

Gathering Pipeline Leakage Surveys

PHMSA now requires that operators of Type B gathering lines perform leak surveys in accordance with § 192.706 and repair any hazardous leaks discovered. This requires leak surveying on the same schedule that transmission lines are leak surveyed (once each calendar year not to exceed 15 months for odorized lines and more frequently for non-odorized lines in Class 3 and Class 4 locations).

Operators of Type B gathering lines now must design, construct, install, test and inspect any new Type B lines using the requirements for transmission lines. Steel Type B gathering lines must comply with the corrosion-control requirements for transmission lines.

§ 192.9 - WHAT REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO GATHERING LINES?

(a) Requirements. An operator of a gathering line must follow the safety requirements of this part as prescribed by this section.

(b) Offshore lines. An operator of an offshore gathering line must comply with requirements of this part applicable to transmission lines, except the requirements in §192.150 and in subpart O of this part.

(c) Type A lines. An operator of a Type A regulated onshore gathering line must comply with the requirements of this part applicable to transmission lines, except the requirements in §192.150 and in subpart O of this part. However, an operator of a Type A regulated onshore gathering line in a Class 2 location may demonstrate compliance with subpart N by describing the processes it uses to determine the qualification of persons performing operations and maintenance tasks.

(d) Type B lines. An operator of a Type B regulated onshore gathering line must comply with the following requirements:

(1) If a line is new, replaced, relocated, or otherwise changed, the design, installation, construction, initial inspection, and initial testing must be in accordance with requirements of this part applicable to transmission lines;

(2) If the pipeline is metallic, control corrosion according to requirements of subpart I of this part applicable to transmission lines;

(3) Carry out a damage prevention program under §192.614;

(4) Establish a public education program under §192.616;

(5) Establish the MAOP of the line under §192.619; and

(6) Install and maintain line markers according to the requirements for transmission lines in §192.707.

(7) Conduct leakage surveys in accordance with §192.706 using leak detection equipment and promptly repair hazardous leaks that are discovered in accordance with §192.703(c).