



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration



**PHMSA**  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
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Safety Administration**



# PHMSA

# Advisory Bulletins



## Advisory Bulletin No. ADB-09-04 Issued Jan 19, 2010

### Pipeline Safety: Natural Gas and HL Pipeline Operators

- PHMSA advises operators, beginning with MIS reports due by March 15, 2010, OPS will begin collecting annual drug and alcohol testing data for contractor employees. **Contractors will be identified both by name and business tax identification number (BTIN) in the MIS report.** The inclusion of the BTIN will ensure employees of the same contractor are only counted once when OPS calculates the required random testing rate.



## **Advisory Bulletin No. ADB-09-04**

### **Issued Jan 19, 2010**

## **Pipeline Safety: Natural Gas and HL Pipeline Operators**

- The total number of covered employees is **not** limited to those who physically worked in a maintenance, operations, or emergency response role during the previous calendar year. **The definition of "performs a covered function" in Part 199.3 includes actually performing, ready to perform, or immediately available to perform a covered function.** Operators need to be aware of this definition when calculating the number of covered employees for both the operator and contractors. **Employees who "perform a covered function", are required to be included in the random drug testing pool.** The average size of a properly maintained random drug testing pool defines the number of covered employees.



## **Advisory Bulletin No. ADB-10-03**

**Issued March 04, 2010**

### **Pipeline Safety: Natural Gas and HL Pipeline Operators**

- Owners and operators of recently constructed large diameter pipelines should evaluate these lines for potential girth weld failures due to misalignment and other issues by reviewing construction and operating records and conducting engineering reviews as necessary. The assessments should cover all 20-inch or greater, high strength line pipe transitions and cut factory bends or induction bends installed during 2008 and 2009.
- Evaluations should include material specifications, field construction procedures, caliper tool results, deformation tool results, welding procedures including back welding, NDT records, failures or leaks during hydrostatic testing, or in-service operations to identify systemic problems with pipe girth weld geometry.



## **Advisory Bulletin No. ADB-10-03**

**Issued March 04, 2010**

### **Pipeline Safety: Natural Gas and HL Pipeline Operators**

- Even if no girth weld concerns are identified by reviewing construction records, if an operator has any knowledge, findings or operating history that leads them to believe that their line pipe segments contain these type girth weld transitions, the operator should conduct engineering reviews to ensure that material, engineering design, and field construction procedures were in compliance with 49 CFR Parts 192 and 195. Failure to conduct engineering reviews and to remediate findings may compromise the safe operation of the pipeline.



## Advisory Bulletin No. ADB-10-04

Issued April 22, 2010

### Pipeline Safety: Natural Gas and HL Pipeline Operators

- Advises operators that the new electronic incident/accident reporting system is available online at <http://pipelineonlinereporting.phmsa.dot.gov>. The new online system can also be accessed through the old system at <http://opsweb.phmsa.dot.gov> and click on "Incidents on or after Jan 1, 2010". Each operator may use their current operator ID and PIN from the old system to access the new system. **The new online system is for incidents/accidents occurring on or after January 1, 2010**. The old online system is still available for filing supplemental reports for incidents/accidents that occurred prior to January 1, 2010, and is still the system for filing annual reports and Gas Integrity Management Program (IMP) reports.



## **Advisory Bulletin No. ADB-10-06**

**Issued August 03, 2010**

### **Pipeline Safety: Natural Gas and HL Pipeline Operators Personal Electronic Device Related Distractions**

- Remind owners and operators of natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline facilities of the increased risks associated with the use of personal electronic devices (PEDs) by individuals performing operations and maintenance activities on a pipeline facility
- Recommends that operators integrate into their written procedures for operations and maintenance appropriate controls regarding use of PEDs, and provide guidance and training about the risks associated with PEDs



## **Advisory Bulletin No. ADB-10-08**

**Issued October 28, 2010**

### **Pipeline Safety: Natural Gas and HL Pipeline Operators Emergency Preparedness Communications**

- PHMSA reminds pipeline operators of the need to share the operator's emergency response plans with emergency responders to ensure a prompt, effective, and coordinated response to any type of emergency involving a pipeline facility. Pipeline operators are required to maintain an informed relationship with emergency responders.
- PHMSA recommends that operators provide such information to emergency responders through the operator's liaison and public awareness activities, including during joint emergency response drills. PHMSA intends to evaluate the extent to which operators have provided local emergency responders with their emergency plans when performing future compliance inspections.



