

Standardising Local Gas Treatment (LGT) Outcome

A standardisation programme to review the varying technical requirements for embedded gas entry points to connect to the gas networks has been ongoing since 2018. One of the items identified was the differences in Local Gas Treatment (LGT) ownership adopted by the various Gas Distribution Networks (GDNs). LGT is also referred to as gas odourisation or stenching of the gas.

Northern Gas Networks (NGN) committed to reviewing its ownership of the odorant system on embedded gas entry (which includes biomethane sites) following stakeholder feedback. Some gas entry operators were adamantly in favour of NGN retaining ownership and some against. Other gas entry operators are very much on the fence as they don't have the required information to make an informed decision. i.e. they don't know the details of maintenance costs, service contracts & associated response times, purchase of the physical odorant, training costs etc.

A detailed risk assessment has been undertaken in accordance with NGN's risk management framework procedure and included challenge and review from the senior management team and internal audit. In this procedure, there is a defined risk appetite NGN is prepared to accept. There are certain risks identified where, at present, it is not viable to reduce below the NGN risk appetite and across all risk categories, and therefore third-party odorant ownership is deemed a higher risk than NGN ownership.

As a result of the work NGN have undertaken, a decision has been made to maintain the current ownership model, however this will be kept under review as it is possible that technological advances may enable the risk to reduce in the future to an adequate level. This position has been communicated with customers and the other GDNs.

Cadent, SGN and Wales & West Utilities (WWU) retain their existing approach of allowing gas entry operators to own and operate odorant systems in line with contractual obligations as detailed in the respective GDN's Network Connection Agreement, Network Entry Agreement and gas entry requirements' specifications.

Cadent, SGN and WWU are satisfied that requirements as detailed in the Gas Safety (Management) Regulations 1996 regarding the treatment of gas with a suitable stenching agent are met by third parties operating LGT equipment on their respective networks. All GDNs actively monitor odorant injection levels including third party operated facilities and have the ability to remotely curtail gas injection in the event of unsatisfactory levels of odorant.

If you have any questions, please contact the network your site is connected to.

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