

Public Service Commission of Montana



Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

400 N 4th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501

Natural Gas Service

Volume No. 7
Original Sheet No. 50

GAS METER TESTING PROGRAM Rate 101

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The policy of the Company for testing meters pursuant to ARM 38.5.2513 is as follows:

1. This policy shall not apply to meters larger than 650 cubic feet per hour or greater capacity. Such meters shall be tested and adjusted or repaired, if necessary, at a periodic interval of at least once in ten years.

All active meters, 650 cfh and smaller, will be combined into a single random test program. The population of meters shall come from the states of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

2. New meters received from a manufacturer shall be subjected to testing on a random sample basis of five percent of the total received, but never less than five meters, and must be found satisfactory before the shipment is released for use. If unsatisfactory, all meters in the shipment shall be tested, and repaired if necessary, or the shipment shall be returned to the manufacturer.
3. Meters removed from service because of damage, meters that do not pass gas or that pass gas but do not register, and meters that are otherwise suspect as to accuracy, shall be tested and adjusted before reinstallation.
4. At the time the random selection is made, meters more than ten years old and active meters that have not been tested in the last ten years will be placed into an installation class defined model installation date lot (lot) to be part of a random population for testing.
 - a. All active meters will be assigned to lots on the basis of installation date. Meters shall be divided into lots based on manufacturer, type, and last install date in five year groups. The minimum number of samples taken from each lot will be as specified by Military Standard No. 414 for inspection by variables, inspection level IV with specification limits of +2.0 percent.

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- b. Meters tested within the random test program will include meters selected via a computer-generated random selection process and meters pulled from a customer's premise in correlation with service technicians being on-site for other service related work.
5. Lot Acceptability will be determined by the standard deviation method based on single sample, double specification limit, variability unknown, for an acceptable quality level of 15 percent as follows:
- a. A meter lot for which the sample is satisfactory will remain in service.
 - b. A meter lot for which the sample fails may remain in service if it passed the previous year and if no more than 10 percent of the sample registers over 102 percent.
 - c. A meter lot for which the sample fails will be removed if the lot failed the previous year or if more than 10 percent of the sample registers over 102 percent.
 - i. If evaluation determines the group is homogeneous, the entire group will be removed.
 - ii. If group is not homogeneous and a subset of the group is found defective, that subset will be removed. Removal of a failed lot of meters will be removed from service for testing and repair within one year.

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