

Summary of changes on Pipeline Rules (Alberta Regulation 91/2005 and Alberta Regulation 125/2023)

Interpretation

High Level Summary

- More specific definitions: The amended version clarifies existing terms and introduces new ones relevant to different types of pipelines and their operation.
- Increased focus on safety: The new sections on Safety and Loss Management Systems and Integrity Management Programs highlight the importance of safety measures.
- Expanded scope: The amended version covers a wider range of pipeline types and situations, including temporary pipelines and water conveyance.
- Improved clarity and organization: The amended version reorganizes and expands existing content for better understanding.
- Overall, the amended version provides a more comprehensive and detailed set of rules for pipeline construction and operation, with a stronger focus on safety and environmental protection.

Changes introduced by Alberta Regulation 125/2023

- Added new sections on "active flowing service", "composite", "dead leg", "expanded liner", "freestanding liner", "group 1, 2, and 3 water", "hand excavation", "installed pipeline", "Integrity Management Program", "landowner", etc.
- Reorganized and expanded existing definitions for better clarity.
- Emphasized Safety and Loss Management Systems and Integrity Management Programs.
- Introduced new details on pipeline types like temporary surface pipelines and pipelines for water conveyance.
- Updated references to directives and standards.

Part 1

High Level Summary of Changes

- Exemptions: More specific exemptions are listed for different types of pipelines.
- Notification: Clarification about notifying the Regulator for different situations (e.g., electronically vs. by phone).
- Applications: More details on what is required for different types of applications (e.g., temporary pipelines).
- Emergency plans: More specific requirements for emergency plans based on the type of pipeline and product it carries.
- Safety and Integrity Management: Introduction of new sections and emphasis on the importance of these programs.
- Overall, the proposed amendments seem to provide a more comprehensive and detailed set of rules for pipeline construction and operation, with increased emphasis on safety and environmental protection.

Changes introduced by Alberta Regulation 125/2023

- Introduces new sections and subsections not present in the original paragraph.
- Reorganizes some existing content for improved clarity and flow.
- Expands on specific requirements for certain types of pipelines (e.g., steam distribution, temporary).
- Adds details on pipeline records and documents, transfer of ownership, and financial information.
- Emphasizes the importance of Safety and Loss Management Systems and Integrity Management Programs.

Part 2

High Level Summary Changes

The amended version of "Materials and Design" provides a more comprehensive and detailed set of rules for pipeline construction, operation, and maintenance, with a stronger focus on safety and environmental protection. It also clarifies the Regulator's role in overseeing pipeline safety.

Changes introduced by Alberta Regulation 125/2023

- Focus on non-standard materials and methods: The amended version adds new sections on approval of non-standard materials, emphasizing the need for engineering assessments and Regulator approval before using them in pipeline construction or repair.
- Expanded design requirements: The amended version clarifies design requirements for pipelines conveying hydrogen sulfide, including emergency shutdown devices, control systems for blended gas streams, and stress level limitations.
- Detailed equipment specifications: The amended version specifies pressure ratings for valves, flanges, and other components, as well as noise level limitations and minimum earth cover requirements.
- Surface pipeline installation: The amended version adds specific requirements for installing and operating temporary surface pipelines.
- Pipeline maintenance and inspection: The amended version emphasizes pigging for maintenance and inspection and sets requirements for emergency shutdown device maintenance and testing.
- CSA Z662 reference updated: The amended version references the latest edition of CSA Z662 for pipeline design and construction.
- Regulator authority strengthened: The amended version gives the Regulator more authority in approving non-standard materials and methods, setting operating conditions, and addressing deficiencies in earth cover.
- Emphasis on safety: The amended version emphasizes safety throughout, with stricter requirements for emergency shutdown devices, control systems, and equipment pressure ratings.

Part 3

High Level Summary of Changes

The amendment version maintains the essential requirements for safe and effective pressure testing while simplifying the language and granting the Regulator more discretion to address specific situations.

