



Strategic Management Board

**ACS.CMA3
SAFETY ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
INITIAL AND RE-ASSESSMENT
GAS METER INSTALLER
DOMESTIC
NATURAL GAS**

Introduction

Tests gas safety competence in core domestic and gas metering work (**CMA3**).

Range

All gas fittings.

Pre-requisites

Initial

None.

Exclusions

Work on appliances other than re-lighting after a temporary interruption to gas supply.

Work in premises outside the scope of BS 6400 – 1

Work on installation pipework other than that adjacent to the meter enabling the meter to be installed or exchanged.

References and normative documents

MIIs.

All relevant documents as listed in the Legislative, Normative & Informative Document List (LINDL), inc.:

- HSL56
- GIUSP
- BS 6400-1
- IGEN/UP/1B Edition 3

ACS.SMB.003.ACDND identifies normative documents that should be held by ACs.

Abbreviations

AC. Assessment Centre

AECV. Additional emergency control valve

AIV. Appliance Isolation Valve

CFS. Communal Flue Systems

CSST. Corrugated stainless steel tube

ECV. Emergency control valve

ESP. Emergency service provider

GT. Gas transporter

I. Initial

IV. Installation volume

LDF. Leak detection fluid

MIIs. Manufacturer's/manufacturers' instructions

MIV. Meter inlet valve

MOP. Maximum operating pressure

OP. Operating pressure

OQ. Oral questioning

R. Re-assessment

Ref. Reference.

1. Gas Safety Legislation

KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING	REF	I	R
1. HSL56:			
(i) Reg.2 General interpretation and application 2(1), (2), (3), (4), (5)c (iii), (6), (7) (8)		√	
(ii) Reg.3 Qualification and supervision 3(1), (2), (3), (5), (6), (7) and (8)		√	
(iii) Reg.4 Duty on employer		√	
(iv) Reg.5 Materials and workmanship 5(1) to (3)		√	
(v) Reg.6 General safety precautions 6(1) to (6)		√	
(vi) Reg.7 Protection against damage 7(1) to (3)		√	
(vii) Reg.8 Existing gas fittings 8(1) to (3)		√	
(viii) Reg.25 Interpretation of Part E.		√	
(ix) Reg.26 Gas appliances - safety precautions 26(1) to (10)		√	
(x) Reg.36 Duties of Landlords 36(1) to (12)		√	

2. Gas emergency actions and procedures

KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING	REF	I	R
1. priorities of actions and responsibilities:			
(i) action to stop a gas escape downstream of ECV		√	
(ii) action if gas continues to escape after turning off supply		√	
2. limits of flammability		√	
3. specific gravity and its effect in relation to air		√	
4. hazardous ignition sources and their elimination		√	
5. methods of preventing/reducing dangerous concentrations of gas in atmosphere		√	
6. advice to occupants		√	
7. HSL56: Reg.37 Escape of gas 37(1) to (4)		√	

3. Products and characteristics of combustion

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	REF	I	R
1. inspect flame pictures of a selection of burners visually to identify those:			
(i) indicating complete combustion		√	√
(ii) indicating incomplete combustion		√	√
2. identify incomplete combustion:			
(i) around appliance location		√	√
(ii) in appliance		√	√
3. CO detectors and indicators:			
(i) identification of detectors and indicators		√	√
(ii) installation- locations		√	√
(iii) commissioning and maintenance of detectors (audible, readable, visual)		√	√
KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING	REF	I	R
1. main constituents of complete and incomplete combustion		√	√
2. air required for complete combustion		√	√
3. causes of appliance incomplete combustion at:			
(i) burner		√	√
(ii) combustion space		√	√
(iii) heat exchanger		√	√
(iv) flue		√	√
4. symptoms of CO poisoning		√	√

5.	advice to a person who describes symptoms of being affected by products of combustion or when indicator/detector has activated		✓	✓
6.	other sources of CO & CO ₂ in dwellings		✓	✓
7.	ambient levels of CO in atmosphere		✓	✓
8.	levels of CO within dwellings and effect on electronic detectors		✓	
9.	causes of activation of CO detectors and indicators		✓	✓
10.	ambient levels of CO ₂ in atmosphere		✓	✓
11.	critical levels of CO ₂ that could cause vitiation affecting combustion process		✓	✓
12.	movement of products of combustion within properties and its effects		✓	✓
13.	manufacturing standards for electronic CO detectors (alarms)		✓	✓
14.	identification of unsafe situation: combustion products that could enter premises.		✓	✓

