



March 2015

ENERGY

FUEL GAS DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

The Minister of Petroleum approved the Technical Regulations on Design, Construction, Technical Exploitation and Safety of Fuel Gas – notably Liquefied Petroleum Gas and Natural Gas – Distribution Networks and Branch Lines by means of Executive Decree No. 79/15, of 2 March 2015. For purposes of these Regulations, underground piping (commonly known as “building branch lines” or “immovable property branch lines”) extending from the main pipe of the distribution network to the building’s shut-off valve (also known as “shutdown device at building’s infeed”) is an integral part of the distribution networks. Failure to comply with this statute triggers the assessment of fines of up to AOA 100,400,000 (roughly USD 920.000). This statute repeals Executive Decrees Nos. 192/08 and 196/08, of 15 and 16 September 2008, respectively.

CONTAINERIZED LPG FILLING PLANTS

The Minister of Petroleum approved the Technical and Safety Regulations on Design, Construction, Exploitation and Maintenance of Containerized Liquefied Petroleum Gas Filling Plants, by means of Executive Decree No. 80/15, of 2 March 2015. For purposes of these Regulations, a containerized LPG storage & filling plant is comprised of (i) facilities equipped with containerized tanks integrated in the container(s) where the filling process takes place; and (ii) facilities equipped with ancillary containerized tanks, not integrated in the container(s) where the filling process takes place. Failure to comply with this statute triggers the assessment of fines of up to AOA 60,000,000 (roughly USD 550.000).

LNG STORAGE FACILITIES SAFETY REGULATIONS

The Minister of Petroleum approved the Technical Regulations on Safety of Liquefied Natural Gas Storage Facilities in Pressurized Cryogenic Tanks – Autonomous Liquefied Natural Gas Units (ALNGU), by means of Executive Decree No. 81/15, of 2 March 2015. The Regulations apply to ALNGUs with a storage capacity of up to 300m³/tank and a maximum operating pressure greater than 100kPa, as well as to ancillary equipment, safety and control equipment, piping and accessory equipment of the facilities, intended for supply to distribution networks or end users. Failure to comply with this statute triggers the assessment of fines of up to AOA 200,000,000 (roughly USD 1.830.000). This statute repeals Executive Decree No. 199/08, of 18 September 2008.

LPG TANKS TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

The Minister of Petroleum approved the Technical Regulations on Design, Construction, Installation, Operation, Maintenance, Repair and Modification of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Tanks, by means of Executive Decree No. 82/15, of 2 March 2015. Pursuant to the Regulations, LPG tanks can be removable, built on the building yard, or irremovable, built on the installation site. Failure to comply with this statute triggers the assessment of fines of up to AOA 300,000,000 (roughly USD 2.750.000). This statute repeals Executive Decree No. 186/08, of 9 September 2008.

FUEL GAS FACILITIES AND INSTALLATION OF GAS APPLIANCES IN BUILDINGS

By means of Executive Decree No. 83/15, of 3 March 2015, the Minister of Petroleum approved the Technical Regulations on Design, Construction, Exploitation and Maintenance of Fuel Gas Facilities and Installation of Gas Appliances in inhabited or occupied Buildings, or Buildings that are open to the public, or for commercial, industrial, agricultural and husbandry use, and their annexes. Failure to comply with this statute triggers the assessment of fines of up to AOA 200,000,000 (roughly USD 1.830.000). This statute repeals Executive Decrees Nos. 192/08 and 196/08, of 15 and 16 September 2008, respectively.

ENVIRONMENT

TECHNICAL STANDARD ON PROTECTION AGAINST ATMOSPHERIC DISCHARGES

Presidential Decree No. 63/15, of 9 March 2015, enacted the Technical Standard on Protection Against Atmospheric Discharges, which establishes technical rules for use, installation, inspection, and monitoring of atmospheric discharges control systems. The Technical Standard is binding as of 9 March 2015.

CORPORATE

NEW REGULATIONS ON NGOS

Presidential Decree No. 74/15, of 23 March 2015, approved the new Regulations on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO). The following amendments are noteworthy: a) National NGOs must register with the Institute for the Promotion and Coordination of Assistance to Communities ("IPROCAC"); b) foreign NGOs must first register with the ministerial department in charge of Justice and Human Rights and then with the ministerial department in charge of foreign affairs and IPROCAC; c) before starting their activities, NGOs are required to communicate to IPROCAC their sources of financing and relevant amounts. Existing NGOs are granted a 180-day period to comply with the regulations. Failure to do so may result in the suspension or dissolution of the NGO.

AVIATION

REGULATIONS ON CIVIL AVIATION EASEMENTS APPROVED

The Regulations on Civil Aviation Easements were recently enacted by Presidential Legislative Decree No. 1/15, of 6 March 2015. The new legal framework repealed Decree-Law No. 45987, of 22 October 1964, which was considered outdated. The Regulations on Civil Aviation Easements apply to all areas abutting the aeronautical infrastructure and subject to the easements required to ensure air traffic safety. The Regulations lay down specific rules for each type of easements, notably (i) easements over aerodrome infrastructure; (ii) easements over radio-electrical installations; and (iii) easements over aircraft operation. In addition, the statute also contains rules on easements over buildings abutting or neighboring aerodromes.

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