



**DISTRIBUTION & CUSTOMER SERVICE (DCS)
GENERATION, TRANSMISSION & SUPPLY (GTS)**

***DCS Standard D-S0446
GTS Standard S4292***

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TITLE: Vault Inspection Procedure

Purpose

To establish a uniform policy for the inspection of vaults, regulator pits, valve pits, or other enclosed underground gas facilities with an internal volume of 200 cubic feet or more.

This standard covers the procedural details for inspection of all types of vaults, regulator pits, and valve pits, or other enclosed underground gas facilities large enough for a person to enter.

It replaces Standard Practice 460.21-6, "Vault Inspection Procedure," issued 8/1/86.

General Note: This standard replaces PG&E Standard Practice 460.21-6, "Vault Inspection Procedure," issued 8/1/86. Minor editing has been done to reflect organizational changes, but the requirements of the original standard practice have not been changed. This standard will be reviewed and revised in the near future.

Implementation Responsibilities

It shall be the responsibility of the DCS Operations, Maintenance, & Construction Manager or the CGT Gas System Maintenance & Technical Support Department operating supervisor, who directs the maintenance and operation of the facilities, to establish and maintain procedures to comply with this standard.

Compliance

All vaults of the type described in the Purpose shall be periodically inspected in accordance with the requirements of this standard and in accordance with the current edition of 49 CFR Part 192.749, "Vault Maintenance."

Procedure

See Pages 3 to 4 for procedural details.

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Reference Documents DCS Standard D-S0213, "Work Procedures in Confined Spaces"
DCS Standard D-S0351, "District Regulator Station Maintenance"
PG&E Code of Safe Practices, Injury and Illness Prevention Program,
Accident Prevention Rules
Gas Standard M-53, "Portable Combustible Gas Indicator"
49 CFR Part 192.749

Procedural Details - Vault Inspection Procedures

1. General

- a. Before work is begun, all applicable safety precautions shall be taken. For further details, refer to the PG&E Code of Safe Practices, Injury and Illness Prevention Program, Accident Prevention Rules.
- b. All sources of ignition must be kept at a safe distance until it is determined that the atmosphere within the vault does not contain a dangerous gas/air mixture (tests must be conducted as described in DCS Standard D-S0213, "Work Procedures in Confined Spaces").

2. Inspection Schedule

- a. Vaults, housing pressure-regulating and/or pressure-limiting equipment shall be inspected (in accordance with this standard and the current edition on 49 CFR Part 192.749, "Vault Maintenance"). However, the vault must be inspected annually within the period from the month preceding to the month following the annual anniversary. Where possible, a vault inspection shall be scheduled to coincide with other work, e.g., regulator inspection, zone valve inspection, etc.
- b. The above frequencies of inspection are minimums. When conditions require, more frequent inspection shall be performed.

3. Inspection Procedure

When a vault is entered for scheduled inspection, the following equipment shall be inspected and substandard conditions corrected or reported.

- a. All piping and related equipment should be in good working order.
- b. The vault's frame and cover (or doors) should conform to the surface grade, so as not to present a hazard to the public; and drainage should be adequate.
- c. The ground level around the perimeter of the vault should conform to the vault so that it does not present a hazard to the public.
- d. Mechanical equipment (ladders or hooks, hinges, concrete, etc.) should be in satisfactory condition.
- e. Ventilation equipment should be free of obstruction and operating properly.
- e. If gas is found in the vault, the equipment in the vault must be inspected for leaks, and any leaks found must be repaired.

4. Reporting and Record Keeping

- a. If the inspections described in Paragraph 3 above reveal deviations from acceptable conditions, the deviations shall be reported the same day, together with the corrective action taken, if any, to the appropriate supervisor.
- b. When a vault is entered during a scheduled inspection, the vault shall be shown as inspected on the GASFM (Gas Preventive Maintenance Program) Programmed Report. When the vault is shown as inspected on the GASFM, it shall be indicated that the inspection was completed in accordance with provisions of the standard, and that everything was satisfactory or that any deficiencies were reported to the appropriate gas supervisor for correction.
- c. When a vault is entered at any other time and an inspection is completed in accordance with provisions of this standard, this fact should be input to GASFM. In this way a duplication of inspections may be eliminated.