

Kia ora, and welcome to the Gas Industry Company's *News Bulletin* - a periodic advisory of new and current consultations, workstream developments, publications and presentations.

In this issue we cover:

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## Impact of COVID-19 to the gas industry - update

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Gas Industry Co has been extensively liaising with our industry participants on a number of issues, and we would like to thank them for their ongoing constructive engagement and support, and for their focus on gas and LPG security of supply.

Gas Industry Co continues to provide support to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) by acting as the sector coordinating entity for the gas industry. This role has included assessing and collating information in relation to any emergent issues and risks to the New Zealand gas industry arising from the COVID-19 outbreak. Daily updates to MBIE inform its reporting and assists with cross sector planning for critical infrastructure in New Zealand.

## CONSULTATION: Downstream Reconciliation – urgent exemption

On 7 April 2020, Gas Industry Co granted an urgent exemption pursuant to rule 20 of the Gas (Downstream Reconciliation) Rules 2008 (Rules). The urgent exemption covers aspects of the Rules impacted during Alert Level 4 (and potentially Alert Level 3) of the COVID-19 Alert System.

Gas Industry Co invites feedback from allocation participants so it can make its determination on the future of the exemption.

Feedback is invited by **5.00pm, Wednesday 13 May 2020** and can be uploaded [here](#).

### Background

A few days before Alert Level 4 commenced, Gas Industry Co had discussions with some retailers about their ability to retrieve metering data from customers that would normally require a site visit. We found that during the strict restrictions under Alert Level 4, retailers were unable to meet their normal meter reading obligations. Gas Industry Co considered that an urgent exemption seeking relief from this obligation was appropriate to deal with the situation.

Where an urgent exemption is granted, Gas Industry Co must publish the exemption, consult with affected parties, and determine whether to revoke, replace or amend the exemption.

## REMINDER: CCO annual test exercise

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The Critical Contingency Operator (CCO) annual test exercise under the Critical Contingency Management Regulations is scheduled for **Tuesday, 6 May 2020**. A Participants Brief for *Exercise Hohoro* is available on the CCO's website [here](#).

The CCO held an online training session to help prepare participants for the exercise. We thank participants who attended the online training. If you did not attend that session, the training slides are available on the CCO's website.

## April 2020 gas registry switching numbers available

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The gas registry switching numbers for April 2020 is available on our website [here](#).

There were 1,797 switches in April 2020. This figure is 2,158 fewer than March 2020 and 1,799 fewer than April 2019. The marked change in switching activity is most likely due to the events surrounding the COVID-19 lockdown.

For the last couple of years switching numbers and the time they take to complete has been relatively stable. In the last 12 months we saw, on average, 3,545 switches taking place each month, taking an average of just two days to complete. During that time, the highest number of switches occurred in July 2019 at 4,407, and the lowest occurred in January 2020 at 1,797.

## Gas Industry Co March 2020 Quarterly Report

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Gas Industry Co's March 2020 Quarterly Report has been provided to the Minister, and is now available on our website [here](#).

The Quarterly Report is provided in accordance with the requirements set out in the Government Policy Statement on Gas Governance (April 2008) to report on the progress made towards meeting objectives and outcomes set for the gas industry by the Government and the industry. The report necessarily provides updates on our key work programmes for the quarter ended March 2020.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this Bulletin, please contact us at [info@gasindustry.co.nz](mailto:info@gasindustry.co.nz) or 04-4721800

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