

Chapter PSC 135

INTERIM GAS SAFETY RULES AND REGULATIONS

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PSC 135.01 Application of rules. Every gas utility shall comply with the interim gas safety rules in this chapter.

PSC 135.02 Gas-leak detection program. Every gas utility shall maintain a gas-leak detection program and shall maintain records of operation under the program. The program shall consist of not less than the following:

(1) In the principal business districts (as shown by maps filed with this commission by each utility prior to December 1, 1952) a reasonable street-opening survey shall be conducted twice annually by making tests with combustible gas indicators in street openings such as telephone and electric vaults and manholes, catch basins and sewer-system manholes, and gas-system openings. At least one survey shall be completed within 12 months prior to March 1, 1953.

(2) In such principal business districts a building survey shall be conducted once a year. The piping from the entrance to the meter outlet and metering and regulating equipment shall be tested for gas leakage in those buildings that have gas service. At least one such survey shall be completed within 12 months prior to March 1, 1953.

(3) A survey of all buildings used for public gatherings such as schools, churches, hospitals, and theaters shall be conducted once each year. The piping from the service entrance to the meter outlet and metering and regulating equipment shall be tested for gas leakage. At least one such survey shall be completed within 12 months prior to March 1, 1953.

(4) In residential areas in addition to a survey of public buildings, the vegetation shall be checked, at least one street opening shall be checked if one exists in each block or at each intersection, and on streets where the gas system is operating at a pressure of more than 10 pounds per square inch gauge all street openings shall be checked. (See section PSC 135.02 (1) above for types of street openings.) At least one street-opening survey shall be completed within 12 months prior to March 1, 1953, and a vegetation survey shall be completed by September 1, 1953. The tests shall be made once each year thereafter.

(5) Along lines in rural areas the vegetation shall be checked prior to September 1, 1953 and annually thereafter.

(6) When a leak complaint is received and the odor of gas indicates there is a leak in or near the premises, a search shall be carried to conclusion until such leak is found.

PSC 135.03 When street is paved or repaved. Whenever a road or street is to be paved or repaved with permanent pavement, the utility shall to the extent possible:

(1) Check for leaks along all mains and services in the streets and abutting property. This check shall be conducted by testing with a combustible gas indicator air samples taken from holes placed near the pipes.

(2) Determine condition of pipe and joints by sample visual examinations.

(3) Place clamps on, reconstruct, or repair joints if they are likely to dry out or are leaking.

(4) Replace pipe if existing pipe is corroded to such an extent that it is likely to require replacement before the street is again resurfaced.

PSC 135.04 Leak; further check. When a leak is found and repaired, a further check shall be made in the vicinity of the repaired leak to determine if there is any other source of migrant gas in the neighborhood.

PSC 135.05 Underground pipes. Whenever underground pipes are exposed in order to repair leaks, the utility shall record on the repair order the nature of the leak and possible cause from observation.

PSC 135.06 Regulators, inspection. Regulators shall be inspected by the utility in compliance with the following requirements:

(1) District regulators and associated safety devices shall be cleaned, lubricated, and checked for proper operation. Worn, damaged, or corroded parts shall be replaced and the entire installation checked to determine compliance with these rules and rules of good practice. The inspection shall be made within 12 months prior to March 1, 1953 and once each year thereafter.

(2) Company service regulators and associated safety devices on customers' premises must be inspected and tested periodically to determine whether they are in proper operating condition. The test interval shall be the same as the interval between meter changes in the meter rotation program.

PSC 135.07 Construction changes. Utilities shall make the following construction changes as soon as practicable but not later than December 1, 1953 unless construction already conforms or equally as safe methods are in use:

(1) All distribution main systems operating at gauge pressures of a 10-inch water column or less that are being supplied through a pressure-reducing valve must be protected by suitable safety devices to prevent the distribution main systems from developing pressures in excess of 1½ pounds per square-inch gauge.

(2) Distribution main systems operating at gauge pressures greater than 10-inches water column supplied through regulators from higher pressure systems must be protected by suitable safety devices to prevent pressures in excess of 2.0 times the peak-load operating pressure but not in excess of the design pressure of that system.

(3) Pressure relief and breather vents shall be provided on all house service pressure regulators operating from distribution main pressures in excess of 10-pounds gauge and such vents shall terminate outside buildings, pits, and confined spaces in rain-proof, insect-proof fittings.

(4) Breather vents shall be provided on all house service regulators operating on distribution main systems 10-pounds gauge and under and such vents shall terminate outside buildings, pits, and confined spaces in rain-proof, insect-proof fittings.

(5) Pressure relief vents must be sufficient size and so installed as to relieve the entire capacity of the relief valve.

