

WOC4: Gas Distribution



Chair: Alessandro Soresina

Introduction

Today's stakeholders are widening gas distribution companies' focus, from more traditional and technical tasks only to efficiency and accountability ones. This is happening due to various factors, arising both from within and outside the industry, such as:

- Market liberalisation, entailing new activities and competencies
- Regulatory bodies, providing rules that deeply affect business
- Improved economic performance needs
- Increasing demands of customers
- New stakeholders with different demands and influence.

Distribution operators today are expected to improve the quality of their operations in terms of safety without compromising on cost and efficiency; moreover the frequency and accuracy of meter reading activity at customers' premises is highly expected by customers. Quality of operations and meter reading allow a more accurate management of the quantities of natural gas that is a subject of increasing attention in the gas industry, highlighting a new concept in gas distribution: Unaccounted For Gas. Through a series of Committee Sessions and Technical Fora WOC4 will address these tasks, in order to give a complete and up-to-date analysis, and identify elements to approach, on a best practices basis, the following topics:

Committee Session 4.1: Gas distribution safety management systems

Chaired by: Alessandro Soresina, A2A, Italy

Objectives

Safety is manageable!

A study into process and methodologies used to develop and improve safety management systems.

There will be a focus on:

- Process safety leadership
- Human factor and competence
- Inspection and maintenance of the network
- Emergency arrangements and response as well as audit, review and regulatory topics.

The most important KPIs are recognised and presented as well as a number of recommendations for improvement.

Content

- Triennial study report presentation and a discussion of case studies led by Ben Lambregts, Study Group 4.1 leader, the Netherlands
- A selected group of speakers will be invited by Ben Lambregts to address some of the related topics and to open the discussion with the audience.

Committee Session 4.2: Smart metering systems: characteristics, technologies, costs

Chaired by: Kim Vrancken, Eandis, Belgium

Objectives

Smart gas metering – get more than gas!

The aim of this study is to review the various technologies available and to identify the best practices in smart gas metering activities. Special focus will be on:

- What role the gas meter plays today in a gas distribution company
- What role can a smart gas metering system play tomorrow in a gas distribution company
- Smart gas metering technologies
- What kind of costs and benefits does a gas distribution company include in their cost benefit analysis.

Content

- Triennial study report presentation and a discussion of case studies
- A selected group of speakers will be invited to address some of the related topics and to interact with the audience in an open and constructive debate.

Committee Session 4.3: Unaccounted for gas: identification, measurement, calculation & management

Chaired by: Barbara Jinks, GHD, Australia

Objectives

Unaccounted For Gas: something is missing!

A study to approach the concept of UFG including its definition, the identification of its main components, and the discussion of approaches adopted for its management. Main focus will be on case studies on:

- Theft and fraud
- Permanent leakage and mains replacement programmes
- Tools to develop models to calculate UFG
- Major gas loss during operations
- Metering inaccuracy and its management
- Gas loss due to third party damage

Content

- Triennial study report presentation and a discussion of case studies
- A selected group of speakers will be invited to address some of the related topics and to engage in a constructive debate with the audience.

Expert Forum 4.A: Safety management, smart metering & unaccounted for gas: a technical perspective

Chaired by: Dietmar Spohn, Stadtwerke Bochum, Germany

Overview

Technical improvements are needed to manage issues!

Technical and management approaches are two different perspectives with which the issues of safety management systems, smart metering and unaccounted for gas can be approached.

This expert forum addresses WOC4 topics from the technical point of view. A selected group of speakers will give a brief presentation of technical solutions adopted as a contribution to develop an effective safety management system, to implement a smart metering project in their organisation and to measure/reduce components of unaccounted for gas. Special attention will be paid to best and new technical practices adopted and their effectiveness in reaching the expected goals. All presentations will give the opportunity to activate a lively discussion with the audience.

Expert Forum 4.B: Safety management, smart metering & unaccounted for gas: a management perspective

Chaired by: Ben Lambregts, Liander, the Netherlands

Overview

Management approach is the way to obtain the desired results from technique!

Safety management systems, smart metering and unaccounted for gas are not only technical issues, but management ones too, as technical solutions must be selected and adopted in a global approach. This expert forum discusses WOC4 topics from the management point of view. A selected group of speakers will give a brief presentation of management approaches and solutions adopted in developing an effective safety management system, implementing a successful smart metering project in their organisation and handling the unaccounted for gas issue. Special attention will be paid to best practices adopted and their effectiveness in supporting the business success. All presentations will give the opportunity to activate a lively discussion with the audience; raised hands are more than welcome!

