

CHAPTER 6**GAS SERVICE****Authority**

N.J.S.A. 48:2-13.

Source and Effective Date

R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.
See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).

Executive Order No. 66(1978) Expiration Date.

Chapter 6, Gas Service, expires on September 3, 1996.

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 6, Gas Service, was filed and became effective prior to September 1, 1969. The chapter expired March 3, 1991 and was adopted as new, with amendments, as R.1986 d.46, effective March 3, 1986. See: 17 N.J.R. 2740(a), 18 N.J.R. 486(a). See: Source and Effective Date. Subchapter 5, Master Meter Systems, was adopted as R.1993 d.247, effective June 7, 1993. See: 24 N.J.R. 4494(a), 25 N.J.R. 2490(a).

See section annotations for additional rulemaking.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. PLANT**14:6-1.1 Plant construction**

(a) The construction and installation of plant and facilities of gas utilities must be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:3-2.1 (Plant construction). In addition, plant construction and operation, including design, maintenance, security requirements, operator training, must meet the specific requirements of this subchapter.

(b) As a portion of this subchapter on utility plant, and all aspects of construction and operation thereof, and as a portion of all other subchapters under N.J.A.C. 14:6, Gas, the Board hereby adopts, by reference, as though set out in full, the following:

1. The current edition (and amendments as issued) of Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline: Minimum Federal Safety Standards: Part 192, Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Federal Code).

2. The current edition (and amendments as issued) of Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities: Federal Safety Standards: Part 193, Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Federal Code).

(c) Any such plant and its facilities which were designed and constructed prior to March 3, 1986 shall be subject to all the provisions of the Federal Code herein adopted by reference, including effective dates set forth in the Federal Code. When existing facilities are replaced, relocated or significantly altered, the siting, design and construction requirements of the Federal Code sections cited above in (b)1 and 2 shall apply.

(d) If, and when, any controversy arises necessitating the adoption by the Board of more stringent specifications than those set forth in the Federal Code, for construction, operation maintenance, etc., such specifications shall be effectuated by regulation duly promulgated by the Board, providing they are compatible with the Federal Code.

(e) The Natural Fuel Gas Code (ANSI Z223.1/NFPA 54), shall apply to the construction, maintenance and all phases of operation of gas utility plant facilities which are beyond the scope of the Federal Code sections cited above in (b)1 and 2.

Amended by R.1986 d.46, effective March 3, 1986.

See: 17 N.J.R. 2740(a), 18 N.J.R. 486(a).

Added (b)-(e).

Amended by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).

Stylistic changes.

14:6-1.2 Tests on service installations

Each gas utility shall perform a leak test on each service installation.

Amended by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).

Stylistic changes.

14:6-1.3 Inspection of property

Prompt investigation of gas leaks shall be made by each gas utility and such corrective action taken as is required by the facts and circumstances disclosed. A sufficient number of reliable portable devices for detecting the presence of combustible gas in the atmosphere shall be maintained as well as sufficient number of reliable devices which assure a substantially accurate knowledge at all times of the pressure existing in the system. Regulator stations shall be inspected for gas leaks with a combustible gas indicating device. These regulators shall be inspected at least once a year and repaired as necessary. Individual district regulators shall be inspected in such manner and with such frequency as may be necessary to maintain these regulators in condition to render safe and adequate service. A complete record shall be kept for two years of all such inspections, tests, conditions found and the corrective measures taken, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:3-6.2, Plant and operating.

Amended by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).

Prompt inspection of leaks required.

14:6-1.4 Service line valves

Each gas utility shall install an outside shutoff valve on every new and every renewed service line.

R.1974 d.87, eff. April 1, 1974.

See: 5 N.J.R. 122(a), 6 N.J.R. 201(d).

Amended by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).

Stylistic changes.

14:6-1.5 Emergency shutdown

Each gas utility shall provide a sufficient number of valves in its distribution system, so that any section of its high-pressure distribution system can be shutdown in an emergency. In addition, each utility shall train all employees in the procedures to follow when it is necessary to reduce the flow of gas because of an emergency.

R.1974 d.87, eff. April 1, 1974.

See: 5 N.J.R. 122(a), 6 N.J.R. 201(d).

14:6-1.6 Gas detectors

(a) Combustible gas detecting instruments shall be assigned to all service and other personnel who may be involved in the detection of gas leaks. The instruments shall be properly maintained and periodically calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's reasonable specifications. Records shall be kept of such calibrations.