## **Advisory Bulletin No. ADB-11-02**

**Issued February 03, 2011**

### **Pipeline Safety: Natural Gas Pipeline Operators**

## **Dangers of Abnormal Snow and Ice Build-Up on Gas Distribution Systems**

- PHMSA is advising operators whether those facilities are regulated by PHMSA or state agencies, to consider the following steps to address the safety risks from accumulated snow and ice on pipeline facilities:
- **1.** Notify customers and other entities of the need for caution associated with excessive accumulation and removal of snow and ice. Notice should include the need to clear snow and ice from exhaust and combustion air vents for gas appliances to:
  - (a) Prevent accumulation of carbon monoxide in buildings; or
  - (b) Prevent operational problems for the combustion equipment.
- **2.** Pay attention to snow and ice related situations that may cause operational problems for pressure control and other equipment.



## **Advisory Bulletin No. ADB-11-02**

**Issued February 03, 2011**

### **Pipeline Safety: Natural Gas Pipeline Operators**

## **Dangers of Abnormal Snow and Ice Build-Up on Gas Distribution Systems**

- **3.** Monitor the accumulation of moisture, snow, or ice blocking regulator or relief valve vents which could prevent proper function.
- **4.** Service regulator sets are susceptible to damage and failure if caution is not used when cleaning snow from around the equipment.
- **5.** Remind the public to contact the gas company or designated emergency response officials if there is an odor of gas present or if gas appliances are not functioning properly. Also, they should leave their residence immediately if they detect a gas or propane odor and report it to their gas operator, propane operator, or designated emergency response officials.



## **Advisory Bulletin No. ADB-11-04**

**Issued July 27, 2011**

### **Pipeline Safety: Pipeline Operators**

## **Potential for Damage to Pipeline Facilities Caused by Flooding**

Severe flooding is the kind of unusual operating condition that can adversely affect the safe operation of a pipeline and require corrective action under §§ 192.613(a) and 195.401(b). In October 1994, major flooding along the San Jacinto River near Houston, Texas, resulted in eight pipeline failures and compromised the integrity of several other pipelines.

### **Prevent & Mitigate!**

1. Evaluate the accessibility ... such as valve settings, which are needed to isolate water crossings or other sections of a pipeline.
2. Extend regulator vents and relief stacks above the level of anticipated flooding, as appropriate.



## **Advisory Bulletin No. ADB-11-04**

**Issued July 27, 2011**

### **Pipeline Safety: Pipeline Operators**

## **Potential for Damage to Pipeline Facilities Caused by Flooding**

3. Coordinate with emergency and spill responders on pipeline location and condition. Provide maps and other relevant information to such responders.
4. Coordinate with other pipeline operators in the flood area and establish emergency response centers to act as a liaison for pipeline problems and solutions.
5. Deploy personnel so that they will be in position to take emergency actions, such as shut down, isolation, or containment.
6. Determine if facilities that are normally above ground (e.g., valves, regulators, relief sets, etc.) have become submerged and are in danger of being struck by vessels or debris; if possible, such facilities should be marked with an appropriate buoy with Coast Guard approval.





## **Advisory Bulletin No. ADB-11-04**

**Issued July 27, 2011**

### **Pipeline Safety: Pipeline Operators**

## **Potential for Damage to Pipeline Facilities Caused by Flooding**

7. Perform frequent patrols, including appropriate overflights, to evaluate right-of-way conditions at water crossings during flooding and after waters subside. Determine if flooding has exposed or undermined pipelines as a result of new river channels cut by the flooding or by erosion or scouring.

8. Perform surveys to determine the depth of cover over pipelines and the condition of any exposed pipelines, such as those crossing scour holes. Where appropriate, ... visual inspection by divers or instrumented detection. Information gathered by these surveys should be shared with affected landowners.

9. Ensure that line markers are still in place or replaced in a timely manner. Notify contractors, highway departments, and others involved in post-flood restoration activities of the presence of pipelines and the risks posed by reduced cover.





**Final Rule Issued Dec 04, 2009**

**49 CFR Part 192**

**Docket ID: PHMSA-2004-19854**

**Pipeline Safety: Integrity Management Program for Gas  
Distribution Pipelines**

- **Distribution Integrity Management:** The final rule revises 49 CFR Part 192 to add a new “Subpart P”, and adds new integrity management requirements applicable to distribution pipelines.
- This addresses statutory mandates and builds on previous similar requirements established for gas transmission pipelines. The final rule also adds a requirement that operators install excess flow valves (EFV) on all new and replaced residential service lines serving single residences, as required by the 2002 PIPES Act.
- Rule is applicable to master meter and LPG operators as well, with fewer requirements. **(Effective Date: February 12, 2010)**



**Final Rule Issued August 11, 2010**

**49 CFR Part 192, 193, 195**

**Docket ID: PHMSA-2008-0301**

**Pipeline Safety: Updates to Referenced Tech Std's and Misc. Edits**

- **Referenced Std. Updates:** Incorporate by reference (IBR) all or parts of new editions of voluntary consensus standards to allow pipeline operators to use current technology, new materials, and other industry and management practices. Also makes non-substantive edits and clarify regulatory language in certain provisions.

