businesslink

Gas Networks Ireland

Building Management System (BMS)

What is a BMS?

A BMS or building management system is a system that provides a facility or company with visibility of their energy use. A BMS can be utilised for many applications:

- Real time energy monitoring and trending of consumption
- Energy forecasting
- Energy verification
- Energy recording

A BMS uses software to graphically or numerically trend or record data. The main benefits of a BMS are cost savings and energy conservation.

The Customer Repeat Signal

The purpose of the customer repeat signal is to provide the facility for a customer to link their gas use to their building management system (BMS). Most Gas Network Ireland (GNI) gas meters have the facility for a low frequency, volt free, discrete repeat signal. This signal can be corrected or uncorrected depending on the customer usage. Customers with an estimated annual consumption (EAC) in excess of 3 GWHrs per annum will by default have a corrected meter read.

A building management system *cannot* be connected directly to the gas meter. This must be connected through a Gas Networks Ireland isolation chatterbox. A safe connection between the BMS and the gas meter *must* be maintained. A unit called a Chatterbox is used to create the isolation between the two systems.

Gas meter | Chatterbox | IP65 JB | Customer BMS installation | Customer BMS
GNI cable | GNI cable | Customer BMS cable (Screened Twisted Pair)
Hazardous Zone | **Safe Zone**

Customer BMS installation | Customer BMS
Gas meter
GNI cable
Hazardous Zone

The chatterbox is powered by two 3.6 volt lithium batteries, which have a potential working life of up to 10 years. The output from the chatterbox is opto-isolated with a pulse width of 220 ms capable of accepting 20 V and a maximum load current of 130 mA.

Customer Requirements

If you are installing a BMS, contact Gas Networks Ireland on **1800 411 511** or **businesslink@gasnetworks.ie** to arrange an appointment. A fitter will conduct a survey of your meter and will provide you with a quotation. Upon receipt of payment, an appointment will be arranged with you for works to be complete.
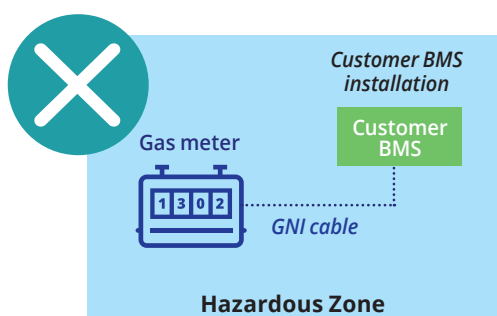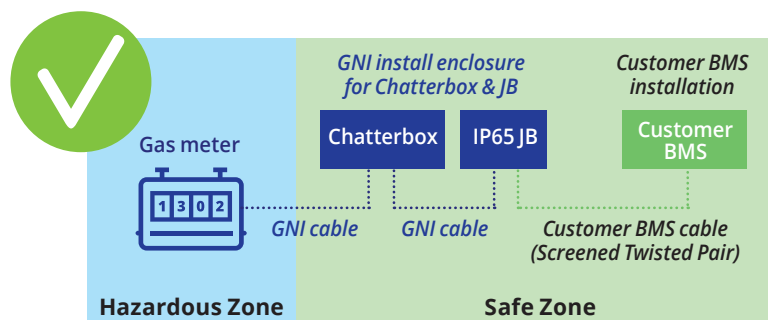
Gas Networks Ireland will leave a set of terminals within an IP65 junction box adjacent to the chatterbox which connects to the BMS cable. The exact location of this will be agreed during the initial survey of the installation. Gas Networks Ireland recommend that the customer uses a screened twisted pair cable. (The BMS repeat signal is of small power and is susceptible to interference from electromagnet noise and this can lead to false readings on the customer side. This type of cable reduces this potential interference).

Maintenance

Gas Networks Ireland do not perform routine maintenance on the chatterbox unit. If you experience issues with the unit, please contact us on **1800 411 511** or **businesslink@gasnetworks.ie** and a technician will be dispatched to investigate the issue.

For further information call **1800 411 511** or email: **businesslink@gasnetworks.ie**

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