

INFORMATION TO GAS METER INSTALLERS REGARDING EMERGENCY CONTROL VALVES WITH BSP THREADED OUTLETS

A number of Medium Pressure (MP) ECVs were installed for Low Pressure (LP) applications on a small number of GTC networks in the 1990s and early 2000s. When installed, they complied with BS6400:1997 and IGE/TD/4 (Gas Services) Edition 3. In both the British Standard and IGE industry standard, no reference was made as to the thread configuration and therefore the fitting of MP ECVs was considered acceptable and fit for purpose at the time of installation.

Subsequent iterations of BS6400-1, published in 2002 and 2006, both state that the ECVs are specified in the IGEM standard IGE/TD/4. However, no reference is made to outlet thread specification until IGE/TD/4 Edition 4 was published in 2007. For the first time, the outlet thread specifications were stated as BS 746 for LP valves and BS 2779 for MP valves; both valves are compliant with BS EN 331 with the MP valve defined as a higher class and therefore considered a higher specification. Both are fit for purpose.

No standard is introduced and applied retrospectively; therefore ECVs installed by GTC were fully compliant with the standards of the day.

Should a MAM/meter installer require to exchange a LP meter and encounter an ECV rated for MP. Suppliers and installers need to carry the appropriate adaptors to allow them to make connections to these ECVs. Installers engaged in metering work should be competent to recognise non typical ECVs and install adaptors as appropriate. It is not anticipated non competent personnel be permitted to work on gas meter assets and Suppliers and installer employers should satisfy themselves that personnel are indeed competent to discharge relevant roles in which they are engaged.

The following photographs indicate examples of adaptors and installation configuration.



3/4" female BSP Taper x 3/4" male BSP Taper Valve



3/4" female BSP Taper x 3/4" male BSP Taper Valve with 3/4" female BSP Taper x 3/4" BS746 adaptor fitted. (Same adaptor can be used for angled valves with 3/4" male BSP outlet thread).



**3/4" Female Taper x
BS5200 Coned Valve**



**3/4 " Female BSP Taper x BS5200 Coned
Valve with BSP5200 (Swivel) x 3/4 " BS746
Adaptor fitted**



**3/4 " Female BSP
Taper x BS5200
Coned Angled Valve**



**3/4 " Female BSP Taper x BS5200 Coned Angled
Valve with BSP5200 (Swivel) x 3/4 " BS746
Adaptor fitted**



3/4 " Female BSP Taper x 3/4 " Female BSP Taper Angled butterfly Valve with 3/4" BSP x 3/4" or 1" BS746 adaptor and replacement lever handle.

The use of the adaptors negates the requirement to exchange the ECV. The removal of the MP ECV for a replacement to a LP ECV does incur a cost and an element of risk in the gas operation. The use of the adaptor fitting resolves the connectivity, eliminates the risk of valve removal and provides a compliant and fit for purpose installation that can be accomplished in one visit.

No GTC intervention is necessary, however, should a MAM or meter installer wish to commission the replacement of the ECV, this will be a chargeable operation. This will also impact on double visits, delays in scheduling work, increased costs for the MAM and inconvenience to the customer when none is necessary.

The Energy Networks Association Gas Engineering Recommendation – GER1 Issue 9 2022 document is available on the internet to provide guidance for metering operatives on reporting and acting on asset condition issues.