
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2004 No. 63

**Gas Safety (Installation and Use)
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004**

PART VI

MAINTENANCE

Duties of landlords

36.—(1) In this regulation –

“landlord” means –

- (a) where the relevant premises are occupied under a lease, the person for the time being entitled to the reversion expectant on that lease or who, apart from any statutory tenancy, would be entitled to possession of the premises; and
- (b) where the relevant premises are occupied under a licence, the licensor, save that where the licensor is himself a tenant in respect of those premises, it means the person referred to in sub-paragraph (a);

“lease” means –

- (a) a lease for a term of less than seven years; and
- (b) a tenancy for a periodic term; and
- (c) any statutory tenancy arising out of a lease or tenancy referred to in sub-paragraph (a) or (b),

and in determining whether a lease is one which falls within sub-paragraph (a) –

- (i) any part of the term which falls before the grant shall be left out of account and the lease shall be treated as a lease for a term commencing with the grant;
- (ii) a lease which is determinable at the option of the lessor before the expiration of seven years from the commencement of the term shall be treated as a lease for a term of less than seven years;
- (iii) a lease (other than a lease to which sub-paragraph (b) applies) shall not be treated as a lease for a term of less than seven years if it confers on the lessee an option for renewal for a term which, together with the original term, amounts to seven years or more; and
- (iv) a “lease” does not include a mortgage term;

“relevant gas fitting” means –

- (a) any gas appliance (other than an appliance which the tenant is entitled to remove from the relevant premises) or any installation pipework installed in any relevant premises; and
- (b) any gas appliance or installation pipework which, directly or indirectly, serves the relevant premises and which either –
 - (i) is installed in any part of premises in which the landlord has an estate or interest; or

- (ii) is owned by the landlord or is under his control, except that it shall not include any gas appliance or installation pipework exclusively used in a part of premises occupied for non-residential purposes;

“relevant premises” means premises or any part of premises occupied, whether exclusively or not, for residential purposes (such occupation being in consideration of money or money’s worth) under –

- (a) a lease; or
- (b) a licence;

“statutory tenancy” means a statutory tenancy within the meaning of the Rent (Northern Ireland) Order 1978(1); and

“tenant” means a person who occupies relevant premises being –

- (a) where the relevant premises are so occupied under a lease, the person for the time being entitled to the term of that lease; and
- (b) where the relevant premises are so occupied under a licence, the licensee.

(2) Every landlord shall ensure that there is maintained in a safe condition –

- (a) any relevant gas fitting; and
- (b) any flue which serves any relevant gas fitting,

so as to prevent the risk of injury to any person in lawful occupation of relevant premises.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2), a landlord shall –

- (a) ensure that each appliance and flue to which that duty extends is checked for safety within twelve months of being installed and at intervals of not more than twelve months since it was last checked for safety (whether such check was made pursuant to these Regulations or not);
- (b) in the case of a lease commencing after the coming into operation of these Regulations, ensure that each appliance and flue to which the duty extends has been checked for safety within a period of twelve months before the lease commences or has been or is so checked within twelve months after the appliance or flue has been installed, whichever is later; and
- (c) ensure that a record in respect of any appliance or flue so checked is made and retained for a period of two years from the date of that check, which record shall include the following information –
 - (i) the date on which the appliance or flue was checked;
 - (ii) the address of the premises at which the appliance or flue is installed;
 - (iii) the name and address of the landlord of the premises (or, where appropriate, his agent) at which the appliance or flue is installed;
 - (iv) a description of and the location of each appliance or flue checked;
 - (v) any defect identified;
 - (vi) any remedial action taken;
 - (vii) confirmation that the check undertaken complies with the requirements of paragraph (9);
 - (viii) the name and signature of the individual carrying out the check; and
 - (ix) the registration number with which that individual, or his employer, is registered with a body approved by the Executive for the purposes of regulation 3(3).

(1) S.I. 1978/1050 (N.I. 20) to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations

(4) Every landlord shall ensure that any work in relation to a relevant gas fitting or any check of a gas appliance or flue carried out pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) is carried out by, or by an employee of, a member of a class of persons approved for the time being by the Executive for the purposes of regulation 3(3).

(5) The record referred to in paragraph (3)(c), or a copy thereof, shall be made available upon request and upon reasonable notice for the inspection of any person in lawful occupation of relevant premises who may be affected by the use or operation of any appliance to which the record relates.

(6) Notwithstanding paragraph (5), every landlord shall ensure that –

(a) a copy of the record made pursuant to the requirements of paragraph (3)(c) is given to each existing tenant of premises to which the record relates within 28 days of the date of the check; and

(b) a copy of the last record made in respect of each appliance or flue is given to any new tenant of premises to which the record relates before that tenant occupies those premises save that, in respect of a tenant whose right to occupy those premises is for a period not exceeding 28 days, a copy of the record may instead be prominently displayed within those premises.

(7) Where there is no relevant gas appliance in any room occupied or to be occupied by the tenant in relevant premises, the landlord may, instead of ensuring that a copy of the record referred to in paragraph (6) is given to the tenant, ensure that there is displayed in a prominent position in the premises (from such time as a copy would have been required to have been given to the tenant under that paragraph), a copy of the record with a statement endorsed on it that the tenant is entitled to have his own copy of the record on request to the landlord at an address specified in the statement; and on any such request being made, the landlord shall give to the tenant a copy of the record as soon as is practicable.

(8) A copy of the record given to a tenant pursuant to paragraph (6)(b) need not contain a copy of the signature of the individual carrying out the check if the copy of the record contains a statement that another copy containing a copy of such signature is available for inspection by the tenant on request to the landlord at an address specified in the statement, and on any such request being made the landlord shall make such a copy available for inspection as soon as is practicable.

(9) A safety check carried out pursuant to paragraph (3) shall include, but shall not be limited to, an examination of the matters referred to in regulation 26(9)(a) to (d).

(10) Nothing done or agreed to be done by a tenant of relevant premises or by any other person in lawful occupation of them in relation to the maintenance or checking of a relevant gas fitting or flue in the premises (other than one in part of premises occupied for non-residential purposes) shall be taken into account in determining whether a landlord has discharged his obligations under this regulation (except in so far as it relates to access to that gas fitting or flue for the purposes of such maintenance or checking).

(11) Every landlord shall ensure that in any room occupied or to be occupied as sleeping accommodation by a tenant in relevant premises there is not fitted a relevant gas fitting of a type the installation of which would contravene regulation 30(2) or (3).

(12) Paragraph (11) shall not apply in relation to a room which since before the coming into operation of these Regulations has been occupied or intended to be occupied as sleeping accommodation.