

2. A building that is occupied by twenty (20) or more persons on at least five (5) days a week for ten (10) weeks in any twelve (12) month period (the days and weeks need not be consecutive). Examples included in the definition are religious facilities, office buildings, community centers, general stores, 4-H facilities, and roller rinks.

3. A facility occupied by persons who are confined, are of impaired mobility, or would be difficult to evacuate. Examples included in the definition are hospitals, prisons, schools, day-care facilities, retirement facility and assisted-living facilities.

*Section 192.905 How Does an Operator Identify a High Consequence Area?*

An operator is required to select method (a) or method (b) from the definition in § 192.903 to identify a high consequence area. One method may be applied to an entire pipeline system, or the methods may be applied individually to portions of the pipeline system. An operator has to describe in its integrity management program which method is applicable for each portion of the operator's system, and show the Potential Impact Radius when utilized for each covered segment. The rule also includes guidance in Appendix E.I. on identifying HCAs.

This section also prescribes how an operator must identify HCAs that include "identified sites." The rule is consistent with the advisory bulletin RSPA/OPS recently issued (68 FR 42458). An operator identifies an identified site from information the operator has obtained from routine operation and maintenance activities and from public officials with safety or emergency response or planning responsibilities who indicate to the operator that they know of locations that meet the identified site criteria. These public officials could include officials on a local emergency planning commission or relevant Native American tribal officials.

The rule further provides that if a public official with safety or emergency response or planning responsibilities informs an operator that she/he does not have the information to identify an identified site, the operator is required to use one of several listed sources, as appropriate, to identify these sites. The listed sources include—

1. Visible marking (e.g., a sign); or
2. The site is licensed or registered by a Federal, State, or local government agency; or
3. The site is on a list (including a list on an Internet Web site) or map maintained by or available from a

Federal, State, or local government agency and available to the general public.

The rule provides requirements for identifying new HCAs. When an operator has information that the area around a pipeline segment not previously identified as a high consequence area could satisfy any of the definitions of a high consequence area (as defined in § 192.903), the operator must complete the evaluation using identification method (1) or (2). If the segment is determined to meet the definition as a high consequence area, then it must be incorporated into the operator's baseline assessment plan as a high consequence area within one year from the date the area is identified.

*Section 192.907 What Must an Operator Do To Implement This Subpart?*

The rule requires that no later than December 17, 2004, an operator must develop and follow a written integrity management program that contains all the elements described in § 192.911 and that addresses the risks on each covered transmission pipeline segment. The one-year time frame is based on the statutory requirement to issue regulations requiring an operator to conduct a risk analysis and adopt an integrity management program no later than December 17, 2004. Initially, the integrity management program can consist of a framework that describes the process for implementing each program element, how relevant decisions will be made and by whom, a time line for completing the work to implement the program element, and how information gained from experience will be continuously incorporated into the program. The framework will evolve into a more detailed and comprehensive program. An operator must make continual improvements to the program.

The rule requires an operator to follow ASME/ANSI B31.8S, and its appendices, where specified, as well as the requirements in Subpart O in implementing its integrity management program. ASME/ANSI B31.8S, the Supplement to ASME/ANSI B31.8, is an industry consensus standard that specifically addresses system integrity of gas pipelines. The rule allows an operator to follow an equivalent standard or practice only when the operator demonstrates the alternative standard or practice provides an equivalent level of safety to the public and property. The rule clarifies that in the event of a conflict between Subpart O and ASME/ANSI B31.8S, the requirements in Subpart O control.

*Section 192.909 How Can an Operator Change Its Integrity Management Program?*

The rule requires that prior to implementing any change to its program, an operator must document the change and the reasons for the change, and notify OPS within 30 days after the operator adopts the change into its program. The notification is required for any change to the program that—

- May substantially affect the program's implementation; or
- May significantly modify the program or schedule for carrying out the program elements.

An operator must also notify a State or local pipeline safety authority when a covered segment is located in a State where OPS has an interstate agent agreement and a State or local pipeline safety authority that regulates a covered pipeline segment within that State.

*Section 192.911 What Are the Elements of an Integrity Management Program?*

The rule requires an operator to include certain minimum elements in its integrity management program. Minimum elements are those listed in the rule and when referenced in the rule those in the ASME/ANSI B31.8S standard. The Supplement to ASME/ANSI B31.8 is an industry standard that specifically addresses system integrity of gas pipelines. The required program elements include:

- An identification of all high consequence areas.
- A baseline assessment plan. Requirements governing these plans are in § 192.919 and § 192.921.
- An identification of threats to each covered pipeline segment, which must include data integration and a risk assessment to evaluate the failure likelihood of each covered segment. An operator must use the threat identification and risk assessment to prioritize covered segments for assessment (§ 192.917) and to evaluate the merits of additional preventive and mitigative measures (§ 192.935) for each covered segment.
- A direct assessment plan, if the operator is going to use direct assessment. The plan must comply with § 192.923, and depending on the threat assessed, with § 192.925 (external corrosion), § 192.927 (internal corrosion), or § 192.929 (stress corrosion cracking).
- Provisions for remediating conditions found during an integrity assessment. (§ 192.933.)
- A process for continual evaluation and assessment. (§ 192.937.)