



Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

400 N 4th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501

State of North Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

NDPSC Volume 8
Original Sheet No. 47

GAS METER TESTING PROGRAM Rate 105

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Applicability:

This rate schedule specifies the protocol to be followed for the testing of gas meters in compliance with Sections 69-09-01-14 and 69-09-01-16 of the North Dakota Century Code.

Testing Process for New Meters

1. Meter supplier(s) shall provide test data for all new meters.
2. A sampling of 5% of new meter lots received will be tested at full load and light load. If unsatisfactory, all meters in the shipment shall be tested, and repaired if necessary, or the shipment shall be returned to the manufacturer.

Testing Process for Meters in Service

1. This meter test schedule shall not apply to meters larger than 650 cubic feet per hour (cfh). Such meters shall be tested and adjusted or repaired, if necessary, at a periodic interval of at least once in ten years.
2. 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 North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming.
3. 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.
4. 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 414, Sample Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Variables for Percent Defective, inspection level IV with specification limits of + 2.0%.

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5. The 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.
6. 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%. The following actions will be taken based on the test results:
 - a. A meter 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% of the sample registers over 102%.
 - c. A meter lot for which the sample fails will be evaluated if the lot failed the previous year or if more than 10% of the sample registers over 102%.
 - i. If evaluation determines the group is homogeneous, then 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 or failed subset of lot will be removed from service for testing and repair within one year.

Reporting

Montana-Dakota shall file reports of its meter test results by April 1 of the year following the test period. The test year shall run from July 1 through June 30.

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