

ICL INQUIRY STATEMENT

DONALD SLOAN

1. I am currently a medical student at Dundee University.
2. I started work with HSE in October 1998 as a Trainee Inspector.
3. I started in the Glasgow office which is 375 West George Street.
4. I was placed into what they call "Services Group". My boss was Ian Bowie.
5. I have visited this site on one occasion only which was 6 August 1999.
[ICL/12245]
6. I visited the site on my own. I would be classed as a Trainee Inspector as you do a two year training period.
7. The reason I was at the site was due to a complaint. I was passed this complaint by my Principal Inspector Ian Bowie or his deputy in his absence. The reason why I was attending the site was due to an anonymous phone call from the wife of an employee stating that Transco had attended at the site and condemned the pipework on three occasions (the nature of the complaint was that employees were working on the pipework who were not CORGI registered.)
8. I attended at this site where I was met by Peter Marshall (Managing Director) where I was shown pipework. I do not know where the pipework was, I cannot remember. I cannot recall the condition of the pipework.

9. As far as I am aware it was the main gas and not the LPG system. Transco do not deal with the LPG system.
10. The complaint was received by the HSE on 13 July 1999 and by the time I had got to the site based on the contact I have put the complaint would appear to have been dealt with.
11. After I left the site I returned to the Glasgow Office where I contacted Transco.
12. As far as I am aware, due to the contact I put in, it would appear that Transco had in fact changed the gas meter.
13. With regards to my contact, I mention that a CORGI registered plumber tested the system for leaks and found some so the system was not turned back on.
14. I have no recollection of who the plumber was. I do not know if he worked for the company or someone else.
15. With regards to the two contractors/employees who tightened the gas connections in the factory, once again I have no idea who they were although due to the text that I have used in my contact they may have worked for the company.
16. Once again I would say that by the time I visited the site and the time we received the complaint, the company and Transco had resolved the matter.
17. For the size of the site and the processes which go on and coupled with the fact that I had no previous dealings with this type of site, I would not have been sent along to this site to carry out an inspection. I was there solely to deal with the initial complaint.

18. I would say that I spoke to Barry Baker who is a Gas Safety Engineer Inspector about what to look out for.
19. I cannot remember if I spoke to him before or after the visit, it might have been both.
20. I then put my contact in and as far as I am aware nobody ever came back to me and said to add my pieces of information into my contact.
21. I would have filled in all relevant information of my visit to my site in my HSE notebook.
22. Due to me leaving the HSE in August 2003 all my notebooks were destroyed, as this is normal practice.
23. Regarding the HSE database contact with the sentence "Not justified. Works associated with gas pipes in factory appear to have been completed to a reasonable standard. See contact". I do not specifically recall entering this contact myself – however, this sentence would probably have been entered by me. The remaining text was probably entered by administrative staff.
24. I did not discuss or have any dealings regarding the LPG system when I visited the factory. I had been asked to consider the complaint only – which did not relate to an LPG system.
25. Paragraphs 7 to 21 above describe my course of action. I cannot add any additional information other than to state that the LPG system was never discussed or considered during my dealings with my complaint. I only visited to investigate the complaint regarding the mains gas system.

I confirm that the contents of this statement are true.

Witness signature _____

Date _____

Donald Sloan, 12 June 2008.