4. Ventilation

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA		REF	I	R
1.	calculate free area of selection of air bricks (inc. terracotta types) and air vents		✓	✓
2.	identify correct and incorrect types of air vents and grilles e.g. fly screens		✓	✓
3.	identify inadequate ventilation for domestic Inputs ≤ 70 kW		✓	✓
4.	calculate ventilation for domestic appliances/installation			
(i)	combustion of domestic open flue appliances (≤ 70 kW input)			✓
(ii)	compartments (domestic open, balanced and fan flue appliances ≤ 70 kW input)			✓
(iii)	multi-appliance installations (multiple open flue and flueless appliances within same room/space)			✓
(iv)	flueless appliance ventilation inc. cooking, water heating, and space heating			✓
(v)	single and multiple DFE space heater installation, inc. flued and flueless			✓
5.	identify correct and incorrect labels and notices			✓
KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING		REF	I	R
1.	requirements for ventilation		✓	
2.	siting of ventilation (wall, window, floor, ceiling and ducted) direct to outside air, series air vents		✓	
3.	restrictions to ventilator/grille locations			
4.	installation of ventilation grilles and vents		✓	
5.	types of grilles and vents		✓	
6.	adventitious air supplies		✓	
7.	sizing of grilles and vents (free area availability)		✓	
8.	calculating natural ventilation at high and low level direct to outside air for Type B boilers in heated spaces		✓	
9.	calculating natural ventilation at high and low level direct to outside air for Type B boilers in enclosures		✓	
10.	calculating combustion ventilation for air domestic open flue appliances		✓	
11.	calculating ventilation for compartments (domestic, open, balanced and flued appliances of heat input ≤ 70 kW)		✓	
12.	calculating ventilation for multi-appliance installations (multiple open flue and flueless appliances within same room/space)		✓	
13.	ventilation for flueless appliances (inc. cooking, water heating and space heating)			
14.	ventilator location for single and multiple DFE space heater installations (inc. flued and flueless)		✓	
15.	additional ventilation e.g. extractor fans, cooker hoods, driers etc.		✓	
16.	labels and notices		✓	

17.	effects of oil or solid fuel appliances on ventilation for DFEs		✓	✓
18.	identification and installation of in tumescent air vents		✓	✓
19.	operation of passive stack ventilation		✓	✓
20.	ventilation for internal kitchens		✓	✓

5. Installation pipework and fittings

Pipe sizes: 6 mm to 35 mm

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA		REF	I	R
1.	join threaded pipe using appropriate fittings, methods and agents		✓	
2.	connect threaded joint with washer using appropriate fittings, methods and agents		✓	
3.	use of temporary earth continuity bond		✓	
4.	check installation is gas tight. For re-assessment, Competency 6. can be assessed now		✓	✓
5.	purge installation pipework of air		✓	✓
6.	identify installation pipework safety defects		✓	✓
7.	join copper tube using appropriate capillary end feed fittings, methods and agents		✓	
8.	join copper tube and mild steel pipe using appropriate compression and mechanical fittings methods and agents		✓	
9.	check work carried out is gas tight (method at CC discretion)		✓	✓
10.	purge pipework of air and apply protective coating (supplementary oral questions will satisfy this PC)		✓	✓
11.	identify pipework safety defects		✓	✓
12.	join CSST		✗	✗
13.	join stainless steel pipe/copper pipe with appropriate pressed joints and tools		✗	✗
14.	test supply for gas tightness, isolate, attach temporary earth continuity bond			✓
15.	disconnect meter, cap and make safe			✓
16.	cap or plug all open ends and take all general safety precautions, prior to work			✓
17.	install copper capillary fitting adjacent to meter, using appropriate methods and agents			✓
18.	re-connect meter and remove temporary earth continuity bond			✓
KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING		REF	I	R
1.	recognising correct types of outlet connections		✓	
2.	threaded fittings		✓	
3.	flexible and rigid connections		✓	
4.	jointing agents for threaded and connections with washers		✓	
5.	pipe supports, clips and fixing for outside pipework		✓	
6.	sleeving and sealing of pipework		✓	
7.	main equipotential bonding (min. cross sectional area)		✓	✓
8.	fixing pipework when connected to a meter not securely restrained		✓	✓
9.	siting and installation of gas controls and isolation valves		✓	
10.	HSL56:			
(i)	Reg.10 Maintaining electrical continuity		✓	
(ii)	Reg.18 Safe use of pipes 18 (1) and (2)		✓	
(iii)	Reg.19 Enclosed pipes 19 (1to 6)		✓	
(iv)	Reg.20 Protection of buildings		✓	
(v)	Reg.21 Clogging precautions			
(vi)	Reg.22 Testing and purging of pipes 22 (1) to (3)		✓	
(vii)	Reg.23 Marking of pipes 23 (1) and (2)		✓	
11.	GIUSP. Identify MP installation. Pipework directly enters premises through rear spigot of meter box		✓	✓