(b) A combustible gas detecting instrument shall be used by gas company personnel, in conjunction with other means of detection, in the investigation of any suspected gas leak. Any employee who may be called upon to investigate a suspected gas leak shall have adequate training in the use of gas detection instruments as well as other methods of leak detection.

R.1974 d.87, eff. April 1, 1974.

See: 5 N.J.R. 122(a), 6 N.J.R. 201(d).

Amended by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).

Stylistic changes.

14:6-1.7 Twelve-inch rule

Mechanical equipment shall not be used within 12 inches of a gas pipe or facility unless the pipe or facility has been located and exposed by hand excavation. Under such circumstances the equipment will be used under adequate supervision. If the work is performed for the company by a qualified contractor, the contractor shall be informed, in writing, prior to the letting of the contract, of the requirements of this regulation.

R.1974 d.87, eff. April 1, 1974.

See: 5 N.J.R. 122(a), 6 N.J.R. 201(d).

SUBCHAPTER 2. SERVICE

14:6-2.1 Service connections; regular customers

Each gas utility shall furnish and place, at no cost to the customer, up to 50 feet of service connection, measured at right angles from the nearest curb line to the customer's building, at the point of service entrance designated by the utility. Where the distance is in excess of 50 feet, the service pipe will be installed subject to a charge equal to the amount by which the cost of the service connection exceeds the greater of either $\frac{1}{2}$ of the customer's annual revenue as estimated by the utility or the cost of the first 50 feet of service connection which otherwise would be furnished without charge as provided above. Should the customer request a service entrance at a location other than that designated by the utility, the customer shall pay the additional cost associated with said change in point of service entrance provided that the customer shall not be required to pay for the first 50 feet of service connection in any case and, provided further, that the customer shall not be required to pay for any portion of the cost of the service connection if the cost thereof does not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ of the estimated annual revenue. The utility will waive the charge to the customer when the amount is \$5.00 or less.

EXAMPLE

	1st case	2nd case	3rd case
Length of Service Connection	75 feet	75 feet	75 feet
Cost per foot	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Cost of Service Connection	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Cost of 50 feet of Service Connection, Free 50 feet × \$10.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
½ of Customer's Annual Revenue	\$150.00	\$625.00	\$750.00
Cost to Customer	\$250.00	\$125.00	\$0

Amended by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).

Connection costs increased.

14:6-2.2 Service connections; interruptible customers

Each gas utility shall provide a service connection for an "interruptible" customer in accordance with its filed tariff or special agreement with the customer if special or unusual circumstances exist.

14:6-2.3 Heating value

(a) Each gas utility shall file with the Board information as to heating value of the gas (or gases) being distributed.

(b) The heating value shall be maintained with as little variation as is practicable and on any one day shall not fall below the standard specified in the tariff on file with the Board by more than five per cent.

(c) Each gas utility shall provide itself with a standard heating value measurement device outfit constructed and calibrated as approved by the National Institute of Standards and Technology with which periodic tests of the gas shall be made. The utility may use a recording heating value measurement device which shall be maintained in proper working order and checked periodically with a standard heating value measurement device or against a standard gas. Such equipment shall be available, at all reasonable times, for the inspection by and the use of any authorized representative of the Board.

(d) The average heating value for any one day may be determined from the record of a recording heating value measurement device or it shall be taken as the average of all individual tests made that day using a standard heating value measurement device. The average of all such daily averages shall be taken as the monthly average. If the monthly average heating value is below the standard specified in the tariff, customers' bills shall be adjusted accordingly.

(e) Each gas utility shall report to the Board not later than the 15th of each month the daily average and the monthly average heating value of the gas (or gases) distributed in its system during the previous calendar month.

(f) Heating value tests shall be made at a location or locations which will insure a representative sample of the gas being sent out to the distribution system.

(g) In maintaining the established heating value, the characteristic quality of the gas shall be such as to permit satisfactory combustion in the customer's appliances at all times without repeated adjustments of the burners.

(h) When a supplemental or substitute gas is distributed, the utility will make every reasonable effort to maintain gas characteristics and quality so that the utilization performance will be satisfactory regardless of the heating value of the gas.

Amended by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).

Bureau of Standards updated to Institute of Standards and Technology; calorimeter changed to heating value measurement device.

