

NATURAL GAS LINE DIAGRAMS

Why provide a gas pipework line diagram?

There are primarily two reasons for providing a gas pipework line diagram, these being:-

- . to identify the size and route of the gas pipework installed, all emergency control valves (ECVs) fitted, and any additional isolation valves (IV) and purge/test points fitted; and
- . Gas pipework line diagrams are a requirement of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 (GSIUR), Regulation 24(1)(a) and (b).

Regulation 24(1)(a) and (b) states

- (1) Where the service pipe to any building having two or more floors to which gas is supplied or (whether or not it has more than one floor) a floor having areas with a separate supply of gas has an internal diameter of 50mm or more, no person shall install any incoming installation pipework supplying gas to any of those floors or areas, as the case may be, unless:
 - a) a valve is installed in the pipe in a conspicuous and readily accessible position; and
 - b) a line diagram in permanent form is attached to the building in a readily accessible position as near as practicable to
 - i) the primary meter or where there is no primary meter, the emergency control, or
 - ii) the gas storage vessel,

indicating the position of all installation pipework of internal diameter of 25mm or more, meters, emergency controls, valves and pressure test points of the gas supply systems to the building.

Typically, line diagrams are found in non-domestic and commercial premises for obvious reasons, however, they can equally apply to domestic properties where the gas pipework is of a sufficient size to invoke Regulation 24(1) of GSIURs.

Accurately illustration line diagrams are an invaluable source of information, not only for the gas operative(s) but also to for maintenance personnel, site foremen, emergency services (particularly the fire brigade), etc.

Who is responsible for providing a gas pipework line diagram?

Generally the production of the gas pipework line diagrams falls within the remit of the responsible person on site. In addition to the original line diagram, they will also be expected to upgrade these diagrams to suit any changes in the gas system.

This responsibility can, where agreed between parties, fall to the gas operative conducting the gas works. As such, the gas operative should ensure that any alterations to the gas system are identified on an amended/new line diagram.

The rationale behind this is that anyone with a legitimate reason will be able to locate the gas pipework easily, including the ECV in the case of any emergency.