

laboratory test for predicting the re-treadability of the tire. To make such a prediction additional research and development would be necessary.

Based on the comments received, and expressed legislative intent, that aspect of the proposed rule requiring the labeling of sidewalls of a new tire to indicate the number of times the tire may be retreaded will not be pursued further. However, the National Traffic Safety Administration is still considering the establishment of an age beyond which casings may not be used for retreading. The subject will be considered in connection with the standard for retreaded tires (No. 117), published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on April 17, 1971 (36 F.R. 7315). In addition, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration intends to pursue a research program and to determine the impact of aging on the re-treadability of a casing, in order to find the best method of issuing a standard in this area.

This notice is issued under the authority of sections 103 and 119 of the National Highway Traffic Safety Act, 15 U.S.C. 1392, 1407, and the delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.51 and 49 CFR 501.8.

Issued on May 21, 1971.

ROBERT L. CARTER,
Acting Associate Administrator,
Motor Vehicle Programs.

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Office of Pipeline Safety
[49 CFR Part 192]

[Notice 71-16; Docket No. OPS-3]

MINIMUM FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF NATURAL AND OTHER GAS BY PIPELINE

Definition of Service Line

The Department of Transportation is considering an amendment to Part 192 that would broaden the definition of the term "service line" contained in § 192.3. This would have the effect of extending the applicability of those provisions of the regulations that use the term "service line".

On August 11, 1970, the Department issued Part 192 containing the minimum Federal safety standards for the transportation of gas by pipeline (35 F.R. 13248). These standards were based on a series of notices of proposed rule making which had been developed from various State regulations. In § 192.3 of the minimum Federal standards, "service line" was defined as "a distribution line that transports gas to a customer meter set assembly from a common source of supply". This definition is essentially the same as that used in the B31.8 Code and was well understood by industry and other persons affected by the regulations.

However, this definition does not appear to cover all types of lines that are generally considered to be service lines.

The present definition does not indicate that the regulations covering service lines apply to a distribution line on which there is no meter (i.e., where gas is sold at a flat rate), or to a distribution line which is downstream of the meter (such as where the meter is installed at the curb or at some distance from the customer's building). Similar problems also arise with a pipeline such as a "farm tap" which may be unmetered or may be metered at the point of tie-in with a very long line downstream of the meter.

Other situations involve the owner of an apartment complex or a housing authority who is supplied gas by a public utility through a master meter, and then provides gas through various pipelines to housing units within the housing complex or the operator of a mobile home park who purchases gas from a public utility through a single master meter and then redistributes it to various tenants in the trailer park. As already indicated to State agencies having jurisdiction over intrastate gas facilities, the Department considers the owner or operator to be the operator of an unmetered distribution system which is subject to the minimum Federal safety standards. However, the extent to which the safety standards apply to the service lines in these systems is not clear due to the way in which that term is defined.

It is apparent that all of these pipelines are just as involved in the distribution of gas under the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act, and just as potentially dangerous to the public, as lines that are metered in the individual customer's basement. Accordingly, it is proposed to amend the definition of "service line" to clarify the status of service lines in master distribution systems and unmetered service lines and to assure that service lines downstream of an outside meter are covered by the minimum Federal standards.

Although not specifically mentioned, this definition is intended to cover lines which serve mobile homes and outdoor utilization equipment. Comments are requested as to whether specific language is needed to make this point clear.

Revision of the service line definition may accentuate somewhat a problem with respect to the responsibility for assuring that service lines are installed and maintained in accordance with the safety standards. In some States, ownership of service lines rests, by law, with the customer and the gas system operator has no legal authority to enter on the customer's property to inspect, conduct leak surveys, or take other steps required by the standards. The existence of this problem and the effect this revision would have are recognized and the Department is considering several methods of resolving it. Therefore, at this time, comments should be addressed only to the change in service line definition.

Interested persons are invited to participate by submitting written comments on the proposal contained in this notice. Communications should identify the regulatory docket and notice numbers and

be submitted in duplicate to the Office of Pipeline Safety, Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590. Communications received before July 23, 1971 will be considered before taking final action on the notice. All comments will be available for examination by interested persons at the Office of Pipeline Safety before and after the closing date for comments. The proposal contained in this notice may be changed in the light of comments received.

In consideration of the foregoing, the Department proposes to amend the definition of "service line" in § 192.3 of Part 192 of the Code of Federal Regulations to read as set forth below:

"Service line" means a distribution line that transports gas from a common source of supply to a customer, to and including whichever of the following is further downstream:

- (1) The customer meter set assembly.
- (2) The service line valve.
- (3) The service regulator.
- (4) The point at which the line enters the customer's building.

This notice is issued under the authority of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 (49 U.S.C. § 1671 et seq.), Part 1 of the Regulations of the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (49 CFR Part 1) and the delegation of authority to the Director, Office of Pipeline Safety, dated November 6, 1968 (33 F.R. 16468).

Issued in Washington, D.C., on May 24, 1971.

JOSEPH C. CALDWELL,
Acting Director,
Office of Pipeline Safety.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Government National Mortgage Association

[24 CFR Part 1665]

[Docket No. H-71-112]

GUARANTY OF MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES

Proposed Revision of Net Worth Requirements

The Department of Housing and Urban Development proposes to amend Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations by revising § 1665.3 of Part 1665, "Guaranty of mortgage-backed securities." The proposed revision, issued pursuant to section 309(a) of the National Housing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1728(a), would permit greater participation by mortgage bankers having a net worth of less than \$500,000.

Under the proposed revision: 1. A mortgagee must have a minimum net worth of \$100,000 for issuance of straight pass-through securities. 2. The issuance of modified pass-through securities based on and backed by mortgages on one-