

Gas Transmission and Distribution System Terms

Term	Definition	Source	Responsible Department	Application Notes
Distribution Center	The location at which a transmission line changes function to a distribution line. It occurs at the downstream side of the inlet fire valve to a regulator station transporting natural gas into a distribution main primarily serving non-large volume customers who purchase gas for consumption (as opposed to purchasing for resale).	PG&E	Asset and Risk Management	PG&E language to clarify non-specific code language. Starting in 2015, PG&E will apply this definition to district regulator stations that reduce pressure from above 60 psig to 60 psig or below as the location at which the line's function changes from transmission to distribution.
Distribution Feeder Main (DFM)	A transmission pipeline that operates above 60 psig and is connected to other gas transmission lines on the upstream side and other distribution feeder mains on the downstream side. A DFM transports gas to a Distribution Center(s).	PG&E	Asset and Risk Management	Supersedes the definition in TD-4125S, "Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure Requirements for Gas Distribution Systems and Transmission and Gathering Lines." The maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of the line is used to determine the pipeline's operating pressure for this purpose.
Distribution Line	A pipeline other than a gathering or transmission line. A line is a distribution line if it meets ANY one of the following criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transports gas downstream of a distribution center whether in a Main or Service Line. 2. Operates as a Farm Tap. 	49 CFR 192.3 plus extra clarifying PG&E criteria.	Asset and Risk Management	The first sentence is from 49 CFR 192.3. Point 1 in the second sentence clarifies that the distribution center is the location where the function of the line changes from transmission to distribution. Point 2 clarifies that gas service lines connected to transmission lines, operating as farm taps, are classified as distribution lines, per DOT PHMSA guidance.

**Definitions: Gas Transmission and Distribution
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Attachment 1**

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Farm Tap	A service line that is connected directly from a transmission line or gathering line to serve customers other than a Large Volume Customer.	PG&E	Asset and Risk Management	New PG&E language to clarify common usage of this term. This term is consistent with recent DOT PHMSA guidance.
Gas Gathering Line	A pipeline that transports gas from a current production facility to a transmission line or main.	49 CFR 192.3	Asset and Risk Management	Exact code language. Gas gathering lines transport gas from wellheads or processing facilities to transmission lines or distribution mains.
Large-Volume Customer	A customer being served by PG&E gas facilities that have the capability of delivering 40,000 standard cubic feet per hour (scfh) or more.	PG&E	Asset and Risk Management	PG&E language to clarify undefined code language. Definition uses PG&E assets vs. customer usage to improve usability of the term. The 40,000 scfh usage threshold is based on recent PHMSA interpretation letters that indicated customers using 1 MMcf per day may be considered a large volume customer.
Main	A distribution line transporting gas that serves as a common source of supply for more than one service line.	49 CFR 192.3	Asset and Risk Management	Exact regulatory code language.

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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 at the outlet of the customer meter or at the connection to a customer's piping, whichever is further downstream, or at the connection to customer piping if there is no meter.	49 CFR 192.3	Asset and Risk Management	Exact regulatory code language.
Transmission Line	A pipeline, other than a gathering line, that <i>meets ANY one of the following criteria</i> : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transports gas from a transmission line, gathering line or storage facility to any of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Distribution Center b. Storage Facility c. Large Volume Customer that is not downstream of a Distribution Center 2. Operates at or above a hoop stress of 20% SMYS, or is upstream of a segment of pipe operating at or above a hoop stress of 20% SMYS 3. Transports gas within a storage field 	PG&E	Asset and Risk Management	<p>This definition is set forth in 49 CFR 192.3. For consistency in operations and maintenance practices at PG&E, this new definition adds a clarification that segments upstream of a segment operating at a hoop stress of 20% or more of SMYS are also considered transmission pipelines.</p> <p>The definition now focuses on function of line (vs. strict reliance on 20% SMYS criteria). The result is that all Distribution feeder mains (DFMs) are now classified as transmission lines.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A transmission line remains a transmission line: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Until it arrives at a distribution center, a storage facility or a large customer (not downstream of a distribution

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				center) b. Within a storage facility The maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of the line is used to determine the pipeline's operating pressure for this purpose.

Application Notes

1. Industry sources consulted: 49 CFR 192, PHMSA Interpretation letters, PHMSA glossary, GPTC glossary, ASME B31.8-2012, AGA glossary.