

Implications of customer owning or being responsible for their own Gas Meter

What is a “Gas Act Owner”?

Although gas meters are usually provided by gas industry parties, it is possible for a customer to provide and own their own gas meter. The person that owns the meter is referred to as the Gas Act Owner, because this type of ownership is permitted under paragraph 3 of Schedule 2B to the Gas Act 1986.

If the customer arranges or contracts for a Gas Meter through a party other than their Supplier or Gas Transporter, they are the Gas Act Owner.

What is the difference if I am the Gas Act Owner?

There are a number of legal obligations that fall on the Gas Act Owner of a meter. Most people are unfamiliar with these obligations because, in the domestic context (where most people encounter their gas meter), the Gas Act Owner is usually an industry party.

Customers acting as the Gas Act Owner are more common in the industrial and commercial space, but they are often unaware of their obligations.

What are the obligations of a Gas Act Owner?

The Gas Act Owner of a meter is responsible for ensuring that the meter complies with all the legal requirements for meters, including (but not limited to):

- Gas Act 1986
- Gas (Meters) Regulations 1983
- Measuring Instruments Regulations 2016

The meter installed must be of an appropriate type for registering the quantity of gas supplied, and must be kept in proper order at the Gas Act Owner’s expense.

It is also possible that you may owe legal duties to third parties. For example, if you are a business, operation and maintenance of a meter may be covered by your duties to third parties under section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

What happens if the Gas Act Owner does not meet its obligations?

Failure to comply with Gas Act Owner obligations can have serious consequences, ranging from the meter being replaced (at the Gas Act Owner’s cost), the supply being disconnected and even a criminal fine and a criminal record (section 17, Gas Act 1986)

How do I check whether I am the Gas Act Owner?

Talk to your Supplier if you are unsure whether you are the Gas Act Owner, or whether any changes to your metering service will result in you becoming the Gas Act Owner.