**(Effective Date October 01, 2010)**



## Final Rule Issued August 11, 2010

### 49 CFR Part 192, 193, 195

### Docket ID: PHMSA-2008-0301

## Pipeline Safety: Updates to Referenced Tech Std's and Misc. Edits

- **Part 192 Updates:** PHMSA **did not** incorporate by reference the following updated ASTM International standards:
- ASTM D638; Standard Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics (2008 edition)
- ASTM D2513; Standard Specification for Thermoplastic Gas Pressure Pipe, Tubing and Fittings (2007 edition)
- ASTM D2517; Standard Specification for Reinforced Epoxy Resin Gas Pressure Pipe and Fittings (2006)
- ASTM F1055; Standard Specification for Electrofusion-Type Poly Fittings for O.D. Controller Poly Pipe and Tubing (2006)



## Final Rule Issued August 11, 2010

### 49 CFR Part 192, 193, 195

### Docket ID: PHMSA-2008-0301

## Pipeline Safety: Updates to Referenced Tech Std's and Misc. Edits

- **Part 192 Updates:** PHMSA has determined that the following updated National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards **will not** be incorporated by reference at this time.
- NFPA 58; Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code (LP-Gas Code) (2008 edition)
- NFPA 59; Utility LP-Gas Plant Code (2008 edition)
- **PHMSA did not adopt** the proposed requirement that Part 192 would prevail if there is a conflict between Part 192 and NFPA 58 or NFPA 59.



## **Final Rule Issued August 11, 2010**

### **49 CFR Part 192, 193, 195**

### **Docket ID: PHMSA-2008-0301**

## **Pipeline Safety: Updates to Referenced Tech Std's and Misc. Edits**

- PHMSA continues to have concerns regarding the level of safety required in NFPA 58 and 59 standards in certain subject areas. PHMSA believes that the NFPA 58 and 59 committees should analyze the following topics in consideration of public safety: Internal valves on tank penetrations transporting propane, relief valves, equipment separation and location distances, facility cathodic protection, and requirements for "retroactive" application of the standards.
- **PHMSA will address the subject of NFPA 58 and 59 primacy under a separate rulemaking. When a conflict exists, NFPA 58 or 59 continue to prevail.**



## **Final Rule Issued August 11, 2010**

### **49 CFR Part 192, 193, 195**

### **Docket ID: PHMSA-2008-0301**

## **Pipeline Safety: Updates to Referenced Tech Std's and Misc. Edits**

- **Part 192 Updates:** In §192.3, added definitions for "Active corrosion", "Electrical survey", and "Pipeline environment". (Moved from 192.465 (e))
- On April 14, 2009 (74 FR 17099), PHMSA published a Direct Final Rule that incorporated by reference the 2007 editions of API Specification 5L "Specification for Line Pipe" and API 1104 "Welding of Pipelines and Related Facilities." PHMSA has eliminated the use of the previous editions of these standards.



## Final Rule Issued August 11, 2010

### 49 CFR Part 192, 193, 195

### Docket ID: PHMSA-2008-0301

## Pipeline Safety: Updates to Referenced Tech Std's and Misc. Edits

- **Part 192 Updates:** **Revised 192.711** to make clear that repair time conditions for Pipeline Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas (HCA), for pipelines covered by §192.711 pertain only to non-integrity management repairs.
- **Subpart K** does not require a new pressure test be conducted at the time of uprating unless the old pressure test cannot justify the uprated pressure. 192.555(c) explicitly allows the use of a previous pressure test as the basis for establishing a higher MAOP in higher stress pipelines. Since §192.555(c) allows a previous pressure test, PHMSA will now allow a previous pressure test for pipelines under 192.557 for steel pipelines and in plastic, cast iron, and ductile iron pipelines.



## **API Expands Access to its Safety Standards**

- The American Petroleum Institute (API) announced it would provide free online public access to a large group of key industry standards, including a broad range of safety standards.
- Once changes to the API website are complete, 160 standards will be available online, and represent almost one-third of all API standards.
- Will include all that are safety-related or have been incorporated into federal regulation.

