SGN Third Party Connections Briefing Note 2
(Guidance on GIRS, GIG2 and IGEM TD/101)

1 Introduction

The Gas Industry Registration Scheme (*GIRS*) is operated by LRQA and provides a Nationally recognised process for the accreditation & registration of Utility Infrastructure Providers (*UIPs*) for specific scopes of gas infrastructure work. All Utility Infrastructure Providers (*UIPs*) working on SGN's <7bar Distribution Network must be accredited under the Gas Industry Registration Scheme (*GIRS*).

GIRS was developed by a group of leading Gas Transporters with input from OFGEM and the HSE. The Scheme is based on principles within the industry standard document Gas Industry Guidance 2 (*GIG/2*).

The GIRS accreditation mark represents the achievement of a high technical, quality and safety standard and is recognised by all UK Independent Gas Transporters and Distribution Networks

Accreditation under the scheme provides the accredited provider with the following benefits:

- Standardised set of requirements
- Single point of contact
- Accreditation recognised by all UK Independent Gas Transporters and Distribution Networks
- The Accreditation Mark, assigned to registered UIPs, will represent the achievement of a high technical, quality and safety standard.

Guidance to GIRS is also available through the Gas Industry Guidance document GIG/2 which is available through the GIRS website.

SGN also recognise and apply the requirements and controls placed upon UIPs as outlined in IGEM specification TD/101 (*Adoption of pipe systems by a GT – management of UIP activities*).

2 Gas Industry Registration Scheme (GIRS)

UIP accreditation is collated, published and updated by LRQA under the Gas Industry Registration Scheme (*GIRS*). Depending on their level of accreditation, UIPs can produce designs for new infrastructure (*Design*), project manage works or other UIPs undertaking elements of work (*PM*), undertake Construction, Commissioning & Connections work (*Routine operations – CCCR*) and undertake Non-Routine Connections (*CNRB*).

The above categories are defined in GIG/2 (*Version 5.3*) - Accreditation of Utility Infrastructure Providers
under the Gas Industry Registration Scheme:

- Design
- Construction/Commissioning /Connections (Routine)
- Connections (Non- routine – Basic)
- Connections (Non- Routine – Complex/Iris Stop)
- Connections (Non- Routine – Complex/Stopple)

- Connections (*Non- Routine – Complex/Hot Welding*)
- Specialist Large Diameter PE Branch Connections
- Audit
- Project Management
- Construction of Multi-Occupancy Buildings (*CMOBs*)
- Design of Multi-Occupancy Buildings (*DMOBs*)

Each part of the scope which SGN appraise will be outlined on each form in the GIRS Registration Scope box. Different companies can undertake different sections of work, but primarily the company submitting the initial request should be accredited for Project Management (PM) or have CCCR, which includes PM.

Separate PM accreditation is specifically required when a UIP holds solely Design accreditation.

2.1 Multi-Occupancy Buildings (*CMOBs and DMOBs*)

The Construction of Multi-Occupancy Buildings (*CMOBs*) and Design of Multi-Occupancy Buildings (*DMOBs*) Scopes are separate from standard Construction/Commissioning /Connections (*Routine*) (*CCCR*) and Design.

Due to additional levels of technical design, Policy and Specification considerations and construction techniques required for '*Risers and Laterals*', only those companies with the specific CMOB and DMOB accreditation will be permitted to undertake these works on SGN's Network, for asset that SGN is to adopt.

Reference should be made to GIG/2 Sections 3.8 and 3.9 for the specific requirements of CMOB and DMOB, however SGN consider the requirement for CMOB and DMOB to be the installation of Riser and Lateral installations feeding multiple Meters in buildings of multiple occupancy.

Single Service supplies that terminate internally to a building of multiple occupancy, even if the incoming inlet pipework risers a single floor, externally to or internally of the building are not included in this scope.

UIPs should consider and, where practical and safe to do so, adhere to SGN Specification SER/8, which states the order of preference for Meter locations – Internal terminations and Risers are the least preferred options for supplies and meters and external boundary locations should be prioritised.

2.2 Audits

Under GIRS, LRQA will perform assessments and audits of UIPs in the following scopes:

- Design
- Construction/Commissioning/Connections (*Routine*) (*connections not covered by IGE/GL/6*).
- Connections (*Non Routine*) (*connections covered by IGE/GL/6*)
- Project Management
- Audit

The assessment will include pre-qualification, Management systems validation, on site verification and surveillance audits.

3 IGEM Technical Document TD/101

IGE/TD/101 (*Adoption of pipe systems by a GT – management of UIP activities*) is a technical document published The Institute of Gas Engineers and Managers (IGEM) and outlines minimum requirements and guidelines for the design and construction of gas infrastructure and associated equipment for <7bar Network extensions for adoption by Gas Transporters.

The key requirements detailed in TD/101 are as follows:

- Overall design (*which also involves sufficient information being available to enable subsequent assurance of integrity and safety of the GT's system*)
- Detailed design review for networks (*ensuring the submission is comparable with the GT's existing network)*
- Construction (*in accordance with relevant technical standards*)
- Connections to live gas networks
- Deviation and Variation procedures
- Alterations and Disconnections
- Fitness for purpose of materials and equipment
- Certification File requirements
- Completion File requirements (*adoption criteria and process*)

SGN Employs an asset adoption process to meet the requirements of TD/101, where applicable.

Copies of TD/101 are available from the IGEM website www.igem.org.uk