

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE		HID SHORT LIFE CIRCULAR	
Hazardous Installations Directorate		SLC/2004/26	
Author Section:	HID HQ1E	OG Status:	Fully Open
Issue Date:	23 November 2004	Cancellation Date:	23 May 2005
STATUS: For Urgent Information			

TO:

HID Inspectors, CI 1-5, SI 2, 4 & 5; HQ 1; (Bands 1-3)

FOD SG Specialist Inspectors (Bands 1-3)

FOD Inspectors, (Bands 1-3)

PUBLICATION OF DIN/CD5/059 - DEVELOPING AN INSPECTION STRATEGY TO ENSURE THE ONGOING EXTERNAL INTEGRITY OF BURIED, METALLIC, LPG PIPEWORK

PURPOSE

The purpose of this SLC is to alert inspectors to new internal guidance relating to the ongoing integrity of buried LPG pipework.

BACKGROUND

1. Incidents have occurred when external corrosion of buried pipework carrying liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) has led to a release of LPG that has ignited and exploded. Reports of instances where duty holders have found a loss of integrity of buried pipework appear to be increasing.
2. Given the potentially serious consequences, the Process, Materials and Systems Safety Corporate Topic Group (HID SI5) has produced a new Discipline Information Note (DIN) aimed at inspectors in both FOD and HID:

DIN/CD5/059 - Developing an Inspection Strategy to Ensure the Ongoing External Integrity of Buried, Metallic, LPG Pipework
3. The new DIN is of most relevance in the context of sites where the LPG supply is peripheral to the main site activities. Here the duty holder may not have considered the management of LPG pipework integrity, and in particular buried LPG pipework, of great importance. The incident referred to in paragraph 1 of the DIN occurred at a building on a firing range where the LPG supply was run underground in metallic pipework.
4. At this stage, the integrity of buried LPG pipework in particular is not viewed as being of a higher priority than that of other major hazard pipework found on HID sites. However, HSE is engaged in a project to survey buried LPG pipework on

a number of sites including some inspected by HID. When complete, this will inform the decision whether to give greater priority to the issue.

ACTION BY INSPECTORS

5. Inspectors should familiarise themselves with the content of the new DIN.
6. Until the findings of the above project are available, HID inspectors are asked **not** to proactively raise the specific issue of buried LPG pipework, but may find the information in the DIN useful if the topic arises during normal enquiries into duty holder's arrangements for ensuring plant integrity.
7. Similarly, FOD inspectors should refer to the DIN if they discuss the integrity of LPG systems where underground metallic pipework is used to convey LPG.

CANCELLATION DATE

This document should be destroyed 6 months from the date of issue

FURTHER INFORMATION

Any queries regarding the DIN should be addressed to Corporate Topic Group, Process Materials and Systems Safety (CD5) - Penny Taylor (VPN 523 4202) or Allyn Jones (VPN 523 3273)