



<b>CLIENT:</b>	Gas Networks Ireland
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Single Stream Upgrades Programme
<b>TITLE:</b>	Vent Stacks – Frequently Asked Questions
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## 1.0 Project Scope

Gas Networks Ireland develops, operates and maintains one of the most modern gas networks in the world. They connect all natural gas customers to the network and are responsible for carrying out maintenance and renewal works on the Network.

As part of the ongoing review of the Network, they have identified a number of sites which require upgrade in order to comply with the ATEX Directive. In some installations, Gas Networks Ireland are required to reduce the operating pressure from Medium Pressure (4 Bar) to Low Pressure (Below 100mBar) by installing a District Regulating Installation (DRI) which comprises a gas installation and a relief vent stack of up to approx. 3.25m in height. Some of the existing DRIs on the Network have been identified as not having a relief vent stack. Installation of this vent stack is required.

## 2.0 Frequently Asked Questions – District Regulating Installation Vent Stacks

### 1. What is ATEX?

The EU ATEX Directive 99/92/EC consists of two EU directives describing what equipment and work environment is allowed in an environment with a potentially explosive atmosphere.

### 2. What is a relief vent stack for?

In the event of overpressure in the pressure reduction unit, a relief valve releases some gas to atmosphere to reduce the pressure in the system. The purpose of the relief vent stack is to vent this gas to a safe area. The vent stack is 3.25 meters in height so that the gas is vented at a height that won't overlap with pedestrians. Natural gas is less dense than air, so it rises when released to the atmosphere. In normal operation, there is no gas in the pressure relief vent stack.

### 3. What does a Relief Vent Stack look like?

Please see appendix 1.

### 4. Is there a smell associated with the vent stacks for neighbouring properties?

There is no continuous odour associated with the DRI as the release of gas is very infrequent and the volume of gas is minimal. The vent flue is 3 metres high and directs any vented gas upwards into the atmosphere.

### 5. Are there Fire Safety Issues Associated with the Venting of the Gas?

No, the volume of gas venting is infrequent and minimal. The DRI unit is designed to disperse gas at a much lower rate than what is required for ignition.

**6. Has a Risk Assessment been completed for this work?**

Gas Networks Ireland has carried out a Design Stage Risk Assessment (DSRA) for each DRI location as part of the Design Process.

**7. Will a site notice be provided at installation location for each vent stack?**

A Planning application site notice will be located at each DRI site. This location will be indicated on the Planning application drawings and a record photograph will be taken of the Site Notice upon erection on site.

**8. Will the venting flue be secured off in any way?**

No, there is no gating or additional securing of the venting unit once it is positioned. (see photo for an illustration of a typical site)

**9. Will full reinstatement of footpaths/ grassed areas be completed?**

Gas Networks Ireland operates under the local authority road opening licence system and complies with the licence conditions, part of which is the sign off of the permanent reinstatement. We are familiar with and conform to the Department of Environment & Local Government Purple Book on reinstatement and individual local authority road department requirements.

**10. Will we receive advance warning before construction works commence?**

Yes, the Gas Networks Ireland call centre will contact the customer and arrange appointments together with liaison of the Gas Networks Ireland contractor on site.

**11. How long will construction take?**

Construction will vary depending on the nature of the works but a typical installation will take approximately 1 working day.

**12. Who will be undertaking the works?**

A GNI appointed contractor will be undertaking the works on behalf of Gas Networks Ireland.

**13. Who has approved the work?**

The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) has approved this work.

**14. What areas of the country will be impacted by the project?**

The project will affect gas installations nationwide.

**15. Who can I contact if there's a problem post works?**

Should you have any queries or problems you can call the Gas Networks Ireland Contact Centre on 1850 200 694. All queries or complaints will be responded to and dealt with as soon as possible.

**16. Will the contractors carry identification?**

Yes, all contractors will wear identification at all times.

**17. Reinstatement Explained****1. What is the difference between temporary and permanent reinstatement?**

Temporary reinstatement is carried out to make excavations safe and to allow them to settle until it is time to carry out permanent reinstatement. Temporary reinstatement typically involves using tarmacadam and possibly metal plates. Permanent reinstatement will match the surrounding surface and will be well finished. Most footpaths in the Dublin Region are made from concrete and will be permanently reinstated using concrete to a high standard.

**2. How long between temporary and permanent reinstatement?**

Temporary reinstatement may be in place for several days while works continue in a street. Permanent reinstatement will typically be completed within 10 days.

## Appendix I



