



**Pacific Gas and Electric Company**

# Gas Information Bulletin

## Title: Change in Grade 1 Gas Leak Grading Criteria

Check all appropriate boxes

<input type="checkbox"/> SAFETY ALERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GAS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRIBUTION	<input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTATION ENGR.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANDATORY COMPLIANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> ELECTRIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSMISSION	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANS./SUB. M&C
<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> ESTIMATING	<input type="checkbox"/> OPERATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> APPLICANT DESIGNER / CONSTRUCTION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INFORMATIONAL / CLARIFICATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MAPPING	<input type="checkbox"/> SERVICE	

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide clarity regarding the criteria used to assess Grade 1 gas leak indications. M&C Supervisors are responsible for communicating the contents of this bulletin to affected employees.

This document amends Attachment 1 of UO Standard S4110, *Leak Survey and Repair of Gas Transmission and Distribution Facilities*.

This document will be incorporated into the initial release of Work Procedure WP4110-09.

The bulletin does not apply to a non-hazardous release of gas at or downstream of the aboveground inlet gas service valve that is recorded in Customer Care & Billing processes. See Figure 1

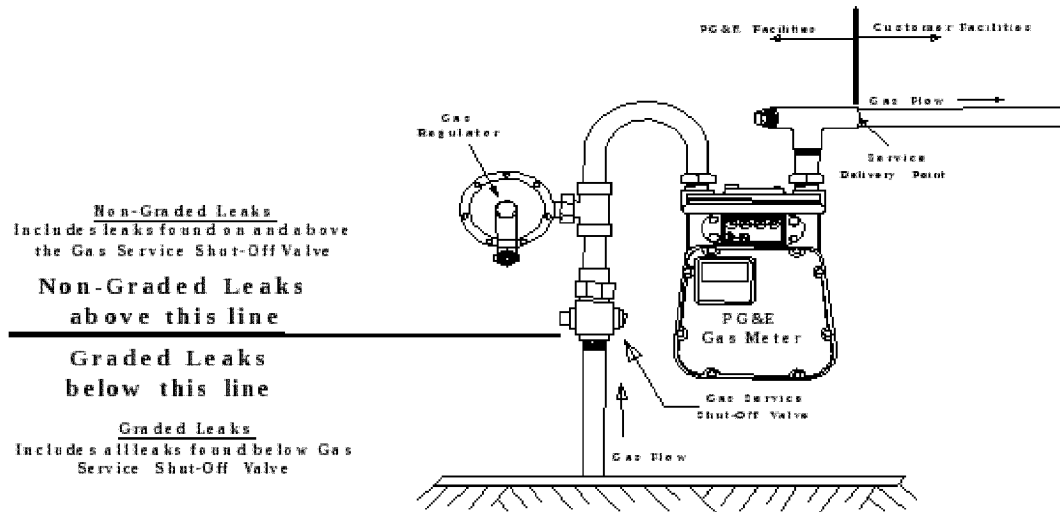


Figure 1

Note: A Form A (62-4060) is required for all Grade 1 leaks below the service valve.

### Definition of terms

The following terms are added:

Blowing Gas: A gas leak which can be heard, seen, or felt

- Heard: A gas leak that makes a "blowing or hissing" sound
- Seen: A gas leak that will not hold foam or soap solution or a leak which is blowing visible dust or dirt into the air.
- Felt: A gas leak that is detectable by touch

Building: Any structure in which gas can accumulate, except PG&E owned structures whose sole purpose is to protect pipeline facilities from the environment, such as meter houses and regulator station houses

CGI: Combustible Gas Indicator

The following term is amended:

Gas Facilities: All Company-operated subsurface gas lines and related appurtenances, to include meterset assemblies.

- Above Ground: all exposed gas piping, fittings and assemblies
- Subsurface: all gas piping, fittings and assemblies below ground level

HFI: Hydrogen Flame Ionization

### Document change

The following paragraph amends the Grade 1 leak criteria on page 17 of 27 (Note that the changes are italicized):

#### ***Grade 1***

1. Criteria: A leak that represents an existing or probable hazard to persons or property requiring immediate repair or continuous action until conditions are no longer hazardous. This *criterion* includes:

- A. Any reading of 80% LEL (4.0% gas in air) or greater on *subsurface gas facilities* where the gas would likely migrate to *within 5 feet* of the outside wall of a building.

- B. Any gas reading on *subsurface facilities* in, at, or under a building *or within 5 feet of the building or in a tunnel.*
- C. Escaping gas that has ignited.
- D. Blowing gas on *either-above ground or subsurface -facilities* where the presence of gas endangers the general public or property.
- E. A gas leak which falls outside of the above criteria and poses an immediate hazard in the judgment of either:
  - The *leak surveyor and/or a leak survey supervisor, or*
  - The *leak repair employee and/or a leak repair supervisor*

Note: Any leak that is suspected to be on a copper service shall be graded either as a Grade 1, Grade 2+, or Grade 2 leak. Leaks that are suspected to be on copper services shall not be graded as Grade 3 leaks or be deleted<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>A leak that was previously suspected as being a copper service leak can be deleted or downgraded if it is determined that the leak is not associated with a copper service as previously reported. The division can propose the condition data be corrected, which would allow the leak to be downgraded. The request shall be submitted to the program lead for review and authorization. If authorized, the program lead will request the changes through the IGIS administrators. If the change in IGIS is made, then all relevant local leak records will be updated with the new leak data and will be initialed and dated by local Company employees.

**Approved by:**

Robert P. Fassett

**Date:** 3/1/09

**Author:** 

**If you have any questions about this bulletin, please call the employee(s) listed below:**

Contact(s):

LAN ID(s):

Phone(s):