<http://publications.api.org/Pipeline-Operation.aspx>



# ADB - Oct 11, 2012

- **Communication During Emergency Situations**

–...operators should immediately and directly notify the Public Safety Access Point (PSAP) that serves the communities and jurisdictions...



– PHMSA believes that immediate contact and conversation should be established between pipeline facility operators and PSAP staff when there is any indication of a pipeline rupture or other emergency condition



# December 5, 2012 Letter

Director, Office of Secretary of  
Transportation, Office of Drug and Alcohol  
Policy and Compliance  
Department of Transportation

- State initiatives have no bearing on the Department of Transportation's regulated drug testing program. The Department of Transportation's Drug and Alcohol Testing Regulation – 49 CFR Part 40 – does not authorize the use of Schedule I drugs, including marijuana, for any reason



# Notice December 6, 2012

## **Notice of Minimum Annual Percentage Rate for Random Drug Testing.**

Minimum random drug testing rate for covered employees will remain at 25 percent during calendar year 2013.

User name and password available from PHMSA portal at  
<https://portal.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline>



# Forms

## December 13, 2012

- PHMSA has extended the deadline for the calendar year 2012 report from March 15, 2013 to June 15, 2013.
- Online submission will be enabled no later than March 1, 2013
- Online submission via PHMSA Portal is required unless an alternative reporting method is granted



ADB 2012 -11

December 21, 2012

Reporting of Exceedances of Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure

Gas Transmission Operators

Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty and Job Creation Act of 2011, Section 23(a)

If pipeline pressure exceeds MAOP plus the build-up allowed for operation of pressure-limiting or control devices, the owner or operator must report the exceedance to PHMSA **on or before the fifth day** following the date on which the exceedance occurs.



ADB 2012 -11

December 21, 2012

## Reporting of Exceedances of Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure

- Submit information comparable to that required for a safety-related condition report as found in §191.25(b)
- Report titled “Gas Transmission MAOP Exceedance”
  - Operator information, person who determined, date of discovery and determination, location, and corrective actions taken
  - Reporting methods as described in §191.25(a)



# Notice January, 2013

## Annual Reports, OpID Validation, and Supplemental Reports

- Changes to gas, hazardous liquid and LNG Annual Report Forms approved 12/5/12
- Extending filing deadline to June 15, 2013
- Online data entry enabled no later than March 1, 2013



# Notice January, 2013

## Annual Reports, OpID Validation, and Supplemental Reports

- 49 CFR §§ 191.22 and 195.64 require operators to validate data on file with PHMSA by September 30, 2012
- Approximately 16% of operators have not complied
- To avoid enforcement actions, operators should complete on-line validation



# Notice

## January, 2013

### Annual Reports, OpID Validation, and Supplemental Reports

- Gas Transmission Annual Reports in HCAs
  - Numbers for incidents occurring in HCAs from IM reporting does not agree with incident report data
- LNG Reports
  - Inconsistencies between annual reports, incident reports, and SRC reports
- Operators urged to submit supplemental reports as needed to correct data



# Reporting “Reportables”

- The 2012 Act states
- SEC. 9. ACCIDENT AND INCIDENT NOTIFICATION.
- (a) REVISION OF REGULATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall revise regulations issued under sections 191.5 and 195.52 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, to establish specific time limits for telephonic or electronic notice of accidents and incidents involving pipeline facilities to the Secretary and the National Response Center.



# Reporting “Reportables”

- (b) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—In revising the regulations, the Secretary, at a minimum, shall—
- (1) establish time limits for telephonic or electronic notification ... following confirmed discovery of an accident or incident and not later than 1 hour following the time of such confirmed discovery;
- (2) review procedures for owners and operators of pipeline facilities and the National Response Center to provide thorough and coordinated notification to all relevant State and local emergency response officials, including 911 emergency call centers, for the jurisdictions in which those pipeline facilities are located in the event of an accident or incident, and revise such procedures as appropriate; and



# Reporting “Reportables”

- (3) require such owners and operators to revise their initial telephonic or electronic notice to the Secretary and the National Response Center with an estimate of the amount of the product released, an estimate of the number of fatalities and injuries, if any, and any other information determined appropriate by the Secretary within 48 hours of the accident or incident, to the extent practicable.
- (c) UPDATING OF REPORTS.—After receiving revisions described in subsection (b)(3), the National Response Center shall update the initial report on an accident or incident instead of generating a new report.



# Reporting “Reportables”

- **Advisory Bulletin (ADB-2013-01)**
  - ...contact the NRC within one hour of discovery of a pipeline incident and should also file additional telephonic reports if there are significant changes in the number of fatalities or injuries, product release estimates or the extent of damages.
  - PHMSA will issue a proposed rule at a later date, but encourages ...



