

Circular No: RD/G02/2019
Date of Issue: 1 March 2019

To: All Renovation Contractors

Dear Sirs

Gas Pipes in Enclosed or Unventilated Areas and False Ceilings

Through our survey and inspection, we observed that certain renovation works, particularly on the installation of false ceilings, and/or boxed-ups enclosing gas pipes may compromise gas safety.

2. The Singapore Standards SS608: 2015 – Code of Practice for Gas Installation requires gas pipes in the false ceilings or unventilated areas, amongst other requirements, to be sleeved or ducted with both ends of the sleeves or ducts protruding beyond the external faces of the compartment walls. This is to allow any gas escaping from the gas pipes to be vented and to minimise accumulation of gas which may result in gas fires/explosions.

3. It is probable that renovation works may be carried out enclosing the existing gas pipes on any premises being supplied or to be supplied with gas. False ceilings may also be installed as part of the renovation works, enveloping the existing gas pipes. Gas pipes may also be boxed up during the renovation works. In the absence of the pipe sleeve/ducts, any escaped gas may accumulate within the false ceiling/boxed-up areas posing a safety risk.

4. In some instances, the nails/screws used for the installation of false ceilings/boxed-ups have come into close contact with the gas pipes, these could puncture the gas pipes resulting in escape of gas from the pipes.

5. Even though town gas is odourised with a pungent odorant as a means of detecting gas leak, escaped gas in false ceilings/boxed-ups may remain undetected for a prolonged period leading to accumulation of gas.

Safety Precautions

6. We would like to seek your assistance to advise your staffs, agents, sub-contractors and workers to adhere to the requirement of SS608 and to take the

necessary safety precaution to ensure that the renovation work will not cause any damage to the gas pipes or compromising gas safety.

7. You are encouraged to consult City Gas Pte Ltd, Licensed Gas Service Workers or Professional Engineers (Mechanical) on the preventive steps to be taken to ensure that the gas pipes on the premises remains in compliance to the requirements as set out in the Singapore Standards SS608 when carrying out renovation works on the premises in such manner that the use of such gas installation/pipes will not endanger any person or property.

8. Should you need any clarification, please contact Mr Chow Chin Choeng (at telephone number 63767582 or email chow_chin_choeng@ema.gov.sg) or Mr Lim Dao Xian (at telephone number 63767780 or email lim_dao_xian@ema.gov.sg).

Yours faithfully

KNG MENG HWEE
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE
INDUSTRY REGULATION DIVISION