(6) Relief vents associated with district regulators shall be installed in such a manner as to minimize conditions hazardous to life or property. Vents should not terminate near windows or locations where gas can return to confined areas.

(7) Shut-off valves shall be provided in the supply lines for regulator stations supplying low-distribution systems. These valves shall be in accessible locations not closer than 25 feet and preferably not more than 1,500 feet distant from each regulator station. Records shall be maintained to show specific valve locations, and such records shall be made continuously accessible for use under emergency conditions. Such valves shall be inspected at least once each year and maintained in operating condition.

(8) All district regulator enclosures shall be ventilated in a way to remove accumulations of gas or shall be closed to prevent intentional or accidental introduction of sources of ignition into the enclosures.

(9) All underground pipe for which there is no planned use shall be disconnected by valve or otherwise from the gas supply. Special efforts should be made to disconnect services which have not been used for 2 years in a way that will remove gas from the customers' premises.

(10) A public utility upon receipt of written notice as required by section 66.047(2), Wis. Stats., from the property owner or from a contractor of work which may affect its utilities used for serving the public:

(a) Shall investigate and decide what action, if any, must reasonably be taken to protect or alter utility facilities, in order to protect service to the public and to avoid unnecessary damage, such as identifying in a suitable manner the location of any underground utility facilities which may be affected by the work.

(b) The utility shall take such action as is reasonably and legally necessary to protect, remove, alter, or reconstruct its facilities, and shall perform such work with reasonable dispatch taking into account the conditions to be met, provided that nothing in this rule shall be deemed to affect any right which the utility may have to require advance payment or adequate assurance of payment of the reasonable cost thereof to the utility by the property owner or contractor.

(c) The utility may, in order to protect its interests, require that the owner or contractor perform certain work upon that part of the service piping or wiring on or being removed from the property upon which the excavating, building, or wrecking operations are being performed.

(d) This rule is not intended to affect the responsibility of the contractor or owner, or the liability or legal rights of any party.

History: 1-2-56; (10) renum. to be PSC 135.09(2) and cr. (10), Register, June, 1962, No. 78, eff. 7-1-62.

PSC 135.08 Services. Services shall be purged to the outside when being placed in service.

PSC 135.09 Underground facilities. (1) Gas utilities shall promote cooperative efforts on the part of all agencies having underground facilities toward the reduction of corrosion.

(2) Corrosion control: Where suitable investigation indicates that corrosion protection is needed, pipelines shall be protected by any recognized method or combination of methods. After installation of a pipeline, periodic inspection or tests of the line shall be conducted to determine whether or not the pipe metal is adequately protected.

History: 1-2-56; renum. to be (1); PSC 135.07(10) renum. to be PSC 135.09(2), Register, June, 1962, No. 78, eff. 7-1-62.

PSC 135.10 Odorizing gas. Every gas utility distributing other than manufactured gas such as coal or water gas shall odorize the gas at one or more points to the extent necessary to produce a detectable and recognizable odor at the most remote customer's utilization equipment when the amount of gas in the air is 20 percent of the lower limit of combustibility. All gas utilities required to odorize their gas shall make a survey of the effect of their odorizing practices periodically and at least once before October 1, 1952.

PSC 135.11 Reports to commission. On or before January 1, 1953, the gas utilities shall report the following to the commission for the period ending December 1, 1952:

- (1) Types of leak surveys made prior to the date of this order.
- (2) Date of completion of last comprehensive leak survey.
- (3) Progress being made on required leak survey.
- (4) Number of leaks found in the underground facilities since January 1, 1951, classified as to the nature of leaks and causes.
- (5) Condition, age, material, general location, and method of protection against corrosion for each pipe that was exposed for repair.
- (6) Number of district regulators checked since January 1, 1951, and nature of repairs required.
- (7) Number of house regulators checked since January 1, 1951, and nature of repairs required.
- (8) A description of usual types of operating difficulties experienced with regulators and methods of correction.
- (9) Status of meter testing and rediaphragming programs.
- (10) Number of leaks found in appliances and building piping since January 1, 1951.
- (11) Any method of installation or practice which has been discontinued because it has proved to be or may become dangerous.
- (12) Changes made in utility system to comply with section PSC 135.07 (1) through (9) and section PSC 135.09 (2).
- (13) Work that must still be done to attain full compliance with section PSC 135.07 (1) through (9) and section PSC 135.09 (2).
- (14) Estimated percentage of existing appliances that do not have proper pilots or venting.
- (15) Amount of distribution pipe having some type of protection, either covering or cathodic protection, or both.
- (16) Status of programs intended to accomplish a reduction of corrosion of underground equipment.
- (17) Type of odorant and amount used per unit of gas sold.