

Minutes of GIRS Providers Forum



LRQA Tuesday 13th September 2022

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Name	Email
Andy Bunten (Guest)	
Alan Shaw	
Andrea (Harlaxton) (Guest)	
Andy Charlesworth (Guest)	
Andy Ginn (Guest)	
Angela Fry	angela.fry@euskills.co.uk
Avani Shah Patel	Avani.ShahPatel@britishgas.co.uk
Ben Brownbill	BenB@igl.co.uk
Bromiley, Alec	alec.bromiley@lrqa.com
Charlotte Berryman	Charlotte.Berryman@aptusutilities.co.uk
Claire Pape	c.pape@daci.co.uk
Claire Wilcox	claire.wilcox@storpowers.co.uk
Craig Smith	CraigJSmith@EnergyAssets.co.uk
Daniel Worman	Daniel.Worman@gtc-uk.co.uk
Dave Wilkins	davewilkins@afgasservices.co.uk
Dean O'Dee (Guest)	
Eric Dodd	eric@wilcock.co.uk
Gavin Sidhu	gavin.sidhu@adroitutilities.com
Graham (Guest)	
Hayley (Harlaxton) (Guest)	
Hollie Richardson (Guest)	
Humphries, Peter	peter.humphries@lrqa.com
Ian Mumford	Ian.Mumford@ukpowersolutions.co.uk
Jayne, Robert	Robert.Jayne@nationalgrid.com
Lapper, Richard	richardlapper@murphygroup.co.uk
Linzy Shooter	Linzy.Shooter@sus.co.uk
Lucy Ritchie	Lucy.Ritchie@euskills.co.uk
Mark Davey (Guest)	
Mark Harrison	admin@MarkHarrison175.onmicrosoft.com
Martin Dunlop	Martin@phoenixutilities.co.uk
Martin Peters	admin@MPEnergyServices.onmicrosoft.com
Mick Tolputt	mick.tolputt@triconnex.co.uk
Murray Richards (Guest)	
Sarah Parker	Sarah.Parker@nationalgrid.com
Paul Cafferkey	Paul@dpfgas.com
Paul Mason	paul@afgasservices.co.uk
Peter Burnage	admin@BurnageAssociatesLimited.onmicrosoft.com
Philip Kershaw	philip.kershaw@cngservices.co.uk
Rauer, Ken	Ken.Rauer@balfourbeatty.com

Robert Beavis	admin@BrecklandUtilitySolution487.onmicrosoft.com
Scott (Guest)	
Sheila Lauchlan	sheila.lauchlan@qemsolutions.com
Simon brown	simon@SimonBrown.onmicrosoft.com
Steve Richards (Guest)	
Thomas, Les	les.thomas@lrqa.com
Tommy Gates	tommy.gates@multiutilityuk.com
William Welsby	William.Welsby@sus.co.uk
Wilson, Ian	Ian.Wilson@nationalgrid.com

Apologies / attendees at recent meetings:

The meeting request was issued to over 200 potential attendees. Numerous apologies were received but have not been listed due to the numbers involved.

Minutes of Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions

The chair welcomed the new and regular attending UIP representatives to the 7th UIP Forum to be held using Microsoft Teams. He continued by providing an overview of the agenda for the day and as there were 49 in attendance it was prudent to forgo the traditional introductions.

The format for the meeting was outlined with the use of Chat / Raise your hand etc for any questions.

2. Review and acceptance of Previous Minutes Dated 10th May 2022

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of events.

3. Matters Arising

The main matters arising were discussed as follows:

a) IGEN TD4 Update

TD4 panel has completed the review and the draft has been issued to the GTDC for final approval for publication. A meeting is to be held 14th September 2022 which will confirm the position.

b) MM1 & MM2 Forms

At GIRSAP, there was still no resolution of Cadent requiring the NI number when registering for SCO under the MM1 & MM2 process. However, Leigh Keegan in his Role as Chair of GIRSAP, had sought clarity from the Network Owners on their position regarding this matter. W&WU and Fulcrum had responded supporting the change to the EUSR, and Keith Johnston (KJ) clarified the INA had also discussed the issue and a formal response would be issued on behalf of the IGTs.

