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to customers*

To:

Gas Distribution Network owners,
Gas Transporters, Gas Shippers,
Gas Suppliers and other
interested parties

Direct Dial: 020 7901 7292
Email: steve.brown@ofgem.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

Date: 2nd April 2008

GDPCR Final Proposals

Carriage of carbon monoxide in air measuring equipment
by Emergency Service Providers

We published our Gas Distribution Price Control Review Final Proposals on 3rd December 2007. We received a wide range of responses on the issue of carbon monoxide (CO) and we identified that our studies were inconclusive for a number of reasons. We considered that further assessment of whether Emergency Service Providers (ESPs) should carry CO in air measuring equipment was needed to enable us to decide on the best way forward. We therefore proposed that Ofgem facilitate the formation of an industry working group on the issue soon after our Final Proposals came into effect. These arrangements have now been made and we would welcome the attendance of interested parties.

We intend to hold the initial meeting of this CO working group on **Thursday 24th April 2008** at Ofgem's offices, 9 Millbank, London SW1P 3GE. The working group will commence at **10.30 am** and we anticipate it will run for approx 2 - 3 hrs. A buffet lunch will be provided.

We expect the GDNs, GTs and other stakeholders to take ownership of the issues and further consider whether changes to operating practices and procedures are appropriate for First Call Operatives (FCOs) attending a gas emergency. This could include any other CO initiatives that may be of overall benefit. The working group will have specific terms of reference and a limited timeframe.

The working group will:

- consider whether changes to operating practices and procedures are appropriate for FCOs while attending a gas emergency; and
- consider how to minimise carbon monoxide deaths and injuries and maximise consumer awareness of the dangers of carbon monoxide.

Detailed terms of reference will be decided by the working group at this first meeting. It is important that the working group takes into account other CO initiatives and it will need to liaise directly with the CO Consumer Awareness Alliance.

We expect the working group to provide recommendations (including an assessment of the costs and benefits) within one year of the first meeting.

In the light of the group's findings, Ofgem would expect to consult on licence modifications to take account of the working group's findings and, if appropriate, to take account additional costs licensees could reasonably be expected to incur in providing additional outputs.

The working group would therefore be expected to make specific proposals with robust cost, benefit and consequential analysis that could then if appropriate be reviewed by Ofgem.

We anticipate this working group will as a minimum be attended by the HSE and all GDNs. It may also be of relevance to other GTs, Shippers, Suppliers and any other interested or affected parties.

A list of organisations to which this letter has been circulated directly is attached.

If you wish to attend this working group or require further details, please contact me directly on 020 7901 7292 steve.brown@ofgem.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Brown', with a horizontal line underneath.

Steve Brown
Technical Adviser
Distribution Directorate
Networks

Carbon Monoxide working group
24th April 2008

Distribution List

National Grid Transmission
National Grid Gas Distribution
Northern Gas Networks
Scotia Gas Networks
Wales & West Utilities
HSE
GMB
CO-Gas Safety
Centrica
Shell
Ineos Chlor
Energentics
Eon
Statoil
Gas Trans
Mowlem
Rwe Npower
Total
Fulcrum Connections
United Utilities plc
Scottish and Southern Energy
Gaz de France Energy
ES Pipelines
Inexus
EDF Energy
Scottish Power
SS Power Systems
AIGT
Gas Forum
CORGI
COCAA
CoDEM
IGEM
GISG
ENA