

Update from E.ON UK – Disconnection advice in respect of UNC0282

In relation to the gas escape, you would have to obtain a warrant on safety grounds and would then only be able to disconnect if the engineer attending to inspect the meter believed that there was likely to be a potentially dangerous situation so as to justify the disconnection of the meter. There are no provisions in the act for you to apply to disconnect the meter on safety grounds - only inspect the meter on safety grounds and then disconnect if sufficient justification. I think you will have difficulties in most cases in providing sufficient justification to actually disconnect the meter - and in any event, this could be open to legal challenge. For example, owner finds out you have disconnected when warrant was for inspection on safety grounds. Can't provide sufficient justification to show actions lawful - have to reconnect and also incur costs of obtaining the warrant and subsequent disconnection and reconnection plus any loss owner has suffered.

NB. where the word 'you' is used this means the person seeking the warrant and subsequently disconnecting the meter. References to the 'act' mean the Gas Act, relevant sections contained within Schedule 2B.

Schedule 2(B) of the Gas Act :

Section 21 Suspected escapes of Gas & Section 22 Entry for preventing escapes of Gas – Gas transporter can take any steps necessary to avert danger to life or property – must have reasonable cause to suspect and can carry out work necessary to avert danger to life and property (hence need to have the reasonable grounds to obtain the warrant in the first place and then can only undertake work that is necessary)

Section 23 Gas transporter & Supplier can enter premises to inspect fittings – no right to enter, inspect and disconnect and therefore would have to have good grounds to disconnect if warrant obtained under this section.

Also Section 28(b) – obligates transporter/shipper to pay compensation for any damage caused in exercising the powers under the schedule.

Note updated 30 April 2010.