No response has been received to date.

c) Revised Kite Mark Letter and Cadent acceptance of GF branch saddle connections

At GIRSAP it was confirmed that Cadent had now approved the fittings for use and that a Briefing Note has been Issued. Les Thomas (LT) asked if a copy could be issued to LRQA for circulation. Leigh Keegan (LK) also asked if the Briefing Note was a collaborative piece of work, signed off by all the DN's. John Fellows (JF) was going to confirm.

Not received by LRQA as yet.

d) Specialist Connections - Iris stop

This was discussed at GIRSAP where it was agreed that LRQA would update GIG 2 and replace the Term IRIS Stop with Flow stop. Flow stop scope is defined as Metallic and PE Bag Stop operations >12" Diameter and or >75mbar.

e) LRQA Portal for the management of corrective actions

LT highlighted that due to the ongoing LRQA Separation project, there has been no further work completed on this. With the final stages of separation underway with a planned completion 21st September. Hopefully work on the new portal will commence shortly.

f) Below Ground Cellar Entries

It was confirmed that IGEM/G/5 is quite specific that where a proprietary cellar entry is installed that an insulation joint is required even though, fire rated insulation joints are not readily available to the domestic Gas industry. The issue was discussed at GIRSAP, and we await a response.

g) Design MOBS

Sheila Lauchlan (SL) had highlighted the apparent disconnect between the requirements of G5 and the DMOBS scope not being required for the design of external meter boxes.

This was not agreed at GIRSAP as the DNOs wanted time to consider the issue further.

4. Review of GIRSAP Minutes 24th May 2022.

a) MM1 & MM2 forms - Discussed above

b) LRQA Reporting requirements - Discussed above

c) Revised Kite Mark Letter and Cadent acceptance of GF branch saddle connections - Discussed above

d) Specialist Connections - Iris stop - Discussed above

e) Requirement for Insulation Joints when using cellar entries to manifolds etc

As the G5 requirement is quite explicit, the Panel members agreed to review the issue and return to the discussion in the next GIRSAP Panel. In the meantime, LRQA would continue raising deficiencies as and when identified

5. LRQA Report 2022

The Full LRQA Report for 2022 is attached but is summarised as follows

Company Info

179 Companies are active on the Web site (-4)

1 Company Mercian Utilities Ltd has been suspended A Complaint has been received and to date LRQA have failed to contact the company.

178 Companies are active.

49 companies are at Partial

147 on site Surveillance visits completed

15 Re-certification visits

18 Partial Assessments and

11 Partial to full Assessments have been completed

LRQA Surveillance report

4 Major Deficiencies (4 in 2021)

79 Minor Deficiencies (160 in 2021)

44 visits with no deficiencies (106 During 2020)

The additional major deficiency identified during the recent surveillance visits was identified as:

- Two Operatives were witnessed carrying out the drilling, which were not NCO(G) qualified in accordance with scheme requirements. LT reiterated the need for NCO(G) and requested that key personnel and TAs be aware of the requirement.

6. Technical Bulletins issued and other information received during this reporting period.

a) Briefing Notes

- i. SGN Briefing Note 15 Guidance on Forms Issued 5th July 2022

b) Other Information received

- i. **Plasson Self Anchoring mechanical fittings for natural gas and suitable manufactured gas**

- There is now a standard GIS/PL3:2022 (see attached)
- Plasson now have fittings with a 63mm Seal

- ii. **Donkin Fig 555 Serial Numbers**

- AVK have changed the way they label their valves with the serial no. It's the 9-digit number below the bottom barcode at the right.



- UIPS are reminded that the label is not robust, and it is prudent to record the Serial no. before installation to avoid losing the information during handling. The serial No. is no longer on the Flange.

- iii. **Radius Branch Saddles under development.**

- Radius Subterra have a Minimus branch saddle that is suitable for use on 213mm swaged pipe inserted in 8" and 9" metallic mains
- They are seeking to provide a short presentation in the January Forum on some of the new branch saddles they have developed and are in the process of being approved or are already approved for use on the UK gas networks

7. AOB

a) Lloyds Register Assessor Changes

LT informed the forum that he was leaving full time employment at LRQA but would still be operating as a Subcontracted Assessor. He would remain as the Chair of the GIRS Forum and as the Secretary of GIRSAP so, there will be little or no obvious change. He then Introduced Pete Humphries (PH) as an additional Contracted Assessor resource who was about to start in the role.

b) Connection types being produced by the design houses - Ian Haynes (IH)

In the absence of IH, LT led the discussion - Designs have been proposed for a two-part top tee for medium pressure connections on steel mains. This is not possible unless the steel main thickness is known and suitable. IH also reminds designers that, the risk hierarchy should move any MP connection to a wrap-around tee and that they drop the two-part tee connection type on steel mains. Steve Richards (SR) confirmed that there had been a subsequent meeting on this, and that the proposal had been agreed With Gas Design. Other design houses are reminded of the issues.