14:6-2.4 Purity

(a) All gas distributed to customers shall be substantially free of impurities which may cause excessive corrosion of mains or piping or form corrosive or harmful fumes when burned in a properly designed and adjusted burner.

(b) Each gas utility supplying manufactured gas shall, except as to gas supplied by means of a liquid propane air plant, make daily tests for the presence of hydrogen sulphide. The hydrogen sulphide shall be considered negligible if a strip of white filter paper moistened with a solution of five per cent, by weight, lead acetate is not distinctly darker than a second strip freshly moistened with the same solution, after the first paper has been exposed for one minute in an apparatus through which gas is flowing at the rate of approximately five cubic feet per hour, the gas not impinging directly from the jet upon the test paper.

(c) All distributed gas shall not contain more than 30 grains of total sulphur per 100 cubic feet nor more than five grains of ammonia per 100 cubic feet.

14:6-2.5 Pressure requirements

(a) The pressure of the gas measured at the outlet of the meter of any customer, sometimes known as normal utilization pressure, shall be maintained to that point required to provide safe and efficient utilization of the gas in any properly adjusted appliance supplied through adequately sized customer's facilities.

(b) The allowable pressure variations within any 24 hour period shall not exceed 50 per cent above or 50 per cent below the normal utilization pressures, except for special arrangements made with industrial and commercial customers.

14:6-2.6 Venting of customer's service regulators

(a) Each gas utility customer's service regulator installed indoors shall be vented to the outside atmosphere and shall have a vent pipe sized no smaller than the manufacturers' vent connection built into the regulator.

(b) The venting capacity of every service regulator shall be such as to protect the customer's appliances from an unsafe operating pressure. As an alternative, a separate pressure relief valve with a capacity such as to protect the customer's appliances from an unsafe operating pressure may be provided.

As amended, R.1974 d.87, effective April 1, 1974.
See: 5 N.J.R. 122(a), 6 N.J.R. 201(d).

14:6-2.7 Testing of customer's piping

Each gas utility, prior to establishing service, shall test the customer's piping for leakage and, if leakage is found, shall refuse service until the condition causing the leakage is corrected.

14:6-2.8 Odorization

All gas transmitted and distributed which does not naturally possess a distinctive odor to serve as a warning agent to employees and the public in the event of the escape of unburned gas shall be odorized with a suitable odorant. The amount of odorant in the gas shall not be less than that which is required to readily permit detection of its presence when the gas concentration in mixture with air is 20 per cent of the lower explosive limit. Each utility shall notify the Board of the type of odorant used and the location of the odorization stations. A suitable record shall be maintained for the most current two years showing the quantity of odorant added and the volume of gas odorized. Sufficiently frequent periodic tests shall be made at various points in each system to determine the adequacy of the odorization of the gas, and a suitable record of such tests shall be maintained for two years. Equipment for introduction of the odorant into the gas shall be designed so as to provide a reasonably uniform level of odor in the gas. The equipment and facilities for handling the odorant shall be located where the escape of odorant would not be a nuisance.

14:6-2.9 Customer information

(a) All customers shall be supplied by the gas company, at the time the meter is turned on or a new account is opened, printed information concerning the odor of gas and its characteristics and action to be taken if gas is detected (including a telephone number for the purpose of reporting such detection). The customer shall be also informed of the potential hazards of gas, the correct procedures for using gas appliances and how to keep them in safe operating condition. In addition, verbal instructions on the above matters shall be offered to the customer, if possible.

(b) The printed information shall be such that it can be easily understood and shall also be available in languages other than English which are spoken by a substantial number of non-English speaking people who reside in the company's service area.

(c) Additionally, each gas company shall periodically take steps to inform the general public in its service area of the odor of gas and its hazards along with correct procedures to follow if gas is detected.

R.1974 d.87, effective April 1, 1974.
See: 5 N.J.R. 122(a), 6 N.J.R. 201(d).

14:6-2.10 Liaison with public officials

Each gas utility shall maintain liaison with emergency personnel of each municipality in its service area and shall periodically make available information concerning the characteristics and hazards of natural gas which would be useful in handling an emergency in which natural gas may be a factor.

R.1974 d.87, effective April 1, 1974.
See: 5 N.J.R. 122(a), 6 N.J.R. 201(d).

14:6-2.11 (Reserved)

R.1974 d.87, effective April 1, 1974.
See: 5 N.J.R. 122(a), 6 N.J.R. 201(d).