12.	copper pipe and fittings, Standards, suitability and use		✓	
13.	mild steel pipe and fittings		✓	
14.	copper to mild steel connections		✓	
15.	micro-points (leisure points)		✓	
16.	safety requirements for pipework:			
(i)	installed between joists in floors/roof spaces (solid timber, metal web and timber engineered)		✓	✓
(ii)	installed across solid timber joists fitted with flooring		✓	✓
(iii)	buried in concrete		✓	✓
(iv)	installed behind dry lined walls		✓	✓
(v)	installed within timber constructed walls		✓	✓
17.	external surface mounted installation pipework		✓	✓
18.	precautions when using an exposed flame for soldering joints on pipework previously containing gas and/or when a gas meter is already fitted		✓	
19.	restrictions on use of union and compression fittings		✓	
20.	making and breaking gas connections on appliances		✓	
21.	requirements for ducts specifically designed to contain gas pipes		✓	
22.	ventilation size for pipework installed within ducts		✓	✓
23.	fire stopping in buildings containing flats or maisonettes		✓	✓
24.	pipework inside a protected shaft or other fire escape route		✓	✓
25.	ventilation for protected shafts		✓	✓
26.	pipework for multi-occupancy dwellings		✓	✓
27.	min. depth pipework to be buried below ground		✓	✓
28.	pipework installed under the base of a wall or foundations		✓	✓
29.	use of PE pipework		✓	✓

6a. Tightness testing and purging. Total IV ≤ 0.035 m³ (LP)

Up to 1½ (steel) and/or 35 mm (copper)

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA		REF	I	R
1.	testing new or existing installations with gas or air:			
(i)	visually inspect the installation to ensure joints made correctly and no open ends		✓	✓
(ii)	check appliances and ensure AIVs are open		✓	✓
(iii)	turn off the gas installation at the appropriate valve		✓	✓
(iv)	connect the pressure gauge to a suitable pressure test point on the installation or, if testing with air, branch of test T-piece		✓	✓
(v)	if using gas, carry out a let-by test of the closed supply control valve		✓	✓
(vi)	adjust the pressure to between 7 and 10 mbar.		✓	✓
(vii)	close the valve and note the gauge reading		✓	✓
(viii)	test for 1 minute. If pressure rises by more than 0.25 mbar, let-by may be occurring		✓	✓
(ix)	if pressure rise is observed, check valve by disconnecting its outlet union and applying LDF to valve barrel (OQ)		✓	✓
(x)	on satisfactory completion of let-by test, slowly raise the pressure in the installation to between 20 and 21 mbar		✓	✓
(xi)	turn off gas or air supply		✓	✓
(xii)	allow 1 minute stabilisation; if necessary re-adjust pressure to between 20 and 21 mbar		✓	✓
(xiii)	check for any perceptible movement (fall) of the gauge over the next 2 minute period		✓	✓
(xiv)	for new installations, or existing installations with no appliances connected check there is no pressure drop		✓	✓
(xv)	for existing installations, check any pressure drop is within permissible values and		✓	✓

