



Gas Infrastructure Europe

Brussels, 5 December 2011



Who we are



GIE view on Gas Quality

- GIE supports the general objective of the work in the area of gas quality standardization, as gas quality plays a major role for the free flow of gas.
- Variations on gas quality will increase -> unstable gas quality:
 - Injection of biomethane and other renewable gases
 - More LNG
 - New interconnections and new gas infrastructures will increase gas flow change
- New gas specifications need to be wide enough to not induce excessive treatment costs as that would risk increasing prices for end-users. However, it should be stressed that this work should ensure that safety and integrity of the system are maintained and that the safe combustion of gas should remain a paramount consideration.
- GIE recognises that harmonising gas specifications across the whole of Europe is challenging. However, it is an important factor in creating effective interoperability of networks.
- If a single European specification proves impractical to implement in one step then a regional approach should be considered as an appropriate starting point:
 - EU potential import flows
 - Physical flows

Gas Quality Specification

Any work on gas quality standards, including for biomethane and any other type of renewable gas, should be carried out with a view to defining acceptable levels of all components which may influence operating conditions.

WI	Gross (Superior) Wobbe Index	Combustion
D	Relative Density	Combustion
O•	Oxygen	Non-Combustion
S	Total Sulphur	Non-Combustion
H•S + COS	Hydrogen Sulphide + Carbonyl Sulphide	Non-Combustion
RSH	Mercaptans	Non-Combustion
CO•	Carbon Dioxide	Non-Combustion
H•O DP	Water Dew Point	Non-Combustion
HC DP	Hydrogen Dew Point	Non-Combustion

In the case of biomethane, the parameters included in the future specification must be studied carefully.

Other parameters (eg. Methane number, Propane equivalent, Ignitability and Laminar combustion) are unnecessary for the vast majority of the Member States. The inclusion of such parameters could lead to avoidable restrictions which are increasing end-user prices.



Conclusions

- GIE believes that pan-European harmonization or regional harmonization of gas quality specification should be pursued.
- Member states should adopt a gas specification with a range as broad as safely possible for each component in order to:
 - Maintain safety standards in the gas industry.
 - Improve market connectivity and ease of doing business in Europe, promoting a single European gas market.
 - Minimize additional costs in the gas supply chain.
 - Increase security of supply by providing access to as many sources of gas as possible.
 - Increase Europe's competitiveness in the global gas market.
- The mitigation of the gas quality variations are more a economical issue, than a technical one.
- Gas quality harmonization shall achieve a good balance between cost of energy and safety of appliances.
- If the operator of any infrastructure is obliged to invest in such gas treatment facilities then the recovery of the associated cost should be ensured independent of the use of these facilities.



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