

TR 2022-29 – 6 Month Extension - Sufficient Justification

2022 – Nov 2 – Editorial Section

Approved revisions to guide material under §192.939. **Ready for LB.**

Primary	192.939(a) & (b)
Purpose	Consider 192.939 GM revisions to provide a more comprehensive explanation and/or examples of “sufficient justification” related to reassessment interval extension requests to PHMSA.
Origin/Rationale	TR was initiated due to comment provided in approving TR 19-64 in LB5-2021. Friend – Approved with comment While the proposed language mimics code, what is actually meant by sufficient justification? I think that there is some additional guidance that could be provided as what is meant by sufficient.
Assigned to	IMCORR

Section 192.939

1 GENERAL

The factors that determine the reassessment interval include the following.

- (a) Operating stress levels.
- (b) Type of prior assessment.
- (c) Analysis of defects from prior assessment.
- (d) Prescriptive or performance based programs.
- (e) Requirement for a 7-year reassessment interval.

2 MAXIMUM REASSESSMENT INTERVALS

- (a) Tables 192.939i through 192.939iv and Appendix E to Part 192 list the maximum permitted reassessment intervals based on type of prior assessment and operating stress level. If the maximum permitted time interval for an assessment method exceeds 7 calendar years, a confirmatory direct assessment (see §192.931 regarding CDA) or other assessment must be conducted at intervals not exceeding 7 calendar years (§192.939(a) and (b)).
- (b) Operators may request a 6-month extension of the 7-calendar-year reassessment interval if the operator submits written notice to PHMSA-OPS, in accordance with §192.18, with sufficient justification of the need for the extension (§192.939(a) and (b)). The operator should state why the extension is needed and how it will not compromise safety. Additional actions to ensure public safety (e.g., leak surveys, patrols) during the extension should also be considered and noted in the application. The following are examples of what might be considered as sufficient justification for an extension.
 - (1) Weather-related or natural disaster conditions.
 - (2) Assessment tool availability or malfunctions.
 - (3) Changes in field or operating conditions.
 - (4) Gas supply issues.
 - (5) Permitting issues.
 - (6) Public health concerns, such as a pandemic.
- (c) Based on the threats and conditions found, reassessment may be required at intervals less than the maximum.

{Tables 192.939i through 192.939iv}

3 NEED FOR MORE FREQUENT ASSESSMENT

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