

Background information diversity of gas quality

Increasing gas diversity

As the national network operator, we have analysed some natural gases which may be fed in to our network in the future. This analysis found that their composition differs slightly in some respects to the gases we currently use in the Netherlands. These new gas flows will more frequently contain a high proportion of hydrocarbons, which gives a higher calorific value and a lower methane number at the same Wobbe index.

Possible effects on combustion

For this reason, we have also examined the possible effects of this different gas composition on gas utilization equipment used in the Netherlands. This analysis concluded that some equipment could be sensitive to changes in gas composition. For example some gas engines may experience knock behaviour. Also the composition of the emissions from some equipment may change, for example a higher CO or soot content. The growing supply of different gases will also involve a greater variation in the composition of the gas we supply over time.

In order to guarantee that your equipment continue to function properly and within the specified legal limits, you may at some stage need to adapt them. Whether - and to what extent - they will be affected will depend on various factors such as the composition of the gas supplied locally, the equipment concerned and their level of maintenance.

Advise on actions to be taken

We advise all end users and those directly connected to the national gas network to carry out an initial inventory of the appliances they have installed.

Timing

During the second half of 2011, the share of international gas flows is likely to be quite substantial. You are therefore advised to carry out all the necessary checks and adjustments before then. By anticipating changes in the gas supply early on, the Netherlands can guarantee a seamless transfer to the international gas supply and thus ensure an uninterrupted security of supply.

Further information

The gas network operators in the Netherlands, who are all members of Netbeheer Nederland, have taken upon themselves the task of notifying all market players of these developments. For this purpose a website is set up to give you further information: www.hoezoandergas.nl. Here you will find detailed information about the subject, including possible gas compositions, background reading and some frequently asked questions. As a directly connected party, we will keep you informed of all the latest developments. Please feel free to contact your GTS account manager if you have any questions.