14:6-2.12 Analysis and reporting of odor, leak and emergency calls

(a) Each gas utility shall maintain a listed telephone number in appropriate telephone directories designated as a 24-hour number at which leak, odor or emergency calls may be received. These numbers shall be tended by utility personnel in order that such calls can be answered on a 24-hour basis with the assurance that appropriate action will be taken as rapidly as possible.

(b) Each gas company shall maintain a log which shows the receipt and handling of each leak, odor or emergency report received. Information concerning the time that the report was first received, that company personnel were first dispatched to the scene, that such personnel arrived, and that the condition was considered safe should be included. In addition, each gas company is required to analyze its performance in responding to such reports. Both the logs and the analysis shall be made available to the Board upon request. Summary reports shall be furnished to the Board quarterly in the form specified by the Board.

R.1974 d.87, effective April 1, 1974.
See: 5 N.J.R. 122(a), 6 N.J.R. 201(d).

14:6-2.13 Emergency personnel

(a) Each gas company shall have available and equipped an adequate number of personnel to handle gas emergencies on a 24-hour a day, seven days a week basis. Emergency personnel must be able to reach all parts of the company's service area as rapidly as possible.

(b) Each employee who would respond to a gas emergency shall have adequate training in the proper procedures for handling gas emergencies, including but not limited to emergency shutdown procedures.

R.1974 d.87, effective April 1, 1974.
See: 5 N.J.R. 122(a), 6 N.J.R. 201(d).

14:6-2.14 Training

Each gas company employee shall be adequately trained for the job to which he is assigned and shall have adequate knowledge of the characteristics and hazards of natural gas.

R.1974 d.87, effective April 1, 1974.
See: 5 N.J.R. 122(a), 6 N.J.R. 201(d).

14:6-2.15 Drug testing; incorporation by reference of Federal regulations

(a) The Board hereby adopts, by reference, as though set out in full, the current edition (and amendments as issued) of Drug Testing, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 199 (Federal Code).

(b) Each gas company employee, as defined in Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 199, shall be tested for the presence of prohibited drugs and shall be provided with an employee assistance program as required by Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 199.

New Rule, R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.
See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).

SUBCHAPTER 3. METERS

14:6-3.1 Testing of gas meters

Each gas utility shall provide itself with equipment necessary for testing meters, such equipment to consist of, as a minimum, a standard meter prover with suitable accessories. Utilities may cooperate in arranging for such facilities. Bell type provers will be set up permanently in the location where they are to be used. All provers will be calibrated according to ANSI B109. Calibration will be witnessed and approved by the Board. Each prover will be furnished an inspection and approval tag by the Board.

Amended by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.
See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).
Bell-type provers calibrated to ANSI B109 required.

14:6-3.2 Periodic meter testing

No gas utility shall allow a gas meter to remain in service for a period longer than 10 years, except where a sampling program has been established in accordance with ANSI B109 and approved by the Board. Meters shall neither remain in service after testing nor be placed in service if the meters are outside the adjustment limits in accordance with

ANSI B109. For any group of meters in a sampling program to remain in service, at least 80 percent of the meters in the sample tested must be within the accuracy limits of 98 percent (two percent error slow) to 102 percent (two percent error fast) at the low flow (check) rate, with no more than 10 percent of the meters exceeding 102 percent (two percent error fast). If a group of meters does not meet the performance standard, then corrective action shall be taken.

Amended by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.
See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).
Testing standards completely revised.

14:6-3.3 Determination of gas meter accuracy

A gas meter shall be considered correct if it, when passing gas at the flow rates of 20 to 35 percent of its rated capacity, shows in comparison with a standard gas prover, an error which is not greater than two percent.

Amended by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.
See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).
Flow rate of 20 to 35 percent used to test.

Case Notes

Customers not entitled to be billed on basis of 1,136 ccf of gas usage, rather than 11,136 ccf, for eight year period. *Thomas v. New Jersey Natural Gas Company*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (BRC) 145.

SUBCHAPTER 4. UNIFORM SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS

14:6-4.1 Adoption by reference of the Uniform System of Accounts

The Board adopts by reference the Uniform System of Accounts for Classes A and B Gas Utilities that have been promulgated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as well as all present and subsequent amendments, revisions, deletions and corrections which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission may adopt insofar as they relate to gas utilities subject to the jurisdiction of the Board and are in accordance with the Board's policies and procedures.