# Enforcement Guidance

Various enforcement guidance is available at:  
<http://phmsa.dot.gov/foia/e-reading-room>

• Includes O&M, OQ, Corrosion, Public Awareness

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## Electronic Reading Room

Only Reading Room records created on or after November 1, 1996, are required to be made available electronically.

Other Reading Room records maintained by PHMSA can be accessed from the following conventional (paper) Reading Room(s):

**DOT Dockets Office**  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Room W12-140  
Washington, D.C. 20590

10:00-17:00 ET  
Monday through Friday,  
except Federal holidays.

A computer terminal and printer are available at this location for accessing Electronic Reading Room records.

For access, call 202-366-9322, 202-366-9826, or 800-647-5527

**This Electronic Reading Room notes four categories of records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA):**

**I. Final Opinions and Orders**

- ▶ [Hazmat Decisions on Appeal](#)
- ▶ [Hazmat Orders of the Chief Counsel](#)
- ▶ [Pipeline Final Orders \(2002-Present\)](#)
- ▶ [Pipeline Corrective Action Orders \(2002-Present\)](#)
- ▶ [Pipeline Closed Notices of Amendment \(2002-Present\)](#)
- ▶ [Pipeline Compliance Documents \(pre-2002\)](#)

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- ▶ [Pipeline Interpretations](#)
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- ▶ [SBREFA Policy](#)
- ▶ [Hazmat Systems Integrity Safety Program Policy](#)
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# Enforcement Guidance

<b>Enforcement Guidance</b>	O&M Part 192
<b>Revision Date</b>	09-28-2011
<b>Code Section</b>	§192.703
<b>Section Title</b>	General
<b>Existing Code Language</b>	<p>(a) No person may operate a segment of pipeline, unless it is maintained in accordance with this subpart.</p> <p>(b) Each segment of pipeline that becomes unsafe must be replaced, repaired, or removed from service.</p> <p>(c) Hazardous leaks must be repaired promptly.</p>
<b>Origin of Code</b>	Original Code Document, 35 FR 13248, 08-19-70
<b>Last Amendment</b>	
<b>Interpretation Summaries</b>	<p><b>Interpretation: PI-ZZ-065 Date: 05-22-1998</b></p> <p>The only safety standard in Part 192 that governs the maintenance of service line valves is §192.703(b). This section requires the repair, replacement, or removal from service of any segment of pipeline, including a valve that is unsafe. Although the inability to operate a service line valve may be reason to apply §192.703(b), Part 192 does not require inspection of service line valves to see if they are operable.</p> <p><b>Interpretation: PI-89-021 Date: 09-27-1989</b></p> <p>The letter requested clarification of our August 31, 1989, letter regarding protection for offshore pipelines. The requirements of 49 CFR 192.317(a) applies to conditions known or that can be foreseen at the time of construction. Thereafter, an operator does not have a continuing obligation under this rule to provide protection against hazards from changed or new conditions. However, if the operator learns the pipeline has become unsafe due to these changed or new conditions, the operator would</p>

<b>Advisory Bulletin/Alert Notice Summaries</b>	
<b>Other Reference Material &amp; Source</b>	GPTC Guide Material is available.
<b>Guidance Information</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Operators need to repair of conditions that are "unsafe" or "could adversely affect the safe operation of [the] pipeline system," but do not specify a time period in which the required repairs must be made.</li> <li>2. Operator needs to define hazardous leak. Part 192 Subpart P defines hazardous leaks. While this definition is only applicable to distribution systems, it may provide guidance for defining hazardous leaks. See §192.711 for additional guidance material.</li> <li>3. Operator needs to have a leak classification system if all leaks are not repaired promptly.</li> <li>4. Operator needs to have written procedures for leak classification and defining required repairs including time frames for performing repairs.</li> <li>5. Operator must have a process for documenting leaks.</li> </ol>
<b>Examples of a Probable Violation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The lack of a procedure is a violation of §192.605.</li> <li>2. The lack of records is a violation of §192.603.</li> <li>3. The operator did not follow written procedures.</li> <li>4. Operator does not have a leak classification process.</li> <li>5. Pipelines known to be unsafe are not repaired.</li> <li>6. Operator did not perform repairs in a timely manner or in accordance with their procedures.</li> </ol>



# **PHMSA Information Websites**

## **PHMSA Inspector Training and Qualifications**

**<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/tq>**

## **PHMSA Pipeline Safety Regulations**

**<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/tq/regs>**

## **PHMSA Rulemaking**

**<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/regs/rulemaking>**