

Underground/Buried Metallic Pipework for LPG - Inspection & Maintenance



PE protected pipework exiting the ground.



Unprotected metallic pipework exiting the ground.



PE protected pipework entering the ground.

Safety Notice for Commercial and Industrial users of LPG

This safety notice for commercial and industrial owners of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) pipework, explains the danger of corrosion in buried metallic LPG pipework which can cause serious leaks. It also gives advice on inspection, maintenance and replacement.

LPG is flammable and heavier than air, so if it collects in low lying areas such as a basement or gullies etc, it could ignite resulting in a serious incident.

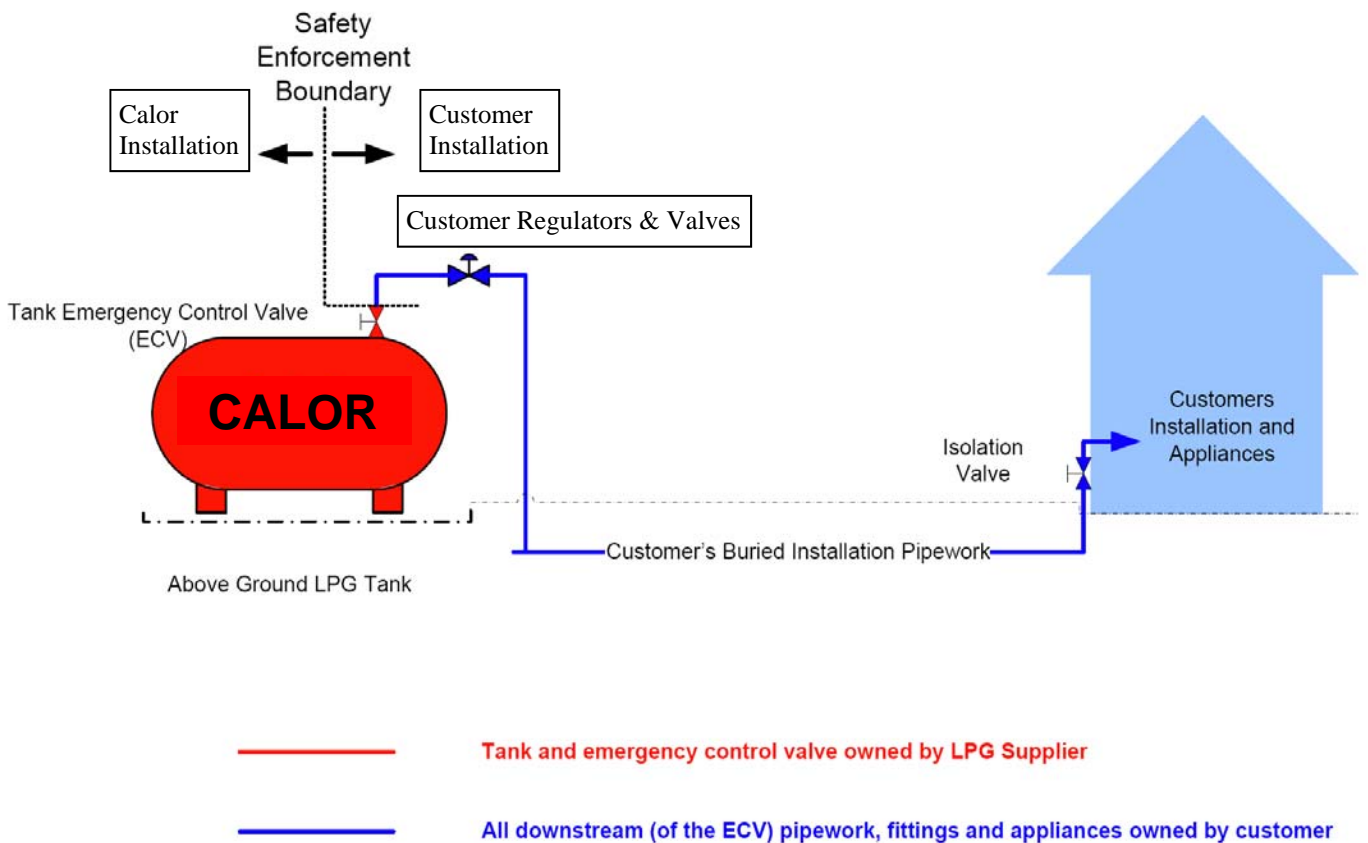
It is possible for an LPG leak to go unnoticed for some time thus it can accumulate, even some distance from the pipe, increasing the potential danger of a serious incident.

- Buried metallic pipework should be replaced, with pipes constructed to current standards using a material that is not subject to corrosion, polyethylene (PE) for example.
- The alternative is to have the pipework inspected by a competent/qualified person on a regular basis to ensure that it is properly maintained.

Who is responsible?

- You (or your company) have legal duties to ensure risks from dangerous substances are controlled.
- You (or your company) are responsible for ensuring that any LPG pipework is safe to use, even if the inspection and maintenance or replacement are carried out by a third party.
- You (or your company) should ensure that a procedure is in place for the inspection and maintenance of all pipework and that suitable records are kept.





Inspection & Maintenance of underground/buried metallic pipework

- The owner of the pipework needs to arrange its inspection, maintenance or replacement if required.
- In most cases the owner of the pipework will not be the company who owns the gas tank or supplies the gas. The owner of the pipework is probably you.
- Work carried out on LPG pipework whatever the nature, must be completed by a competent and qualified registered engineer.
- Visual inspections of the outside of the pipework are not considered gas works and thus do not need to be completed by a competent and qualified registered engineer.
- All metallic LPG pipework should be inspected and maintained on a regular basis.
- Replace buried metallic pipework with pipes constructed to current standards using materials that are resistant to corrosion, for example polyethylene (PE). This should be completed by a person competent and qualified to do this type of work.
- The condition of your pipework should be assessed by a competent and qualified person to determine how long it may be used safely, taking into account length of time since the pipework was last checked and what work was conducted.





