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## CORGI Technical Services Ltd.

## Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations



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Gas Safety Management Conference 2016 Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998



- Regulation 35 Duties of employers and self-employed persons
- Regulation 36 Duties of landlords
- GSR TB 055 -Duties of landlords
  - Date Issued 15/12/2015



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### **Regulation 35**



### **Duties of employers and self employed:**

- Effective maintenance normally involves an on going programme of regular inspection
- Gas pipework visual inspection, checking it's condition, protection against corrosion, support, etc.
- Gas appliances and where applicable their flues procedures are often defined by the appliance manufacturer's

## Regulation 36 -

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Duties of landlords – Regulation 36 imposes two main duties on landlords

- 1. On going maintenance on gas pipework, gas appliances and their flues
- 2. Annual safety checks on gas appliances and their flues

## **Regulation 36**

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### **Duties of landlords**

- Flues serving tenants own appliances are not covered by Regulation 36
- The Health and Safety at Work etc Act (HSWA) covers a wider range of duties that extend to the fabric of a building and chimneys
- The HSE believe that under the HSWA chimneys should be maintained so as to be 'fit for purpose'

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### **Regulation 36 Duties**

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- Ensure gas fittings are maintained / serviced in accordance with manufacturers or industry standards
- Ensure that each appliance and flue is checked at intervals of 12 months since it was last checked.
- This is your duty alone, not the residents or the contractors.
- The key to this is having processes and procedures in place that will enable you to retain control.
- Manage the contractors, don't let them manage you and ensure they deliver the requirements of the contract

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## Regulation 36 -



### Duties of landlords – 12 monthly gas safety checks

- All gas appliances that the tenant cannot legally remove from the property
- Landlords have a duty to have relevant gas appliances and any flue that they are connected to checked for safety at intervals of not more than 12 months
- A record of the safety check must be retained for a period of two years from the date of the safety check
- Landlords and engineers must clearly understand the <u>nine</u> key points detailed in the above regulations which must be documented for every landlords annual safety check conducted.

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## Legislative Documentation



- 1. the date on which the appliance or flue was checked;
- 2. the address of the premises at which the appliance or flue is installed;
- 3. the name and address of the landlord of the premises (or, where appropriate, his agent) at which the appliance or flue is installed;
- 4. a description of and the location of each appliance or flue checked;
- 5. any defect identified;
- 6. any remedial action taken;
- 7. confirmation that the check undertaken complies with the requirements of 26(9);
- 8. the name and signature of the individual carrying out the check;
- 9. the registration number with which that individual, or his employer, is registered with a body approved by the Executive for the purposes of regulation 3(3) of these Regulations.

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## Regulation 36 -

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### Duties of landlord – 12 monthly safety checks

- Provide a record of the check to the tenant within 28 days of the check taking place
- Ensure that any new tenant is provided with a copy of the safety check record before taking up tenancy
- A safety check is also required on any newly installed appliance/flue within 12 months of the date of installation

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## **Regulation 36**

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### Duties of landlord – 12 monthly safety checks

- In respect to a tenant whose right is to occupy the premises for a period not exceeding 28 days, a copy of the record may be displayed in a prominent position in that premises
- Landlords need to inform tenants of the location of the record form, with an option of obtaining an individual copy before taking up tenancy

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## **Regulation 36**

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### Duties of landlord – 12 monthly safety checks

- Where the record form is displayed, it should:
  - Be posted centrally
  - Indicate that individual copies are available to any tenant on request, and where a copy can be obtained
  - Be maintained in a legible condition

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## **Regulation 36**

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### Duties of landlord – access (Currently)!!

- All reasonable steps should be taken to ensure access to property for safety checks to be carried within 12 months of the last check, process should include:
  - Written notice
  - Personal visit
  - The steps should be documented
  - · Evidence needed to seek legal access

Note: Action to gain access does not involve making arrangements for forced entry into property.

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## **Regulation 36**

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### Duties of landlord – void premises

- Landlords should ensure that gas fittings/appliances are safe before re-letting
- Appropriate checks should be carried out
- Unsafe equipment should be rectified or removed before a new tenancy begins
- It is also recommended that the gas installation pipework be inspected and tested for tightness

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### **New Technical Bulletin -**

- **TB055 Duties of landlords** Date Issued 15/12/2015 and replaces the original version dated 25/04/2012, which was then revised on 26/03/2015
  - Previously there were only four questions (Q) and answers
    (A), which have had one word changed in the first paragraph of A4 from would to may
- Q4 If I make a mistake in completing a record form can I make a change to the information I have recorded?
- A4 For minor amendments, such as incorrect postcodes or telephone numbers, then it may be possible to change the record, but only within a reasonable period of time e.g. within 1 to 2 weeks of the check being undertaken. Changes would need to be made by the registered business that undertook the work and the change should be signed so an audit trail can be maintained. The amended copy (showing the changes) of the record should be given to the landlord.
  - And now there are eight Q and A, this interlinks with the LGSR Myth Busters





### **New Technical Bulletins (cont.)**

- TB055 Duties of landlords (cont.)
- Q5 Do I have to record all and any type of 'Defect' on a Landlord Gas Safety Record?
- A5 Only safety related defects, i.e. ID or AR defects on "relevant gas fittings," are required to be recorded on the LGSR. All safety defects must be addressed under 36(2) by the Landlord.
- Q6 Do I have to record all tenants own appliances on the Landlord Gas Safety record?
- A6 Tenants' own appliances are not required to be recorded on the LGSR.