Designers selecting the nearest main without consideration to the connection type, i.e., 213mm swage-lined main and stating a branch saddle. This is not possible and clearly, they should not be designing this nor should the networks be approving the design submission. This has occurred on several occasions to date. Once again, the proposal had been agreed With Gas Design. Other design houses are reminded of the issues.

c) Manifold Designs – Andy Bunten (AB)

AB described the issue in that recently an iGT had rejected designs of manifolds stating that manifolds are designed as mains and therefore do not require additional lengths to be added. AB reiterated the requirement in section 7.3.4.1 of IGEM/G/5 that states:

*“For valves, elbows, etc. an additional length **shall** be added to the estimated pipe length to compensate for the effects on pressure drop and for accuracy. Reference should be made to manufacturer’s data. In the absence of manufacturer’s data, advice may be sought from standards such as IGEM/UP/2 or Crane Technical Paper 410M.”*

He reminded the meeting that the term shall in IGEM documents prescribes a requirement which, it is intended, will be complied with in full and without deviation.

SR stated they had been designing manifolds without additional lengths for some time and none had been rejected. However, Peter Burnage (PB)- stated that their Gasworks training module for manifolds includes adding additional length as there can be considerable pressure drop.

Charlotte Berryman (CB) stated they have had issues with the completions pack when adding equivalent length as the actual length does not equal the design length. This has led to a resubmission of the design having to be made to allow the completion file to be accepted.

Gavin Sidhu (GS) said they add equivalent length and have had no rejections.

SL stated that the G5 training discusses additional length needing to be taken into account but do not address this issue specifically and thought it would be a good idea to speak to PB outside of the meeting.

d) Mains Disconnections for new developments

SL indicated that Section 3.3 of GIG 2 states CCCR covers Mains Disconnections and that when a UIP had requested to SGN if this would be allowed. SGN had stated it was not allowed but they consider individual projects on their merits. A discussion ensued where Dean O’Dee (DO) clarified that SGN have said mains diversions/disconnections are not part of the connections agreement but would consider individual projects if part of a development. Dave Wilkins (DW) also confirmed that Cadent do not allow this which was also supported by GS.

LT to take to GIRSAP.

e) Pressure Testing Briefing Note

Paul Mason (PM) brought up the subject of a recent briefing note by Cadent on mains testing and test certificates. DO reiterated the briefing came from a workshop held by Cadent following a spate of closure file rejections. SL said that Cadent have sent additional information out since their second workshop

PM said that inconsistency across the networks was an issue, and this was supported by DO who says this specific issue relates to Cadent only.

DW stated that recording of ground temperature spikes was also causing an issue. Clarification on when this is required was given by DO who quoted Cadent as saying tests up to 2 hours were short tests and those over 2 hours were considered long and required temperature gauges and the data recording.

LT stated that LRQA cannot comment as the briefing note had not been issued through them and were not part to the workshops.

f) Wask 125mm Proprietary Factory Entry

Mark Harrison asked if there was any follow up to an issue found on site whereby a 125mm Wask entry tee fitting had been installed but the ECV was able to be turned even though the fitting had been tightened in accordance with Manufacturer's Instructions. There was also the issue of a rubber 'O' ring being used as a seal in an above ground meter room situation.

Mark provided an update by saying the manufacturer had managed to get the valve secured by modifying the fitting however, this caused concern for any others that may have been purchased. No responses were received when the question was asked if anyone else had used these.

A copy of the video is issued as part of these meeting minutes.
For reference

8. Next Meeting Details

Proposed dates for Meetings in 2023

The proposed dates were tabled as follows. There were no objections

GIRS UIP Forum 10th January 9th May, & 12th Sept 2023

GIRSAP 24th January 23rd May and 26th September 2023