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Technical Rule – Standard **DVGW GW 315 (A)** January 2020

Protection of Supply Systems during Construction Works

Maßnahmen zum Schutz von Versorgungsanlagen bei Bauarbeiten

GAS

WATER

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Preface

This Code of Practice has been developed by the project group "Revision GW 315" in the Technical Committee "Gas Distribution". Code of Practice GW 315 provides essential information on how to avoid damaging to existing supply systems during construction operations. It applies to all construction work (see also Section 3.4 Construction Works / Construction Activities) and regulates the requirements for construction contractors and operators of supply systems.

Prior to the start of construction, up-to-date information from the urban development plan concerning the supply systems must be on site.

The construction contractor is consequently obliged to request information on the location of supply systems and to safeguard these supply systems for the duration of the construction work. The duty of investigation for the construction contractor derives from established case law, as well as from provisions on accident prevention and the Federal State Building Regulations [*Landesbauordnungen*] (e.g., guidelines for professional construction personnel) etc.

A violation of the duty of investigation and of the obligation to carry out due diligence on part of the construction contractor leads to liability in damages pursuant to Section 823 of the German Civil Code [BGB] in case of damage. Furthermore, such violations can lead to criminal charges in individual cases.

In this context, it must be made clear that especially contracting companies and builders as well as engineering firms and architects contracted for drafting plans and tender have a cooperation obligation for the duration of the whole process. They must also take into account the required measures for obtaining information on existing gas and water infrastructure, for carrying out enquiries and for later construction works, already during the first stages of planning constructional measures. This also applies to official project sponsors such as construction bodies and regulatory bodies. In its entirety, this serves to protect supply systems and contributes significantly to the avoidance of personal injuries and property damages as well as disturbances in the supply of gas and water.

The supply system operator's obligation to cooperate by providing information on existing gas and water infrastructure during construction and design measures is undisputed in this context. Due to public interest, the operator provides information for third parties about the locations and routes of their supply systems.

DVGW Code of Practice GW 118 "Provision of Information on Gas and Water Infrastructure" represents an important link to later construction work since the Code of Practice regulates the provision of information on gas and water infrastructure. Code of Practice GW 315 also provides details about the construction contractor's duty of investigation for the protection of the supply systems during the execution of construction work.

Other significant aspects concerning the protection of supply systems against damaging and the avoidance of accidents are the vocational training and qualification of the construction company's executing and supervising personnel. The necessary requirements can be, for example, found in the technical rules listed below. They also provide requirements for the utilized construction method.

- DVGW Guideline GW 129 "Construction Work Safety for Supply Pipelines – Training Plan for Construction Contractors, Supervisors, and Planning Personnel"
- DVGW Code of Practice GW 321 "Controllable Horizontal Directional Drilling Works for Gas and Water Pipelines – Requirements, Quality Assurance and Testing"
- DVGW Code of Practice GW 325 „Trenchless Construction for Gas and Water Service Lines; Requirements, Quality Assurance and Testing“
- DVGW Code of Practice GW 329 "Professional Supervision and Professional Personnel for Controllable Horizontal Directional Drilling Works; Training and Examination Plan" and
- DVGW Code of Practice GW 381 "Building Companies for Underground Line Construction – Minimum Requirements".

This Code of Practice supersedes DVGW Guideline GW 315:1979-05.

Revisions

Compared to DVGW Guideline GW 315:1979-05, the following changes have been made

- a) The document title has been changed
- b) All contents have been editorially revised
- c) Examples for construction works / construction activities have been listed
- d) Notes on the how construction contractors can demonstrate the required professional knowledge have been added
- e) Notes on the scope of the documentation have been added

Earlier Versions

DVGW GW 315 (M):1979-05