

Gas Installation Requirements: General Order 112 F

Changes to Installation Requirements for Gas

The State of California has adopted and issued a change to General Order Number 112 (GO 112-F) governing the design, construction, testing, operation, and maintenance of Gas Gathering, Transmission, and Distribution Piping Systems. There are changes in GO 112-F that place qualification requirements on the individuals that perform the backfilling and compaction of trenches containing gas pipelines. Backfilling and compaction of gas pipeline trenches, along with gas pipeline fitting, are considered “Covered Tasks” under GO 112-F and these Covered Tasks requirements will now be applied to new construction of gas pipelines, whether this construction is for a new pipeline extension or new pipeline for the relocation of an existing pipeline. Qualification to perform backfill and compaction is shown as Covered Task “49 CFR 192.327 – Backfill”.

GO 112-F has adopted the requirement in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (49 CFR) to require that operators of pipelines develop and conduct selection, training and testing programs to annually qualify employees for correctly carrying out each assigned responsibility necessary for complying with Title 49 CFR. General Order Number 112-F has made these requirements effective by January 1, 2017. You may refer to the Code of Federal Regulations Title 49, Subtitle B, Chapter I, Subchapter D, Part 192, Subpart N, Sections 192.801 – 192.809 to view the “Qualification of Pipeline Personnel”. As a result of this change, any activity that is identified by the Utility as a Covered Task must be performed by a qualified individual.

The qualification requirements for individuals constructing gas pipelines apply to Applicant Installers as well as Utility employees. Applicant Installers include those individuals who are gas polyethylene fitters as well as those individuals who perform backfill and compaction tasks.

Starting January 1, 2017, the individuals (employees and contractors) you hire to perform gas polyethylene fitting and perform backfill tasks and compaction tasks must be qualified through Veriforce. SDG&E will assist you and your contractors in finding the Veriforce training to be qualified under these new requirements.

Starting January 1, 2017, SDG&E will be checking the qualification certificates of all individuals performing gas pipeline installation covered tasks. **SDG&E will not accept or energize any gas pipeline that has had covered tasks performed by non-qualified personnel. SDG&E will require that any covered task performed by a non-qualified worker be reconstructed by qualified workers. This could result in work, performed by qualified workers after the non-qualified work was installed, having to also be reconstructed.** Proof of qualification must be provided in the form of a Veriforce Field Verification Report (FVR).

- Please contact any contractors you might consider using for your gas pipeline installation work and review these requirements with them. If they have not been Operator Qualified, they will need to attend training and testing to meet the requirements if they want to perform gas pipeline installation, backfill and compaction tasks starting January 1, 2017. In addition to each employee who is performing covered tasks being qualified, the contracting company must also be qualified by having an approved Drug and Alcohol program.
- Should your contractor need to become qualified, they should contact SDG&E’s Qualification & Compliance department by email at: GasQualifications&Compliance@semprautilities.com. The contractor will be issued an application packet and will be assisted with gaining access to the SDG&E operator qualification program for contractors located with the Veriforce system.
- SDG&E will provide a listing of current Veriforce qualified contractor companies.

Gas Pipeline Applicant Installation – Main and Service

1. For all pipeline installation an SDG&E Project Coordinator or Inspector A will inspect the qualifications of all individuals performing Covered Tasks.
2. For Applicant Installation of Gas Pipeline, a Contract Administrator will be assigned to coordinate and inspect polyethylene fitting activities.
3. Material normally installed by the utility will be provided by the utility; the contractor will pick it up at a designated location.
4. A Qualified Contractor will perform all polyethylene fitting installation work, except tie-in to energized system.
5. A Qualified Contractor will perform all backfill and compaction covered tasks.
6. The polyethylene fitting Qualified Contractor will provide reconciliation of material installed and as-built drawings.
7. SDG&E will perform the tie-in work and energize the new gas or electric systems.
8. Upon final acceptance of work performed by the Qualified Contractors, the facilities installed become the property of SDG&E.

Please consider the following as you make your selection of a Qualified Contractor:

1. The contractor must be licensed in California for the appropriate type of work.
2. Do they employ workers properly qualified for the specific skills required?
3. Do they comply with applicable laws (i.e., OSHA, EPA, equal opportunity regulations, etc.)?
4. Are they technically competent and have access to the proper equipment?
5. Do they demonstrate financial responsibility appropriate for the scope of the contract?
6. Do they have adequate insurance (Workers' Compensation, liability, property damage, etc.)?
7. Are they able to furnish a surety bond for performance of contract, if required?
8. Have the poly pipe fusion installers been qualified by SDG&E and Veriforce?
9. Have the backfill and compaction workers been qualified by Veriforce?
10. SDG&E allows only one qualified polyethylene fitting contractor per work order.