
2020 – March 4 – Editorial Section
Approved additions and revisions to guide material under §§192.721 and 192.723. Ready for 2nd LB.

Letter Ballot Note from 1st LB: Editorial Section notes that the Purpose and Rationale in the Meeting TR Space is different that the TR Package version. Both are provided below for information to Main Body.

TR Package Version
PRIMARY: 192.721, 723
PURPOSE: Develop a risk based assessment for defining business districts.
ORIGIN/RATIONALE: O&M Task Group Minutes July 11, 2017
Note: TR 2015-31 redefine business district is currently at O&M to resolve LB negative and comments.

Meeting TR Space Version in July 2018 {Additional background/history is also provided at this file}
PURPOSE: GM under Parts §192.721 and §192.723 do not provide an adequate definition of the term “business district”. TR 2015-31 was originally tasked to address this. However, there were certain unresolved LB negative comments, and this was closed. This TR specifically looks at the rationale for using a risk-based definition and/or approach to the GM.

RATIONALE: A key approach is to try to understand the definition of “business district” (note double quotes) as it was intended by DOT/PHMSA and used in Part 192. That original intent may improve the definition of the term, as well as provide enhanced guidance to operators.

Letter Ballot Note: Changes from LB1-2019 are shown in yellow highlight.

Section 192.721

1 GENERAL
Distribution mains should be patrolled, as necessary, to observe factors affecting safe operation and to enable correction of potentially hazardous conditions. In addition to visual evidence of leakage, patrol considerations should include observation and reporting of potential hazards such as the following.
(a) Excavation, grading, demolition or other construction activity ...
(b) Evidence that excavation, grading, demolition, or other construction activity may take place or has taken place, ...
(c) Physical deterioration of exposed piping, pipeline spans, and structural pipeline supports, such as bridges, piling, headwalls, casings, and foundations.
(d) Land subsidence, earth slippage, soil erosion, extensive tree root growth, ...
(e) Need for additional distribution pipeline identification and marking...
(f) Damage to casing vents and carrier pipe leakage at cased crossings.

2 BUSINESS DISTRICTS
For determining business districts, see 1.1 of the guide material under §192.723.

2.23 SCHEDULING
2.23.1 General.
Patrolling may be accomplished in conjunction with leak surveys, scheduled inspections, and other routine activities.

2.23.2 Potentially hazardous locations.
Locations or areas that are considered potentially hazardous may be patrolled more frequently based on the probable severity, timing, and duration of the hazard.

3 SPECIAL LOCATIONS

4 REPORTS
Section 192.723

1 FREQUENCY GENERAL

1.1 Determining business districts.

In Docket PS-124; Amendment 192-78, dated June 18, 1996, the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA, precursor to PHMSA) stated the following: “... the term ‘business district’ represents areas of higher risk and ‘outside business districts’ represent areas of lower risk.” In determining business districts, the following should be considered.

(a) Areas where the public regularly congregates or where the majority of the buildings on either side of the street are regularly utilized for industrial, commercial, financial, educational, religious, health, or recreational purposes.
(b) Areas where gas and other underground facilities are congested under continuous street and sidewalk paving that extends to the building walls on one or both sides of the street.
(c) Any other area that, in the judgement of the operator, should be so designated as identified by the operator using Subpart P. Areas that have been defined as business districts by the respective state agency.

1.2 Minimum requirements.

The minimum frequency for leakage surveys is established by §192.723(b).

1.3 Increased frequency.

Consideration should be given to increased frequency for leak surveys based on the particular circumstances and conditions, including other areas that the operator has determined to have higher risk as identified using Subpart P. Surveys should be conducted most frequently in those areas with the greatest potential for leakage and where leakage could be expected to create a hazard. Factors to be considered in establishing the frequency of leak surveys include the following.

(a) – (e) ...