

**Proposed Changes**  
**Adoption by reference rulemaking - 2001**  
**A-010827**

**Chapter 480-93 Gas Companies – Safety**

**WAC 480-93-005 Definitions.**

(1) Bar hole - a hole that has been made in the soil or paving for the specific purpose of testing the subsurface atmosphere with a combustible gas indicator.

(2) Building - any structure which is normally or occasionally entered by humans for business, residential, or other purposes and within which gas could accumulate.

(3) Combustible gas indicator (CGI) - a device capable of detecting and measuring gas concentrations of the gas being transported.

(4) Confined space - any subsurface structure of sufficient size which could accommodate a person and within which gas could accumulate, e.g., vaults, catch basins, manholes, etc.

(5) Follow-up inspection - an inspection performed after a repair has been completed in order to determine the effectiveness of the repair.

(6) Gas - natural gas, flammable gas, or gas which is toxic or corrosive.

(7) Gas associated substructures - those devices or facilities utilized by a gas company which are not intended for storing, transporting, or distributing gas, such as valve boxes, vaults, test boxes, and vented casing pipe.

(8) Gas company - the term "gas company" shall mean:

(a) Every gas company otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the commission under Title 80 RCW as to rates and service; and

(b) Every person, corporation, city, or town which owns or operates a pipeline transporting gas in this state, even though such person, corporation, city, or town is not a public service company under chapter 80.28 RCW, and even though such person, corporation, city, or town does not deliver, sell, or furnish gas to any person or corporation within this state.

(9) Gathering line - a gas pipeline which transports gas from the outlet of a well and any associated compressor to the connection with a second gathering line or with a transmission line.

(10) Indication - a response indicated by a gas detection instrument that has not been verified as a reading.

(11) L.E.L. - the lower explosive limit of the gas being transported.

(12) Main - a gas pipeline, not a gathering or transmission line:

(a) Which serves as a common source of gas for more than one service line;

(b) Which crosses a public right of way; or

(c) Which crosses property not owned by the customer or the gas company.

(13) Master meter system - a pipeline system for distributing gas to more than one building within, but not limited to, a definable area, such as a mobile home park, housing project, or apartment complex, where the operator purchases metered gas from an outside source for distribution to ultimate consumers other than the system operator's immediate family through a gas distribution pipeline system.

(14) Maximum operating pressure - a maximum pressure selected by a gas company for operation of a pipeline or segment of a pipeline, which is equal to or less than the maximum allowable operating pressure derived pursuant to 49 CFR, Part 192 on the date specified in WAC 480-93-999.

(15) Prompt action - shall consist of dispatching qualified personnel without undue delay for the purpose of evaluating and where necessary abating an existing or probable hazard.

(16) Reading - a repeatable deviation on a combustible gas indicator or equivalent instrument expressed in percent L.E.L. or gas-air ratio. Where the reading is in an unvented, confined space, consideration shall be given to the rate of dissipation when the space is ventilated and the rate of accumulation when the space is resealed.

(17) Service line - a gas pipeline, not a main, gathering or transmission line, which provides service to one building. Service lines shall include gas pipelines extended from a main to provide service to one building, which traverse a public right of way or an easement immediately adjacent to a public right of way or another easement.

(18) Transmission line - a gas pipeline which connects to an existing transmission line without pressure regulation to lower the pressure; which is downstream of the connection of two or more gathering lines; and as defined in 49 CFR, Part 192, section 192.3 on the date specified in WAC 480-93-999.

(19) Tunnel - a subsurface passageway large enough for a person to enter and within which gas could accumulate.

(20) Other terms which correspond to those used in 49 CFR, Parts 191, 192 and 199 (Minimum Federal Safety Standards for Gas Pipelines) shall be construed as used therein on the date specified in WAC 490-93-999.

**Comments:**

1. Changes in subsections (14), (18) and (20) adds cross-references to 480-93-999.

**WAC 480-93-010 Compliance with federal standards.**

Gas companies' gathering, storage, distribution, and transmission facilities must be designed, constructed, maintained, and operated in compliance with the provisions of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 191, 192, 193 and 199 in effect on the date specified in WAC 480-93-999 June 13, 2001. The provisions of this chapter shall govern to the extent that the standards in the state regulations are compatible with the federal standards. ~~Copies of the above referenced regulations can be viewed at the commission branch of the Washington state library or are available from the Government Printing Office Bookstore, Seattle, Washington.~~

**Comments:**

1. Change adds a cross-reference to WAC 480-93-999.

2. Moves language to WAC 480-93-999.

**WAC 480-93-015 Odorization of gas.**

All gas being transported by pipeline in this state, and all gas consumed by an end use customer, shall be odorized in accordance with 49 CFR, Part 192.625 [in effect on the date specified in WAC 480-93-999](#), unless waiver is approved in advance of such transportation, in writing, by the commission.

**Comments:**

*1. Change adds a cross-reference to WAC 480-93-999.*

**WAC 480-93-110 Corrosion control.**

Every gas company must ensure that all of its metallic gas pipelines, except cast iron and ductile iron, are protected by a recognized method or combination of methods of cathodic protection. Every gas company shall record and retain all cathodic protection test readings taken and complete remedial action within ninety days to correct any cathodic protection deficiencies known and indicated by the company's records.

Whenever a gas company finds from investigation as required by 49 CFR, Part 192 [in effect on the date specified in WAC 480-93-999](#), that cathodic protection of gas pipelines is not needed, the company shall submit to the commission a report setting forth good and sufficient reasons why such protection is not required. The report shall include the results of soil tests and other supporting data.

