



Standardisation of Gas Distribution Technical Product Standards

A project has been initiated to develop a suite of Gas Distribution Technical Product Standards, to be known as Gas Industry Standards (GIS's), as a result of an agreement between the Gas Distribution Networks (GDN's) following the network sale process.

The GIS's will replace the current technical product standards for all GDN's - National Grid, Scotia Gas Networks, Northern Gas Networks and Wales & West Utilities.

From the 16th October 2006 the British Standards Institute (BSI) will begin the process of certification against an initial suite of 65 GIS's, listed on the attached sheet. Suppliers who have products approved to the current technical standards will be required to undergo re-certification against the applicable GIS standard. Applications will be assessed by BSI against the certification protocols with the aim to Kitemark* products as conforming to the appropriate GIS.

Why the need for Change?

The common objective of the GDN's is to introduce product standards that are consistent across the industry and place the responsibility of evidencing conformance to the supplier.

The benefits of this process are:

- Prevent divergence of standards thereby avoiding added cost, complexity in manufacturing and confusion in the market place.
- Manufacturers and suppliers have a clear, consistent, unambiguous suite of industry standards avoiding the inefficient situation of having to repeat product certification for all GDN's independently.
- The industry plays its part in technical developments

Who is affected and what are the Standards affected?

The change will affect all current and potential suppliers and manufacturers whose products fall within the attached standards.

Next Steps

The suite of product standards will be available on the website <http://www.gasindustrystandards.com> from the 9th October; together with a set of questions and answers. The web site will also give details of who to contact should you have any queries regarding the process or a specific standard.

*The Gas Network Collaboration Members
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*Note – a Kitemark is a certification mark acknowledged by a recognised approval body, a Kitemark is the certification mark of the British Standards Institute and registered under the Trade Marks Act 1974