Gas Safety Training & Operator Qualification of Licensed Master Plumbers

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Discussion Outline

• Drivers
  – Service Line Definition Change
  – NYC Local Law 152 of 2016

• Collaborative Approach
  – Training of Plumbers
  – Operator Qualification of Plumbers
  – Drug & Alcohol Program for Plumbers
  – Documentation - Inspection App for Plumbers
  – Combustible Gas Indicator – GMI PS200-LMP

• Current Status
Drivers - Service Line Definition Change

Diagram showing components of a gas service line, including:
- Valve box
- Street
- Service tee
- Elevated Pressure Main
- Curb valve
- Foundation wall
- Basement
- Internal Relief Valve Vent Piping
- Service Regulator
- Head of Service Valve
- Meter Valve
- Meter
- New definition end of service line
- Old definition end of service line

Arrows indicate flow direction from Street to customer gas equipment.
Drivers - NYC Local Law 152 of 2016

- Amends administrative code of City of New York in relation to periodic inspections of gas piping systems
- Approved by Mayor in December of 2016
- Proposed implementation January 1, 2019
- Covers multi-family and commercial buildings
- Inspections to be performed in five year intervals
Drivers - NYC Local Law 152 of 2016 (Cont’d)

• Inspections must be conducted by Licensed Master Plumbers or their employees
• Requires inspection of visually accessible piping for atmospheric corrosion
• Requires testing for leakage
• Requires inspection for illegal connections and non-code compliant installation
Collaborative Approach - Training of Plumbers

- Full-day classroom training course developed by GTI in conjunction with NGA, Con Edison, and National Grid
- Contains 10 modules covering legal requirements, atmospheric corrosion inspections, leak checks, and inspections for substandard conditions (abnormal operating conditions).
- Knowledge checks throughout course
Collaborative Approach – Operator Qualification of Plumbers

• Two new “hybrid” Covered Tasks developed by NGA (86 & 87) specifically for licensed master plumbers

• Three individual written OQ tests required (several questions within each test need to be correctly answered to pass)

• Short practical test also required
Collaborative Approach - Drug & Alcohol Program for Plumbers

- Licensed Master Plumbers have hired a third party to manage their D&A program
- Plumbing Foundation of New York and Master Plumber’s Council administer D&A program for their membership
- Meets requirements of 49 CFR Part 199
Collaborative Approach – Documentation – Inspection App for Plumbers

• Inspection application that can be used on a tablet or smart phone independently developed by Con Ed and Nat Grid for their individual service territories

• Results stored in the “cloud” and made available to each LDC

• An inspection completion confirmation will be sent to the NYC Department of Buildings
Collaborative Approach – Combustible Gas Indicator – GMI PS200-LMP

- Fit for purpose
- Small, lightweight, cost effective
- Measures gas in percent gas (alarms at 0.1%)
- Measures carbon monoxide in ppm (alarms at 35 ppm)
- Bluetooth capability for communication with Inspection App
Current Status

• Con Ed requires plumbers working on “jurisdictional” pipe to be OQ’d and D&A

• NYC LL152 falls under NYC DOB to promulgate rules and enforce

• Need DOB to finalize and implement the rules

• Work with various stakeholders to provide highest level of safety value to NYC residents and Coned ratepayers.
THANK YOU!

Questions/Discussion