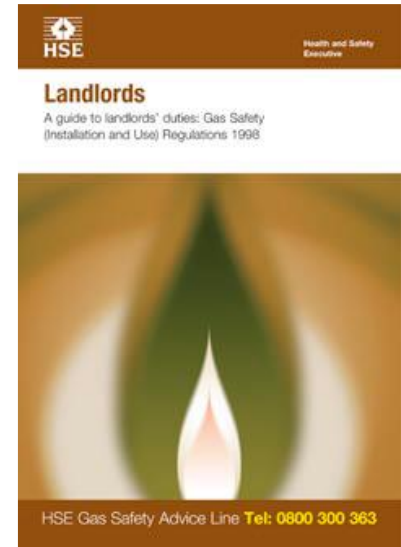
Summary of changes - Communication and Guidance

Guidance:

- GSIUR ACOP/ Landlords leaflet
- Website - Landlords FAQs

Communications:

- Email stakeholders
- Gas e-bulletin
(<http://www.hse.gov.uk/news/subscribe/index.htm>)
- Articles in The Gas Engineer – elsewhere?
- Via intermediaries including these events **& you!**
- Others routes?



Questions?



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