



Changes to Standard 4127 for Class Locations

Summary

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify users of Standard 4127 of the following changes in the process for class locations:

Change #1: Performing an Annual Class Location Study

A class location study is to be performed by gas engineering annually (once each calendar year, not to exceed 15 months to the date).

Change #2: Change in Methodology for Evaluating Class Locations

The methodology for the “Sliding Mile” rule in Appendix B of Standard 4127 is changed to include a modification for the use of the cluster rule.

Change #3: Assessing the Impact of Class Location Changes

A process has been added to assess the impact of a change to a class location to ensure any change or remedy needed, including a pressure reduction of a pipeline, is completed within 24 months of the change in class location.

Change #4: Notification Process for Class Location Changes

Upon observations or discovery of conditions that may necessitate a need to change a class location designation, personnel must follow the instructions provided in this bulletin within the time specified.

Affected Document

Standard 4127, “Class Location Determination, Compliance, and Maintenance”

Target Audience

This bulletin applies to all personnel and their supervisors who are involved in the determination and maintenance of Class Locations for PG&E owned gas transmission pipelines operating at or over 20% SMYS. They include, but are not limited to district gas maintenance and construction (M&C), T&R, gas mapping, gas estimating, gas planning, gas pipeline engineering, and pipeline patrol personnel.

What you need to know

1. Gas Engineering personnel:

a. Class Location Study

The manager of gas pipeline engineering, with support from the manager of integrity management, must ensure a class location study is conducted annually (once each calendar year, not to exceed 15 months



Changes to Standard 4127 for Class Locations

to the date).

1. IF a class location change is identified as a result of this study,
THEN, notify gas mapping and gas pipeline engineering personnel within 5 work days to initiate the following actions:
 - Gas mapping personnel must follow Appendix A of Standard 4127 to document the class location change, and
 - Gas pipeline engineering personnel must follow Appendix B of Standard 4127 to revise the MAOP for the change in class location.
2. IF no class location changes are identified as a result of this study,
THEN, submit the results of the study to the VP of Gas E&O.

b. Assessing the Impact of Changes to the Class Location

The manager of gas pipeline engineering must ensure the pipeline of concern is evaluated as a result of the new class location. Within 15 days of being notified, the manager of pipeline engineering, working with gas system operations and gas system planning, must assess the impact, identify possible options to address the condition, and notify the Director of Gas Engineering Design and Gas System Operations of the options available to remedy the situation.

If a pressure reduction of a pipeline is not required to address the change to class location, the manager of pipeline engineering must ensure the remedy is completed within 24 months of the change in class location.

c. Process for Pressure Reduction of a Pipeline

IF a pressure reduction for a pipeline is required to accommodate the change in class location,

THEN, the manager of pipeline engineering must

1. Immediately notify the VP of Gas E&O of the need to reduce pressure, and
2. Notify gas system operations and gas system planning of the need to reduce the pipeline pressure.
3. Within 15 working days of being notified, the manager of pipeline engineering, working with gas system operations and gas system planning, must develop and submit to the VP of GE&O a plan to implement the pressure reduction for the affected pipeline to take effect within 24 months from the time of class change.



Changes to Standard 4127 for Class Locations

c. (continued)

Changes to the Methodology for Use of the "Sliding Mile" rule:

Add the following text to Step 1 under the "SLIDING MILE" section of Appendix B (page 13 or 15) of Standard 4127:

"Use the Continuous Sliding Mile method of class location determination as the primary method of "class location unit" determination.

To reduce the extent of a Class Location Unit (established by Continuous Sliding Mile), apply the cluster rule as follows:

- The length of Class locations 2, 3, & 4 may be adjusted as follows:
 - A Class 4 location ends 220 yards from the nearest building with four or more stories above ground.
 - When a cluster of buildings intended for human occupancy requires a Class 2 or 3 location, the class location ends 220 yards from the nearest building in the cluster.

Adjusting a class location unit by clustering buildings in Class 2, 3, or 4 locations does not allow resetting the continuous sliding mile. Each new building intended for human occupancy established outside an existing cluster must be classified with the continuous sliding mile class designation. For example, a new building (or multiple buildings) established 2000-ft away from an existing Class 3 cluster as determined by the continuous sliding mile, must take on the Class 3 designation."

2. District M&C, T&R, and Pipeline Patrol personnel:

- a. Personnel who observe new construction along a gas transmission pipeline or discover a condition that may necessitate a class location change must notify their supervisor immediately (or by the end of their shift).
- b. Within 10 working days, the supervisor must submit Form F4127 to initiate the process in Appendix A of Standard 4127 to confirm and document necessary changes to class locations.
- c. IF it is determined that a pressure reduction of a pipeline is needed due to a change in class location,
THEN, follow Step 1.b above.

Approved By

, Director, Engineering Design



Changes to Standard 4127 for Class Locations

Document Contacts

██████████, Manager, Pipeline Engineering

██████████, Manager, Integrity Management

██████████, Supervisor, Gas Engineering

██████████, Supervisor, Gas Engineering

Inclusion Plan

The contents of this bulletin will be incorporated into the next update of Standard 4127. The expected update is 12/31/2011.