**Comments:**

*1. Change in second paragraph adds a cross-reference to WAC 480-93-999.*

**WAC 480-93-124 Pipeline markers.**

All buried gas pipelines shall have pipeline markers placed and maintained as close as practical over each main and transmission line as required by 49 CFR, Part 192.707. Off-set pipeline markers may be used only if they indicate the distance from and direction to the pipeline. The pipeline markers shall be double-faced or single-faced signs. Single-faced signs may be used on posts of distinctive color and shall meet the requirements of 49 CFR, Part 192.707(d). Pipeline markers shall be placed at all railroad crossings, road crossings, irrigation and drainage ditch crossings, and at all fence lines where a pipeline crosses private property. Pipeline markers required by 49 CFR, Part 192.707(a), shall be placed approximately five hundred yards apart if practical and at points of deflection of the pipeline. Exceptions to this rule must conform with 49 CFR, Part 192.707(b).

[Information about 49 CFR regarding the version currently in effect and where to obtain it is set out in WAC 480-93-999.](#)

**Comments:**

*1. Change adds a cross-reference to WAC 480-93-999.*

**WAC 480-93-155 Increasing maximum operating pressure.**

Notwithstanding the requirements of any other section of this chapter, the commission shall be furnished complete written plans and drawings of each pressure uprating to a

maximum operating pressure greater than sixty psig, at least thirty days prior to raising the pressure. The plan shall include a review of the following:

- (1) All affected gas facilities, including pipe, fittings, valves, and other associated equipment, with their manufactured design operating pressure and specifications;
- (2) Original design and construction standards;
- (3) All previous operating pressures and length of time at that pressure;
- (4) All leaks, regardless of cause, and the date and method of repair;
- (5) All upstream and downstream regulators and relief valves; and
- (6) All cathodic protection readings on mains for the past three years or three most recent inspections, whichever is longer, and the most recent inspection on each attached service line, which is electrically isolated. The plan shall conform with the requirements of 49 CFR, Part 192 [in effect on the date specified in WAC 480-93-999](#).

**Comments:**

*1. Change to subsection (6) adds a cross-reference to WAC 480-93-999.*

**WAC 480-93-180 Plan of operations and maintenance procedures; emergency policy; reporting requirements.**

In compliance with the provisions and general intent of the federal "Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act," 49 CFR, Part 192 [in effect in the date specified in WAC 480-93-999](#), every gas company shall develop appropriate operating, maintenance, safety, and inspection plans and procedures and an emergency policy. Such plans and procedures, and all subsequent changes and amendments, initiated by the gas company or pursuant to changes in state and federal rules and regulations, shall be promptly filed with the commission, for review and determination as to their adequacy, when properly executed, to achieve an acceptable level of safety. The commission may, after notice and opportunity for hearing, require such plans and procedures to be revised. The plans and procedures required by the commission shall be practicable and designed to meet the needs of safety. In determining the adequacy of such plans and procedures to achieve an acceptable level of safety, the commission shall consider:

- (1) Relevant available pipeline safety data;
- (2) Whether the plans and procedures are appropriate for the particular type of pipeline operations being performed by the gas company, taking into consideration company size, geographical area of operation, and the public interest;
- (3) The reasonableness of the plans and procedures; and
- (4) The extent to which the plans and procedures, if properly executed, will contribute to an acceptable level of public safety being achieved by the company.

Furthermore, every gas company shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining such records, making such reports, and providing such information as the commission may reasonably require to enable it to determine whether the gas company has acted and is acting in compliance with these rules and regulations and the standards established thereunder. Every gas company shall, upon request of the commission and its authorized representatives, permit the commission and its authorized representatives to inspect books, papers, records, and documents relevant to determining whether the gas company and its agents have acted and are acting in compliance with these rules and regulations

and the standards established thereunder. Such commission inspections shall be conducted at reasonable times, within reasonable limits, and in a reasonable manner, and each inspection shall be commenced and completed with reasonable promptness.

Comments:

1. Change adds a cross-reference to WAC 480-93-999.

**WAC 480-93-220 Rule of precedence.**

Where there is any conflict between the provisions of CFR 49, Part 192 (Minimum Federal Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Standards) in effect on the date specified in WAC 480-93-999 and any rule specifically set forth herein, the former shall govern.

These rules shall take precedence over all orders, heretofore made by the commission, insofar as said orders may be inconsistent with these rules.

These rules shall take precedence over all rules filed or to be filed by gas companies insofar as inconsistent therewith. Rules of the gas companies now on file and inconsistent with the rules herein established shall be properly revised and refiled within sixty days from the effective date of this order.

Comments:

1. Change adds a cross-reference to WAC 480-93-999.

New Section

WAC 480-93-999 Adoption by reference.

In this chapter, the commission adopts by reference all or portions of regulations and standards identified below. They are available for inspection at the commission branch of the Washington state library. The publications, effective dates, references within this chapter, and availability of the resources are as follows:

Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, cited as 49 CFR, including all appendices and amendments is published by the United States Government Printing Office.

(1) The commission adopts the version in effect on July 1, 2001.

(2) This publication is referenced in WAC 480-93-005, 480-93-010, 480-93-015, 480-93-110, 480-93-124, 480-93-155, 480-93-180 and 480-93-220.

(3) Copies of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations are available from the Seattle Office of the Government Printing Office and from various third party vendors.

Comments:

1. New section created to change the section number to be consistent throughout Title 480 chapters.

2. Adoption by reference dates changed.

3. Cross-references added that identify the sections within this chapter that refer to adopted material.