

Guidance Notes – New Gas Connections

Property Ownership

- If your property is owned by a third party or the gas service pipe is to cross any land that is not in your ownership, i.e. you have a shared driveway or a communal garden area, written consent must be provided from all parties affected before any works can be scheduled. ES Pipelines are happy to provide consent forms on request to aid obtaining consent. A gas service cannot run through the land of a dwelling it does not serve.

Excavation, Backfill and Reinstatement (within your private land only)

- If you arrange for the excavation yourself (i.e. provide an open trench in which the gas service pipe can be laid) this must conform to safety regulations and industry standards. Should the excavation not meet these requirements the works will not be completed and you may be subject to an aborted visit charge. **Any excavation in the public highway must be carried out by our appointed service provider.**
- The base of the trench must be level, clear of obstructions and suitably compacted to provide a firm support under the gas service pipe. More detailed guidance is available on request.
- Excavation in private ground must be to a depth of at least 375mm and must provide 250mm clearance from any other plant (i.e. electric and telecoms cables or water pipes).
- If our service provider carries out the excavation, they will reinstate the excavated area as close to its previous condition and finish as practicable. If you arrange for the excavation, then reinstatement will be your responsibility.

Perforated Ducting

- If you are unable to leave the trench open, you can lay ducting through which the service pipe can be installed. This must adhere to current industry standards and be laid to a depth of at least 375mm.
- Ducting must be yellow perforated pipe, with Gas Marker tape laid 150mm < 200mm above the duct. It must be laid in a straight line, perpendicular to the direction of the gas main and must not be kinked or obstructed.
- A cable must be placed in the duct to allow service pipe to be pulled through.

Meter Installation

Gas service terminations should be external to the property in an external meter box. They shall be on the front elevation of the building facing the gas main or no more than 2 metres along an adjacent wall. They cannot be sited to the rear of a property. Internal service terminations are only permissible in exceptional circumstances and where there is adequate ventilation, protection from damage and access to the Emergency Control Valve can be maintained. Internal meter positions must have an above ground point of entry and cannot terminate more than 2 metres from the point of entry into the building.

External Meter Box Types:



Surface Mounted



Multibox



Recessed

ES Pipelines will by default provide and install a multibox or surface mounted meter box. We do not install recessed meter boxes. Should you require a recessed meter box, you will need to arrange for a builder to carry out the installation of a suitable box prior to the appointment date and indicate this on the connection form. This work should **NOT** be undertaken before the exact location of the service termination and meter box has been agreed with ES Pipelines.

Surface Mounted – The box is bolted on to the front elevation of the property.

Multibox – These are sited just above ground level and have now replaced the old semi-concealed boxes.

Recessed/Built-in – These are installed into a hole in the wall of the property. The door of the meter box lies almost flush with the brickwork.

Medium Pressure Networks

- Whilst the majority of networks operate at Low Pressure your local network may operate at Medium Pressure. Meters supplied from Medium Pressure networks can **only** be fitted externally into Multiboxes supplied and installed by ESP.
- There are additional specific safety requirements that apply to the siting of meter locations where they are connected to Medium Pressure networks. These requirements include increased minimum proximity distances to building openings, points on ingress and electrical equipment that may restrict possible meter locations.

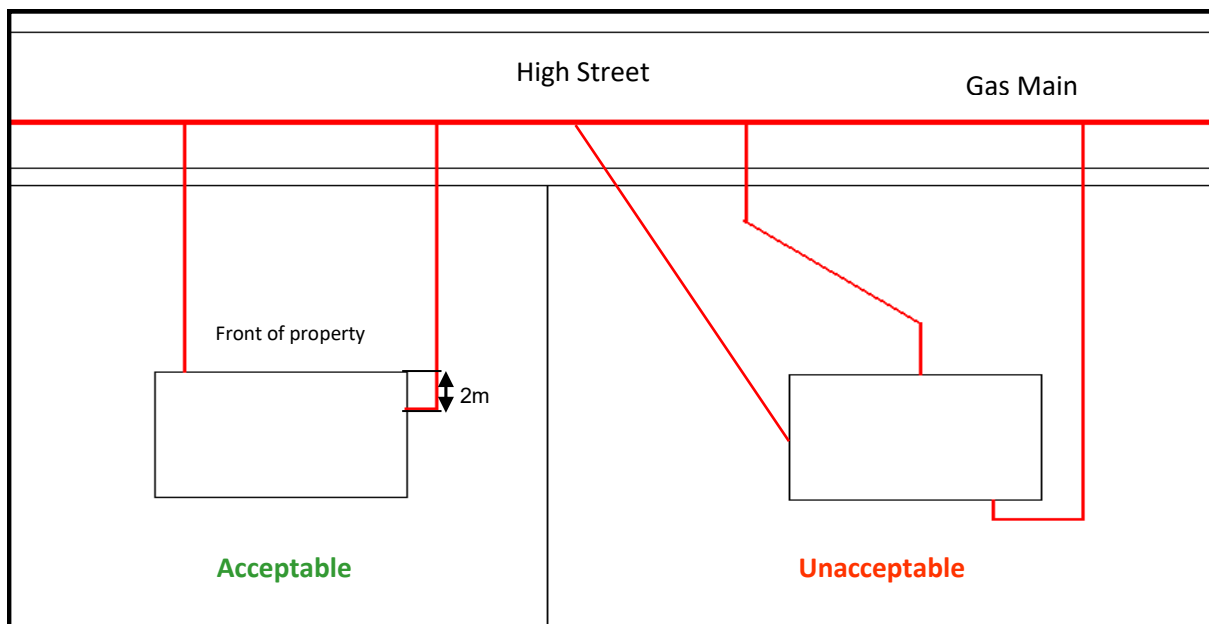
Other Considerations

- ESP will install the first gas meter at the property free of charge, but a supply contract must exist between the end user and the chosen gas supplier prior to any meter installation. Some suppliers have a standing charge for a meter being in situ, so if you do not intend to use gas immediately, it may be beneficial to have the meter installed at a later date.

Meter Types and Usage:

- This section is very important as it will allow us to determine the correct service pipe size and size of meter to suit your requirements. You will be able to find the BTU (output) and KWh of each of your appliances within their Instruction Manual. If you do not have a copy of the instruction manual please contact the manufacturer.
- Meters used for commercial purposes may require a larger meter box and depending on the size of the load and source pressure it may not be possible to house them in a recessed meter box. Depending on the gas load you may also require a larger service pipe which may affect the cost of the quotation.

Examples of Acceptable/Unacceptable Service Routes:



- If a meter is to be located at the side of the property, it must be **within 2m of the front of the property**.
- ES Pipelines will not terminate a service or fit a meter to the rear of a property.

Your Responsibilities After Installation

On completion of the works, the gas meter box becomes your responsibility as the property owner. You therefore assume responsibility for ongoing maintenance and will be liable for any costs incurred in the event of any damage to the box in the future.

If you do need any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact our office team on 01372 587 500 (lines are open from 8am – 6pm, Monday – Friday). Alternatively, please email us at newconnections@espug.com