

220 CMR 107.00: ABANDONMENT OF GAS SERVICE LINES AND LEAKAGE SURVEY PROCEDURES

Section

- 107.01: Applicability
- 107.02: Definitions
- 107.03: Application for Exceptions from Provisions of 220 CMR 107.00
- 107.04: Procedures for Abandonment of Service Lines
- 107.05: Abandonment of Service Lines
- 107.06: Records and Reports for Inactive and Abandoned Service Lines
- 107.07: Leakage Survey of All Service Lines

107.01: Applicability

220 CMR 107.00 applies to any person engaged in the storage, transportation or distribution of gas and is not limited to gas corporations, gas companies or municipal gas departments.

107.02: Definitions

For the purposes of 220 CMR 107.00, the following definitions apply:

Abandoned. The status of a service line where each of the following steps have been taken:

- (a) The service line is disconnected or cut off at or as close as practical to the main;
- (b) Any opening in the main or the open end of the segment of the service line left thereto is sealed;
- (c) The service line is purged of gas, except when the volume of gas is so small that there is no potential hazard; and
- (d) The open end of the disconnected service line near the main and traversing to the premises is sealed.

Department. Department of Public Utilities, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Distribution Line. A gas pipeline, other than a gas-gathering or transmission line, that is normally used by utilities for the transportation of natural gas and/or other flammable gas to customers.

Inactive Service Line. A service line where gas service to the customer has been discontinued, but the service line has not been abandoned.

Main. A distribution line that serves as a common source of supply for more than one service line.

Operator. A person who engages in the transportation of gas.

Person. Any individual, firm, joint venture, partnership, corporation, association, state agency, municipality, municipal department, cooperative association, or joint stock association, and includes any trustee, receiver, assignee, or personal representative thereof.

Pipe. Any pipe or tubing used in the transportation of gas, including pipe-type holders.

Pipeline. All parts of those physical facilities through which gas moves in transportation including pipe valves and other appurtenances attached to pipe, compressor units, metering stations, regulator stations, delivery stations, holders and fabricated assemblies.

Purge. The act of removing flammable gas from a distribution line and replacing it with a noncombustible gas.

107.02: continued

Service Line. A distribution line that transports gas from a common source of supply to an individual customer, to two adjacent or adjoining residential or small commercial customers, or to multiple residential or small commercial customers served through a meter header or manifold. A service line ends:

- (a) at the outlet of the customer meter or at the connection to a customer's piping, whichever is further downstream; or
- (b) at the connection to customer piping if there is no meter.

107.03: Application for Exceptions from Provisions of 220 CMR 107.00

Any person engaged in the storage, transportation, or distribution of gas may make a written request to the Department for an exception to the provisions of 220 CMR 107.00, in whole or in part. The request shall justify why the exception should be granted and shall demonstrate why the exception does not derogate from the safety objectives of 220 CMR 107.00. The request shall include details on the need for the exception, specific information on the circumstances surrounding the exception, the provisions of the regulations from which exception is sought, and a description of any safety consequences that might result from the exception. Documentation in support of the request shall also be submitted.

The Department may, after consideration and the payment of the appropriate fee, issue a written decision denying the exception or granting the exception as requested or as modified by the Department and subject to conditions. An exception may be granted or denied in writing by the Director of the Pipeline Safety Division, or by the Director's functional successor in the event of an internal reorganization of the Department. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Director may appeal the decision to the Department. Any appeal shall be in writing and shall be made not later than ten business days following issuance of the written decision.

In an emergency, a verbal request for an exception may be granted by the Department or the Director, provided that the verbal request is subsequently confirmed in writing within seven days of the exception being granted.

107.04: Procedures for Abandonment of Service Lines

Each operator shall prepare and follow written procedures for the inactivation and abandonment of service lines. The procedures shall be included in the operator's procedural manual pursuant to 49 CFR 192.605.

107.05: Abandonment of Service Lines

(1) Notwithstanding any provision of 220 CMR 107.05(2), (3), or (4), inactive service lines which shall be abandoned promptly, with due consideration to public safety, are those:

- (a) Located in, or close to, excavations;
- (b) Located in, or close to, buildings being demolished;
- (c) Discovered to be leaking gas; or
- (d) Unrecorded or previously unknown lines discovered in the course of leakage surveys, construction, maintenance or inspection of pipeline facilities.

(2) All service lines inactivated on or before August 8, 1985, and not later reactivated, shall be abandoned on or before August 8, 1995.

(3) A service line which was installed on or before July 31, 1971, and which becomes inactive after August 8, 1985, shall be abandoned not later than five years after the most recent inactivation date, provided, however, that if the operator can demonstrate that such service line is plastic or, in the alternative, is cathodically protected in accordance with 49 CFR 192.463 and 49 CFR 192.455(a)(1) and (2), then such service line shall be abandoned in accordance with 220 CMR 107.05(4).

(4) A service line which was installed after July 31, 1971, and which becomes inactive after August 8, 1985, shall be abandoned not later than ten years after the most recent inactivation date.

107.06: Records and Reports for Inactive and Abandoned Service Lines

- (1) Readily accessible records of inactive service lines shall be maintained by the operator. Such records shall include the service line's location, the date the service line was installed, and the date the service line became inactive. If any information is unavailable to or unobtainable by the operator, it shall be listed on the record as "unknown".
- (2) Readily accessible records of the location of any service line that is abandoned after August 8, 1985 shall be maintained by the operator for at least five years after the date of abandonment or for such longer time as the operator deems appropriate.
- (3) Not later than March 15th of each year, each operator shall submit to the Department an annual report indicating the total number of inactive service lines in its distribution system on December 31st of the preceding calendar year, and the number of inactive service lines abandoned during the preceding year.

107.07: Leakage Survey of All Service Lines

- (1) Each operator of gas service lines shall conduct leakage surveys over all service lines as frequently as experience and technology indicate are necessary, and in accordance with 49 CFR Part 192.
- (2) If any part of 220 CMR 107.07 conflicts with Department regulations contained in 220 CMR 101.06, 220 CMR 107.07 shall be controlling.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

220 CMR 107.00: M.G.L. c. 164, §§ 66, 76, 76C and 105A.