there is no smell of gas			
(xvi) if installation fails test, trace and repair escape and re-test installation		✓	✓
(xvii) if tightness test is successful, remove pressure gauge and re-seal test point		✓	✓
(xviii) when connected to gas, test pressure test point; ECV/AECV outlet connection; regulator connections and, where appropriate, MIV connections with LDF		✓	✓
(xix) purge installation		✓	✓
(xx) record test results		✓	✓
2. locate and repair a gas escape		✓	✓
KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING	REF	I	R
1. selection and reading of pressure gauges		✓	✓
2. allowed pressure drops for existing installations related to meter size/type, pipe diameter and IV with appliances connected to gas supply and not isolated inc. E6, U6/G4, U16/G10 and where no meter is fitted		✓	✓
3. identify no perceptible movement on gauge (0.25 mbar water gauge and 0.2 mbar electronic gauge reading to 1 decimal place)		✓	✓
4. allowed pressure drop for existing installation, inc. ECV but no meter is installed e.g. flat where supply is not individually metered		✓	✓
5. electronic token meter tamper devices and their effect on tightness testing		✓	✓
6. dealing with ECV/AECV/MIV that is letting by		✓	✓
7. actions when smell of gas persists (a) after completion of satisfactory tightness test (b) when ECV/AECV/MIV is turned off, or a leaking installation cannot be repaired		✓	✓
8. testing pipework of diameter > 35 mm or total IV > 0.035 m ³		✓	✓
9. testing prior to alteration or extension to existing installations		✓	✓
10. acronyms and symbols		✓	✓
11. calculating IV and PV exercise for E6, U6 and G4 meters connected to 35 mm diameter pipework and U16 meters connected to any pipework of diameter ≤ 35 mm		✓	✓
12. purging installations of IV ≤ 0.02 m ³ and those of IV > 0.02 m ³		✓	✓

6b. Tightness testing and purging. Total IV ≤ 0.035 m³ (MP)

Up to 1½ (steel) and/or 35 mm (copper)

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	REF	I	R
Tightness testing existing NG installations for 75mbar <MOP ≤ 2bar without a MIV (IGE/UP/1B Edition 3 Appendix 4 A4.3)			
1. turn off the gas installation at the ECV		✓	✓
2. connect the pressure gauge to a suitable pressure test point on the installation		✓	✓
3. carry out a let-by test of the closed ECV as follows:		✓	✓
(i) adjust the pressure to between 7 and 10 mbar		✓	✓
(ii) operate the UPSO or excess flow valve reset to balance the pressures either side of the device, then allow it to re-shut		✓	✓
(iii) close the ECV and note the gauge reading		✓	✓
(iv) check for any perceptible movement (rise) of the gauge reading (>0.25 mbar) over the next 1 minute period		✓	✓
(v) if ECV is letting-by the test is suspended, installation made safe and the appropriate Gas Emergency Service Call Centre immediately notified (OQ)		✓	✓
4. Slowly raise the pressure in the installation to between 18 and 19 mbar by opening the ECV then turn off the valve		✓	✓
5. Allow 1minute for temperature and pressure stabilisation, if necessary re-adjust the pressure to between 18 and 19 mbar (the test shall not proceed until a stable reading is obtained)		✓	✓
6. Continue test as from 6a) 1 (xiii) to (xx)		✓	✓

7. Checking and/or setting meter regulators

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	REF	I	R
1. Turn all appliances off		✓	✓
2. zero pressure gauge and connect to meter test point		✓	✓
3. observe and record standing pressure at test point		✓	✓
4. turn on gas appliances and, dependent on appliances available, operate as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • boiler - full rate • space heater - full rate • cooker - 3 hotplate burners on full rate • other appliances - full rate 		✓	✓
5. read and record OP on gauge (21 mbar) Note: supplementary oral question/s on:		✓	✓
(i) effects of pressure absorption across primary meter installation		✓	✓
(ii) effects of low and high flow rates on regulator outlet pressures (19 – 23 mbar)		✓	✓
6. if reading is incorrect:			
(i) notify GT where pressures are outside 19 – 23 mbar range		✓	✓
(ii) apply procedure for an OAMI for re-setting and sealing meter regulator		✓	✓
7. remove gauge; re-seal test point and test for gas tightness		✓	✓
KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING	REF	I	R
1. reading pressure gauges		✓	
2. operation of a gas meter regulator		✓	
3. HSL56: Reg.14 Regulators 14(1), (5), (6), (7)		✓	

8. Unsafe situations, use of emergency notices and warning labels

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA Not CMA2-L5:	REF	I	R
1. identify unsafe situations as ID & AR		✓	✓
2. identify and label defective installation(s)		✓	✓
3. identify what and when to report under RIDDOR		✓	✓
KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING Not CMA2-L5:	REF	I	R
1. explain dealing with ID installations/appliances		✓	✓
2. explain dealing with AR installations/appliances		✓	✓
3. explain dealing with AR installations/appliances when turning off does not remove the risk		✓	✓
4. explain dealing with situations that do not meet current standards but are not unsafe		✓	✓
6. identify correct notices and labels to be used:			
(i) MP supply		✓	
(ii) warning notice forms		✓	
(iii) advisory notices, electrical bonding		✓	
7. situations reportable under RIDDOR: explain reporting to HSE		✓	✓
8. HSL56: Reg.15 Meters – emergency notices 15 (1) to (2)		✓	
9. GIUSP:			
(i) overall scope		✓	✓
(ii) gas incidents		✓	✓