Amended by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.
See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).
Stylistic changes.

14:6-4.2 Adoption by reference of rules concerning preservation of records; Gas utilities

(a) On September 14, 1972, the then Board of Public Utility Commissioners in the Department of Public Utilities, pursuant to authority of N.J.S.A. 48:2-1 et seq. and in accordance with applicable provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act of 1968, adopted by reference the "Regulations to Govern the Preservation of Records of Electric, Gas and Water Utilities" originally proposed to various states for adoption by the National Association of Regulatory Utility

Commissioners as promulgated and published in April, 1972, for use by the electric, gas and water utilities.

(b) The Board of Public Utilities adopts these rules as its modified regulations governing the preservation and destruction of records for all classes of electric, gas and water utilities subject to its jurisdiction and as a supplement to its uniform system of accounts for all classes of electric, gas and water utilities.

(c) Copies of the full text of these rules are available for examination in the Board's offices at Two Gateway Center, Newark, New Jersey 07102, and are included in the case files in these dockets. Copies of these rules may be purchased from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Attention Secretary Office.

R.1972 d.181, effective September 18, 1972.

See: 4 N.J.R. 241(b).

Public Notice: Change of address.

See: 19 N.J.R. 890(a).

Amended by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).

Source of copies changed.

SUBCHAPTER 5. MASTER METER SYSTEMS

14:6-5.1 Scope

Unless otherwise ordered or permitted by the Board of Regulatory Commissioners of the State of New Jersey, the following rules shall apply to the inspection and operation of all master meter systems.

14:6-5.2 Definitions

The following words and terms when used in this subchapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Board" means the Board of Regulatory Commissioners.

"Federal Code" means the Federal Pipeline Safety Code, 49 CFR 192.

"Master meter system" means any underground gas pipeline system operated by a residential or commercial customer of a New Jersey gas utility which is utilized for the distribution of gas to ultimate consumers within, but not limited to, a definable area, such as a mobile home park, a housing project or an apartment complex, where the operator purchases metered gas from a public utility for resale through the operator's distribution system which is beyond the control of the utility. The ultimate consumers served by the operator's distribution system will subsequently purchase the gas directly through a meter or by other means, such as through rents.

14:6-5.3 Service to master meter systems

After June 7, 1994, no gas utility in this State shall provide gas service to any newly developed master meter system as defined in N.J.A.C. 14:6-5.2.

14:6-5.4 Inspection and compliance

(a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) below, after June 7, 1994, no gas utility in this State shall continue to provide gas service to any residential or commercial master meter system unless the utility is provided by the owner or operator of the master meter system with an annual certification, on a form, supplied by the Board, reflecting Federal Code specifications, from a licensed professional engineer, that the system has been inspected within the last six months and that it complies with all applicable safety requirements. The owner or operator may request from the servicing utility a list of those licensed professional engineers known to the utility who are qualified to perform such services. A copy of such certification shall be submitted to the Board by the owner or operator. In the event that the owner or operator can demonstrate that the services of a licensed professional engineer could not be obtained after utilization of the list provided by the utility, then, alternatively, the owner or operator of the master meter system may make arrangements with the servicing utility to provide the required inspection and certification at the expense of the owner or operator.

(b) If the results of the inspection reveal that the master meter system does not satisfy the requirements of the Federal Code, the owner or operator of the system shall furnish the utility, in the event that the utility did not perform the inspection, and the Board with a copy of the inspection report and shall submit a detailed plan of action to bring the system into compliance with the requirements of the Federal Code within 12 months. The owner or operator shall submit to the utility proof of compliance with the requirements of the Federal Code within the 12 month period. A copy of such compliance shall be forwarded to the Board by the owner or operator. Should the inspection uncover a condition that constitutes an immediate safety hazard, the owner or operator shall immediately notify the servicing utility. Until repairs can be made to the system that will either sufficiently abate or eliminate the hazardous condition, service to the system may be subject to discontinuance as provided in N.J.A.C. 14:3-3.6a3x.

(c) If the owner or operator of the master meter system does not comply with (a) and (b) above, the owner or operator shall attempt to arrange with the utility to take over the master meter system and make corrections to bring the system into compliance with all applicable safety standards at the expense of the owner or operator. If such an arrangement cannot be effected within one year, the utility shall promptly petition the Board for permission, upon notice and hearing, to discontinue service to the master meter system.