

## WHAT DOES A GAS METER COST ?

# Total Costs of Ownership from A to Z

Anyone that buys a car cannot possibly believe that once the purchase price is paid there are no more costs involved in running the car. Registration fees, insurance, road tax, maintenance, repairs, fuel, parking fines and many, many more costs mean that the proud owner's bank account is constantly under pressure. Indeed, if you add up all the costs, in many cases the total will be the same as the original purchase price. With gas meters, it is basically the same story. However, in this case, the follow-up costs can easily exceed the purchase price many times over. Not if you make the right choice!



*BK-meters: worth every cent – and more.*

The “follow-up costs” with domestic diaphragm meter begin with the packaging, or rather the disposal of the packaging after it has provided the meter with suitable protection during the transportation. For your benefit, we take care that the packaging only includes materials that can be disposed of in a conventional way. It's true that the packaging must be strong but the meter itself must also be robust enough to stand up to the strong hand of the fitter when it is installed. If this strong hand should for whatever reason lose its grip, our meters can withstand a drop from heights which exceed the European standards stipulated in EN1359.

If you carry out your own tests on receipt of the meter, you will also notice a few differences. Many customers have confirmed to us that, on account of the good metrological stability of our meters, they have reduced the number of random tests they do and, in so doing, have cut their costs quite considerably.

While the protective packaging and the robustness help to lower the costs at the beginning of a meter's life, later on it is the high-quality corrosion protection and the low noise level that play an important role. For over ten years, the pulse magnet has been a standard feature of our meters and this is another cost-saving factor. Why? Well, if there is no pulse output and the customer wants to retro-fit a remote readout system, for example, the meter would have to be prematurely scrapped.

When the meter is approaching the end of its life, it is not only the disposal costs the user has to worry about. The question as to how long you can spread the costs of purchase and installation is much more interesting. More and more countries are now using statistical recalibration. This is where random tests are used to determine whether a meter can remain on the grid or not. This means that, depending on the national regulations, the life of a high-quality meter that passes these tests can be extended considerably. If a 15-year-old meter does not pass the test, then no-one will continue to invest money in repairs and recalibration. In the last few years, we have collected and evaluated statistical data from over 6000 random field tests on our BK-G4 meters. This information clearly shows that the purchase of a BK-G4 is a good choice. The first models of this meter type have now passed the random tests for the second time – in Germany that means after twelve years – and there is no reason to believe that this will not continue in the future.

The calibration authorities in Europe will continue to intensify the monitoring of the market and random tests will be carried out much earlier than to date. “Fines” will be handed out quickly and will have a painful effect. The statistical recalibration does not take any systematic metering errors into account. In theory, all meters can measure 2% less during the course of the random test and still pass. A metering error of only 1% over 20 years can lead to an unaccounted gas value several times higher than the meter's purchase price. The above-mentioned statistics prove that this is not the case with our BK-G4 meters.

We are pleased to note that, in recent times, more and more people are paying attention to the total costs of ownership when purchasing a gas meter, a factor which for many years had been totally ignored. Customers are beginning to appreciate better results. This proves that we were right not to cut corners where quality is concerned, which, especially in recent years, has not always been easy to do. We would be delighted to discuss the data with you and to show you how we intend to guarantee our quality in the future so you can see that your confidence in us is not misplaced.

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