9. Operation and positioning of ECV/isolation controls and valves

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA		REF	I	R
1.	identify incorrectly positioned valves			✓
2.	identify correctly positioned valves			✓
3.	demonstrate dealing with incorrectly positioned valves			✓
4.	identify correct labels and attach to valves			✓
KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING		REF	I	R
1.	inside meter positions		✓	
2.	outside meter positions		✓	
3.	multi-occupancy installations-external risers		✓	
4.	multi-occupancy installation-internal risers		✓	
5.	multi-occupancy installation-remote meters		✓	
6.	types of isolation valves used in multi-occupancy meter installations (AECVs etc.)		✓	✓
7.	HSL56: Reg.9 (1) to (4) inclusive		✓	

12. Chimney Standards

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING		REF	I	R
Where solid fuel chimneys can be visually inspected without removal of an appliance:				
1.	operation of dampers and restrictor plates		✓	
2.	catchment spaces and standard dimensions / volumes		✓	
3.	effects of other fuels on chimneys and need for cleaning		✓	
4.	fitting bird guards to chimneys		✓	
5.	suitable and unsuitable terminals for space heaters inc. radiant, inset and DFE		✓	
Chimneys for individual open flue natural draught appliances:				
1.	construction and operation of a chimney		✓	✓
2.	types of chimney material – cement based and metallic		✓	
3.	methods of jointing chimney components		✓	
4.	termination positions for chimney outlets		✓	✓
5.	ridge terminal positions		✓	
6.	restrictions to siting bends and lengths of chimney run to avoid condensation		✓	
7.	sealed compartments for open flue appliances		✓	✓
8.	additional safety requirements when fans are installed in secondary flues		✓	✓
9.	passive stack ventilation systems in houses, where open flue natural draught appliances are fitted		✓	✓
Condensing flues:				
1.	condensate disposal position and termination for appliances of heat input ≤ 4 kW		✓	✓
2.	plume management kits		✓	✓
Pre-cast flue systems:				
1.	pre-cast flue design		✓	
2.	adapters for connecting open flues into pre-cast flues		✓	
3.	termination procedures for pre-cast flues		✓	
4.	flueing through loft spaces		✓	
Room sealed natural draught and fanned draught chimney configurations for appliances:				
1.	balanced flue systems natural and fanned draught		✓	
2.	balanced flue natural and fan assisted terminal positions, restrictions for chimney outlet positions inc. horizontal and vertical configurations		✓	✓

3.	restrictions on lengths, bends etc. for fanned draught room sealed flue appliances		✓	
4.				
5.	enclosing chimneys		✓	✓
6.	proximity of flue duct outlets to boundaries		✓	✓
7.	identify unsafe situation 'A room sealed flue system installed within and enclosure without the means of an inspection facility'		✓	✓
8.	shared flue systems, SE ducts and U ducts: construction and operation of SE-ducts, U-ducts and CFS		✓	✓
9.	HSL56:			
(i)	Reg.27 Flues (1) to (4)		✓	
(ii)	Reg.30 Room-sealed appliances (1) to (3)		✓	
(iii)	Reg.32 Flue dampers (2) and (3)		✓	

15. Re-establish existing gas supply and re-light appliances

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA		REF	I	R
1.	re-establish gas supply		✓	✓
2.	check installation is gas tight		✓	✓
3.	check appliance(s) visually and re-light inc.:			
(i)	purge system and appliances of air		✓	✓
(ii)	light appliance(s)		✓	✓
(iii)	confirm satisfactory operation of user controls		✓	✓
(iv)	visually inspect appliance installation(s) for unsafe situations		✓	✓
KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING		REF	I	R
1.	describe action when an un-commissioned appliance is identified		✓	
2.	confirm actions if pipework and appliance(s) are not tested (commissioned) when gas supply is re-established		✓	
3.	HSL56: Reg.33 Testing of appliances 33(1) to (3)		✓	