



## 310 CMR 7.72: Reducing Sulfur Hexafluoride Emissions from Gas-Insulated Switchgear

### Overview

In April 2014, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection finalized emissions requirements for gas-insulated switchgear (GIS). All new GIS equipment was required to demonstrate a maximum annual sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) leak rate of 1%, and system-wide maximum leak rates were imposed on the large utilities (Eversource and National Grid), declining to 1% in 2020. On August 11, 2017, MassDEP published amendments to 310 CMR 7.72 to include mass-based limits that decline annually in conjunction with the existing maximum leak rates. Adding mass-based limits prevents increases in SF<sub>6</sub> emissions that could otherwise occur due to deployment of additional GIS equipment, and retaining the leak rate requirement maintains the stringency of the existing program.

### Requirements

- SF<sub>6</sub> emissions from active GIS owned by large utilities must meet a mass-based, annually declining aggregate limit;
- SF<sub>6</sub> leak rate requirements and the maximum leak requirements for new equipment are retained.

### Changes to the Proposal

In response to public comment on the proposed regulation, the final regulation includes in the following changes:

- A revision to the emission limit for Eversource in light of new data about anticipated and planned system upgrades in the Boston area;
- Clarifications to the emergency event exemption language to ensure that MassDEP has the appropriate discretion regarding exemptions;
- Clarification of the definition of “federal reporting GIS owner” to ensure consistency within the universe of regulated entities over time.

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