

Uncontrolled Discharge of Gas

Recent audits of gas licensees, gas suppliers and practitioners has identified widespread non-compliance in the reporting obligations related to incidences of uncontrolled discharge of gas. This Regulatory Note provides guidance on the relevant regulatory reporting requirements.

Copies of this legislation and other relevant determinations are available at www.cbos.tas.gov.au

Mandatory reporting of incidents

Gas practitioners, suppliers, owners or operators of gas infrastructure, storage systems, installations, appliances, and automotive gas fuel systems are required to report incidents involving gas to the Director of Gas Safety as soon as practicable.

What is an Incident?

The *Gas Safety Act 2019* describes an incident as:

Any incident or event relating to the conveyance, supply or use of gas which causes or has the potential to cause –

- death or injury to a person; or
- significant damage to property; or
- an uncontrolled explosion, fire or *discharge of gas or another regulated substance*; or
- an impact on the security of supply.

What is meant by an uncontrolled discharge of gas?

An uncontrolled discharge of gas means:

- any unintended, unplanned, or uncontrolled discharge of gas from gas infrastructure, gas installation, automotive gas fuel system or gas storage system that poses a hazard, whether existing, probable, or potential to persons (including operating personnel) or property; or
- any unintended, unplanned, or uncontrolled discharge of gas from gas infrastructure, gas installation, automotive gas fuel system or gas storage system initiated by control systems or critical equipment. This includes processing equipment and protection devices associated with ensuring the safe operation of the gas infrastructure.

This meaning considers that particular gas fittings and components, normally associated with gas infrastructure and gas insulations, are designed to discharge gas at a pre-determined setting to ensure the integrity of the gas infrastructure and gas installation.

Purpose of Reporting

It is essential that the reporting of incidents is meaningful and provides ongoing value:

A report affords the Director of Gas Safety the ability to,

- Investigate root causes; and
- Implement ongoing integrity improvements using learnings from the incident investigations.

Q & A

Q. Does this mean a regulator or a pressure relief device venting as specified in the design basis would be reportable?

A. No, a regulator or a pressure relief device venting as designed would not be reportable unless the operation of these devices was unintended (E.g. did not relieve at the correct pressure) or the venting posed a hazard, whether existing, probable, or potential to persons or property (E.g. gas did not vent to a safe location as required by prescribed standards).

Q. What is meant by control systems or critical equipment?

A. Control systems and critical equipment are specified and recorded by a licensee in a safety management system/s for their gas infrastructure in accordance with to Regulations 37 and 38 of the *Gas Safety Regulations 2021*.

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For office use only DOC/24/26154 Published April 2024

Version	Application Date	Sections amended
1.0	April 2024	Original release

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