

- may consist of a number of activities, such as leak tests of joints, pressure tests, visual checks of all or parts of metal pipes including those that are buried. The actual activities and the frequency with which they are carried out will depend on the site-specific factors, as discussed above, and on how reasonable and practical they are to implement.
- Disturbing buried LPG pipework could increase the risk of a leak and this must be minimised.
- Remember a pressure/leak test will only tell you if the pipe is leaking at the time of the test.

### Check!

Ask yourself the following questions: Yes No Don't know

Are any parts of the LPG pipework buried?

Is any buried pipework metallic?

If metallic, does the pipework lack effective corrosion protection at any point along its length?

Do you or other people regularly live or work in the vicinity of the pipework?

If you have answered **yes (or don't know)** to **ALL** the above questions then you are advised to contact your LPG supplier or seek further information from the HSENI Advice Line (see below).

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**83 Ladas Drive, Belfast, BT6 9FR**  
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PUBLIC INFORMATION SHEET

# Checking LPG Pipework

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL USER RESPONSIBILITIES



## Introduction

- LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) is flammable and heavier than air.
- If LPG collects in a low area, such as a drain, cellar or basement, it could ignite resulting in a fire or explosion.
- An LPG leak can go unnoticed for some time and is therefore more likely to accumulate, increasing the potential danger. This build-up may be some distance away from the pipe.
- It is therefore important to ensure that all LPG pipework is adequately inspected and maintained.

**Whilst specific to LPG pipework, the information in this leaflet should be taken into consideration for any natural gas (mains gas) pipework you may own.**



*Metallic pipework protected as it enters the ground*

## Who is responsible for ensuring LPG pipework is inspected and maintained?

- **You (or your company)** have legal duties to ensure risks from dangerous substances are controlled.

- **You (or your company)** are responsible for ensuring that any LPG pipework is safe to use, even if the inspection and maintenance are carried out by a third party.
- **You (or your company)** should ensure that a procedure is in place for the inspection and maintenance of all gas pipework and that suitable records are kept.



*Pipework protected from last collar before entering ground*

## Inspecting and maintaining LPG pipework

- Inspection and maintenance needs to be arranged by the owner of the pipework.
- The owner may not be the same company that owns the storage tank and/or supplies the gas.
- If you don't know who owns the pipework ask your LPG supplier.
- **It's probably you!**



*Pipework protected from below ground to emergency control*

## Get it checked!

- **All LPG pipework, whether buried or not, should be inspected, maintained and, when necessary, replaced.**
- You should establish the length of time your pipe can be used safely. You can either:
  - identify when the pipework was last checked, what was done and when the next check is due; or
  - ensure someone competent draws up an inspection and maintenance strategy.
- The inspection and maintenance strategy:
  - will depend on various factors including whether parts of the pipe are buried, the type of pipe (metal or non-metal), type of corrosion protection, age and condition of the pipe and whether people are likely to be affected;
  - should consider other factors e.g. spaces where gas could accumulate and whether the pipework is vulnerable to disturbance (from vehicle movements or excavations of buried services);