However, through contractual agreements with the Landlord it could be agreed to record Tenants' own appliances on the LGSR.



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### **New Technical Bulletins (cont.)**

- TB055 Duties of landlords (cont.)
- Q7 Do I have to record all and any type of defect on tenants appliances on the Landlord gas safety record?
- **A7** There is no requirement under Regulation. 36 to check, or record, any defects with tenants' own appliances on the LGSR.

There is no requirement to proactively check tenants own appliances except a 'Visual Inspection' if the gas has been interrupted and appliances are re-lit.

Any gas safety defects encountered shall be dealt with in accordance with GIUSP.

- Q8 Is a safety check the only legally required duty on Landlords to be completed within each 12 months on "relevant gas fittings" i.e. Landlords own appliances?
- **A8** There should also be "effective maintenance" of appliances owned by the Landlord, which is an ongoing programme of regular inspections e.g. servicing.

This would normally be a full service of all Landlord's appliances, along with a visual inspection of the rest of the installation and a gas tightness test.





### **New Technical Bulletins (cont.)**

- TB055 Duties of landlords (cont.)
  - In the previous version there were eight Notes within the TB and now there are **nine notes**
  - The new Note 5 is:-

Note 5 Regulation 36(3-c5) requires that only **<u>safety</u>** related defects, i.e. ID or AR defects on "relevant gas fittings", are required to be recorded on the LGSR.

GSIUR Regulation 26(9) requires that after 'work' has been undertaken on an installed gas appliance, registered engineers need to undertake the necessary gas safety checks and tests to ensure that the appliance and any associated chimney/flue, is safe for continued use. In particular as a minimum, they need to examine:

- (a) the effectiveness of any chimney/flue;
- (b) the supply of combustion air;
- (c) its operating pressure or heat input or, where necessary, both;
- (d) its operation so as to ensure its safe functioning,



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### **New Technical Bulletins (cont.)**

• TB055 Duties of landlords (cont.)

### The new Note 6 states safe functioning is:-

**Note 6:** Item (d) would include any appliance specific, or manufacturer specified safety checks e.g. combustion analysis.

The term 'work' is defined in GSIUR and lists specific activities, which are:

- maintaining, servicing, permanently adjusting, disconnecting, repairing, altering or renewing the fitting or purging it of air or gas;
- where the fitting is not readily movable, changing its position;
- removing the fitting.

Where a Landlords' gas safety check, or other maintenance work involves an appliance incorporating a pre-mix burner and a zero set pressure regulator, and the installation does not incorporate a gas meter (e.g. many LPG installations) it will not be possible to check the heat input or burner pressure. This is a requirement of Regulation 26(9)(c) of the Gas Safety (installation and use) Regulations. In such circumstances, providing the registered engineer is equipped with a suitable electronic portable combustion gas analyser (ECGA) that is both operating in current calibration and capable of measuring a combustion ratio, then a satisfactory combustion ratio reading in accordance with the manufacturer's published value or BS 7967<sup>(3)</sup> will be acceptable as an alternative check. Such a deviation is permitted under Certificate of Exemption No. 1 of 2008 to the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations issued by the HSE (see TB 021)<sup>(4)</sup>.

Measuring the gas inlet working pressure on a boiler fitted with an air gas ratio valve would not fulfil the requirements of Regulation 26(9)(c).



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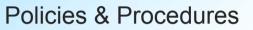
### **New Technical Bulletins (cont.)**

- TB055 Duties of landlords (cont.)
  - This TB provides clear guidance of the minimum requirements for Landlords in relation to Regulation 36
  - You need to consider what your organisation requires with regard to Tenants appliances and **all** the defects identified
  - However, this may depend on your contractual arrangements with your Contractor(s)
  - CTS's recommendation would be to record all gas appliances (relevant and Tenant's) within a property and record all defects identified at the time of the visit

### The choice is yours on how you mitigate the risk!







- Procedures and policies to be continually reviewed
- Ensure policies are effective and auditable
- Take a legitimate interest in the work undertaken by contractors
- Encourage tenant participation
  i.e. Customer care / forums etc
- results obtained feedback to all concerned to achieve improvement in services provided





Monitoring of policies, procedures and gas work should be carried out in three ways:

1. Audit policies / processes (current & effective)

2. The physically audit of work administrative & actual: who, what & how

3. Review performance: feeding results back so that valid judgements can be mad

# AGSMGas Safety ManagementConference 2016Auditable procedures & verification

Annual gas safety checks are a relatively recent legal responsibility for a landlord 1994 / 1998 and the risks associated with not undertaking them are high

The former Audit commission and now HCA during inspections reported that performance and procedures varied significantly across all organisations, and failure to have robust procedures in place have often been the cause of failure

**Resulting in Serious Detriment!!** 

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### Policies & Procedures

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Policy / Procedure	Title
1	Corporate Gas Safety Policy
2	Specific Contractor Instruction
3	Qualifying Contractors Operatives
4	Uniformity of Documentation
5	Unsafe Situation
6	Gas Escapes / Fumes
7	Gaining Access
8	Void Properties
9	Mutual Exchanges
10	Quality Control
11	Storage & Retrieval of Gas Documentation
Location	

Procedures needed to demonstrate achievement of GSR 36

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### Thank You

Any questions

Close



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