

RULE 7

METERS AND METER TESTING PROCEDURES

GENERAL

Each customer must furnish a convenient location for the Company's gas meter. The location must be as near as possible to the point where the service pipe enters the building and where the meter will be readily accessible for reading, inspecting, turning on and off, and removing for testing, as necessary.

A customer will incur no charges for the installation of billing meters. When a customer desires, for his/her convenience, the installation of more than one meter set at one premise for one class of service, the Company may install such other meters providing physical conditions or excessive installation costs make the installation of a master meter impractical. In such cases, each meter so located on one premise for one class of service shall be billed as a separate meter having separate minimum charges. However, where practical, the Company will install a master meter.

Individual meter sets will not be combined for billing purposes; provided that under circumstances where the Company determines, for purposes of minimizing or avoiding additional metering investment, that it is necessary to utilize more than one meter to serve a customer's facilities, and said facilities are located within a contiguous structure, not divided by other properties, streets, roads, alleys, or other thoroughfares, the Company may combine such measurement for billing purposes.

The customer shall use the gas delivered hereunder for his own purposes only and shall not, under any circumstances, resell or share with others any gas delivered hereunder. Services shall be through one or more meters, at the option of the Company. No extension whatsoever of customer-owned piping shall be made for the purpose of supplying gas to adjacent property, or other persons or concerns residing or operating on premises of customer.

METER TEST PROCEDURES

The maximum permissible error in the registration of meters placed in service is $\pm 2.0\%$. Meters shall be adjusted to register as nearly correct as practicable within the $\pm 2.0\%$ error allowance prior to being placed in service.

Except for meters which are in the Company's statistical sampling program, the test interval for meters with capacity up to 3000 cubic feet per hour (cfh) will be every ten years and meters with capacity 3000 cfh and over will be every five years. The Company may elect to keep diaphragm type meters with capacity up to 3,000 cfh in service for intervals beyond ten years, provided the meter performance meets the criteria of the Company's statistical sample program as approved by the Commission.

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By: 

Michael Parvinen

Director, Regulatory Affairs

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METER TEST PROCEDURES (continued)

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All non-contaminated, testable meters will be tested in accordance with ANSI B109.1, and B109.2, using an average of the open and check in-test results to evaluate each meter's performance. Meter testing shall be performed using a company owned meter prover that is maintained in proper adjustment and so calibrated that the error of indication shall not exceed one-half (½) percent.

METER SAMPLE PROGRAM

Each meter in the Statistical Sample Program will be assigned to a meter group or "family" according to its manufacturer, meter class, and set year. At the option of the company, meters in any family may be further subdivided according to meter type, size, location, age, or other factors that may be disclosed by test data to influence the performance of the meters. Subsequently, meter families may be modified or combined as justified by the performance records.

The performance evaluation of each meter family will be based on an evaluation of test results from random sampling of the family. The random sample for each family will include meters which are removed from service on a routine basis, e.g. meters not in use, too large, too small, damaged index cover, service relocation or replacement, etc. If more meters are required for testing than have been removed from service for routine purposes, a random sample of meters within that family will be removed from service and included in the sample.

For purposes of evaluating the performance of each meter family, the analysis of the test results will exclude data on meters which are damaged, meters which do not register, meters which do not pass gas, and meters which measure either less than 90.0 percent accurate or more than 110.0 percent accurate.

Meters with capacities up to 3000 cfh that have been in service ten (10) or more years as established by last set date shall be tested within a prescribed sample size. Sample size and family disposition will be determined in accordance with ANSI/ASQ Z1.4, ANSI/ASQ Z1.9, or other generally accepted industry standard.

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Corrective action shall consist of either a selective removal program to raise the accuracy performance of the group to acceptable standards or the removal of the entire group from service. The rate of removal will be such that the required corrective action is completed as soon as practicable but not to exceed a period of two years after the year testing was performed.

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(K) Text formerly on Sheet No. 11-A is found on Sheet No. 11-B.

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METER SAMPLE PROGRAM (continued)

However, with Commission approval, the period for removal may be extended an additional two years in any year which the total number of meters required for removal exceeds four percent of the number of meters in the Statistical Sample Program.

If meters tested in the fourth quarter of the plan year cause a family to require additional samples that leave insufficient time to obtain the additional number of meters required to complete the sample, the company may elect to aggressive sampling in the following plan year so that a follow up determination is made within the first six months of the new plan year.

The program year shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31 of the same year. Sample data collected during a given program year will be analyzed, and a decision regarding meter family disposition will be made in the first quarter of the following calendar year.

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(M) Refers to language on Sheet No. 11-B that was previously on Sheet No. 11-A.

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