Protected PE exiting the ground

This is a list of suitably qualified LPG installers.

Ray Kearney	Carlow	086/8194941
Kevin Bravender	Cavan	086 8794651
Joe O'Reilly	Cavan	087 2625684
Martin O'Reilly	Cavan	086 3000824
Philip Counihan	Clare	087 2759446
Mike Maloney	Clare	087 9708700
PJ O Callaghan	Clare	086 8118977
Brian Keane	Clare	087 2391412
Frank Kelly	Cork City and North Cork	087 2603536
Donal McCarthy	Cork	087/9829757
Dylan Roche	Cork City and East Cork	087/9374515
Ron Benn	West Cork	087 2544772
Tony Brady	East Cork	087 2620279
Finbarr Coakley	Cork	086 2457194
Mitchell Crowley	Carrigaline/Midleton/Cobh/Cork City	087/9941226
Henry Leonard	Donegal South	087 2473327
Liam McGinty	Donegal North East	086 2206829
Dougie Wood	Donegal North West	086 8122909
Milo Benson	Donegal	087 2532849
Alan Byrne	Dublin	086 2231106
Maurice Byrne	Dublin	0876493033
Jimmy McManus	Galway City and surrounds	0872909447
Joe Clancy	Oughterard to Connemara	0872531193
Philip Counihan	Galway South	0872759446
Willie Fallon	Galway North	02872568274
Robin Bruton	Kerry	087/6243989
Vincent O Connor	Kerry	0872789498
KMS	Kerry	0669764648
Raymond Downing	Kerry	0872213915
Declan Smith	Kildare	087 2490622
Heat Services	South kildare	057 8756504
Ray Kearney	Kilkenny	086/8194941
Heat Services	Laois	057 8756504
David McGoldrick	Leitrim	087 2796610
Stephen Hughes	Leitrim	086 8161933

Alan Casey	Limerick	087 6873894
KMS	Limerick	066 9764648
Mike Ryan	Limerick	087 7548037
Seamus O Dowd	Longford	086 1716767
Brian Durnin	Louth	086 2538395
Pat O Shuaghnessy	Louth	087 2882726
Willie Fallon	Mayo (all of)	087 2568274
Adrian Kilker	Mayo North	086 8510603
Brian Durnin	Louth	086 2538395
Declan Smith	Meath	087 2490622
Noel McKenna	Monaghan	087 2542292
Adrian McKenna	Monaghan	087 2542292
Gilbert Bryan	Offaly	087 2310125
Heat Services	Offaly	057 8756504
Stephen Hughes	Roscommon	086 8161933
Peter Burns	Sligo	087 6682204
David McGoldrick	Sligo	087 2796610
Michael O Brien	Tipperary	087 2549648
Gilbert Bryan	North Tipperary	087 2310125
Danny Gorman	North Tipperary	086 0709549
Barry Ryan	North Tipperary	086 8222024
Michael Prendergast	Dungarvan & surrounds	087 7998329
Tony Brady	Waterford	087 2620279
Michael McLoughlin	East Waterford	087 2843933
Seamus O Dowd	Westmeath	086 1716767
Declan Smith	Westmeath	087 2490622
Michael McLoughlin	Wexford	087 2843933
Pat Moorehouse	Wexford	087 6813570
Nicholas White	Wicklow	087 2443836
Alan Byrne	Wicklow	086 2231106



Protected metallic pipework entering the ground



Inspection & Maintenance Strategy

- Your inspection and maintenance strategy will be dependant on various factors, including whether parts of the pipework are buried, the pipework material (metallic/non-metallic), if there is corrosion protection and its type, the condition and age of the pipework and whether people are likely to be affected if there is an incident.
- Other factors to be considered include spaces under or within the building where gas may accumulate and the risk of pipework being vulnerable to disturbance from vehicle movements and excavations of buried services.
- Regular excavation of the pipework will be required to enable its assessment including visual checks of all parts of metal buried pipework. Leak and pressure tests will only tell you if the pipework is leaking at the particular time of the test. The timescale of these tests will depend on site-specific conditions above.
- A less rigorous inspection strategy than that of metallic pipes can be applied to PE pipes.
- Disruption to metallic or non-metallic pipework should be minimized to avoid the increased risk of a leak.

Check List

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Are any parts of the LPG pipe-work buried?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is any buried pipework metallic?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If metallic, does the pipework lack effective corrosion protection at any point along its length?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you or other people regularly use the area of live or work there?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have answered "Yes" or "Don't know" to ALL these questions then you are advised to seek more information from your LPG supply company.

In the first instance we recommend that your maintenance personnel survey your LPG buried pipework installation to ascertain its condition. If you need further assistance, please see our list of LPG Commercial/Industrial subcontractors in your area, who can assist you in inspecting your LPG buried pipework installation. Charges for this will be between you and the subcontractor.

This leaflet contains notes on good practice which are not compulsory but which you may find helpful in considering what you need to do.

Calor prides itself on its health and safety standards and at all times ensures that it is compliant with the safety requirements set down in law and advocated by the Irish Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association (commonly referred to as the "I.L.P.G.A.").



CALOR GAS

Long Mile Road,
Dublin 12

Phone: 1850 812 450

Web: www.calorgas.ie