

ICL INQUIRY STATEMENT

HENRY JOHN BETTS

1. I am a graduate of Leeds University in Fuel and Energy Engineering. I started work in 1985 with British Gas. I then moved in 1987 to Calor. I am the central operations manager reporting the National Engineering Manager Graeme Lockwood.

2. I can speak about installation practice from about 1988 to 2003 although for the period 1991 to 1997 inclusive, I was not working within Calor's Customer Engineering Department. I cannot speak to any practice before 1988.

3. The Sales Force Manual [ICL/11651-11795] was the prescriptive instructions sales staff were expected to follow. The Manual instructs the sales staff to refer to the technical staff where the installation is not straightforward. Every proposed installation involved a drawing.

4. If Calor Gas were to install pipework, the drawing would indicate the pipework route, its termination and tank location. The drawing was dimensioned. Prior to programming an installation, the Salesman's paperwork and drawing would be vetted in the office by a member of the Technical Services Department, further checks would be carried out by the fitter installing the tank and the tank delivery driver both of whom came to a site with a site drawing.

5. Where an unusual situation arose a salesman would refer the matter to the technical department.

6. The tank remained the property of Calor and the contractual agreement defined the pressure vessel offtake, normally referred to as a "tank" as being up to the outlet of the vapour valve of the tank.

7. On the commercial installations all the pipework was the consumers' responsibility. After installation, Calor would soundness test the pipework they had installed. If requested to connect to existing pipework, Calor would only connect to the existing pipework after inspecting and isolating the end(s) of the piperun and pressure testing the pipework. This was the industry standard.

8. Calor would not have knowingly connected pipework to an appliance in basement. Pipework could be installed in a basement provided appropriate safety measures were taken.

9. When an LPG tank is exchanged, a soundness test of the pipework up to the emergency control valve would be carried out.

10. From January 1997 under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regs 1994 as amended, we would update the system if it needed to include overpressure protection.

11. I was asked why Calor retain the right to inspect pipework. We need it to meet our obligations as a gas supplier for responding to emergency call outs for gas escapes under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1994 as amended.

12. The 5 and 10-year tests refer to an old regime. Pipework was soundness tested at 10 years. The current system is a soundness test system of 20 years. I understand this came from Calor's ability to show proven reliability.

I confirm that the contents of this statement are true.

Witness signature _____

Date _____