Changes introduced by Alberta Regulation 125/2023

- More concise and streamlined, focusing on key requirements and granting the Regulator more authority.
- Combines some details into broader statements.
- Key changes include:
- Clearer distinction between newly constructed/modified pipelines and pipelines resuming/returning to service.
- Simplified notification requirements (no notice for tests under max operating pressure).
- Flexibility for pressure testing conditions (Regulator can exempt buried pipelines from full earth cover under certain circumstances).
- Increased Regulator authority over test duration, safety, and retesting.
- More emphasis on recordkeeping and data retention (charting requirements, electronic data acceptable).
- Removal of specific sections on alternative methods, high-pressure testing, and special test media (replaced by references to separate directives).

Part 4

Part 4 of **Alberta Regulation 125/2023** (Ground Disturbance) matches Part 5 **Alberta Regulation 91/2005** (Ground Disturbance)

High Level Summary

- New rules are more detailed and specific than old rules.
- New rules emphasize collaboration and shared responsibility between licensees and persons undertaking ground disturbance.
- New rules offer more flexibility and exemptions in certain situations.

Specific Changes

Notification

Alberta Regulation 91/2005: Notify Utility Safety Partners 3-10 days before.

Alberta Regulation 125/2023: Notify Utility Safety Partners AND licensee 2-10 days before. If unsuccessful, notify licensee directly.

Locating and Marking

Alberta Regulation 91/2005: Licensee responsible, no mention of alternative methods.

Alberta Regulation 125/2023: Licensee responsible, but person can be delegated with agreement. - Alternative methods allowed with agreement. - Exemptions for certain situations.

Supervision

Alberta Regulation 91/2005: Licensee responsible.

Alberta Regulation 125/2023: Licensee responsible, but person can supervise under certain conditions.

Vehicle crossings

Alberta Regulation 91/2005: Consent required for all except farm and off-highway vehicles.

Alberta Regulation 125/2023: Consent required for all except farm, off-highway, and certain passenger vehicles under 2 tonnes.

Exposing pipelines

Alberta Regulation 91/2005: Full exposure required unless verified by other means.

Alberta Regulation 125/2023: Partial exposure allowed in certain situations. Trenchless excavation procedures added.

Fees

Alberta Regulation 91/2005: No mention of fees.

Alberta Regulation 125/2023: Explicitly states that licensees cannot charge fees for locating, marking, or supervising ground disturbance.

Additional Notes

- New rules clarify and expand on emergency procedures and alternative methods.
- New rules emphasize recordkeeping and documentation requirements.
- New rules give the Regulator more authority to approve alternative procedures and require additional safety measures.
- Overall, the new ground disturbance rules provide a more comprehensive and flexible framework for ensuring the safety of pipelines and people working around the

Part 5

High Level Summary of Changes

- Expand the coverage of locations requiring warning signs.
- Increase the clarity and detail of installation requirements.
- Maintain existing maintenance and update requirements.
- Offer more flexibility for alternate and temporary signage.
- Provide additional specifications for group and facility identification signs.

Changes introduced by Alberta Regulation 125/2023

- Added location: crossings of creeks, streams, and rivers where water is present year-round.
- Added installation requirements: within land acquired for pipeline, as close to pipeline centerline as possible without risk, not obscured.
- Added maintenance requirement: maintain full visibility.
- Clarified alternate signage and temporary sign procedures.
- Expanded group sign requirements: identify sides of pipelines and placement at crossings.
- Clarified identification sign content and requirements for warning symbols.

Part 6

High Level Summary of Changes

- Expand the types of modifications covered.
- Use clearer language and terminology.
- Streamline the process for changes in substance or pressure.
- Give the Regulator more flexibility in setting testing requirements

Changes introduced by Alberta Regulation 125/2023

- Broadened scope: Covers both expanded/freestanding liners and in-situ thin-film internal coatings as internal protection.
- Clarified terminology: "Liner and internal protection installation" instead of just "liner installation."
- Simplified change in substance/pressure: No longer mentions a separate application, just requires compliance with Directive 056.
- Testing: Regulator can establish testing requirements for any change, not just changes in substance/pressure.

Part 7

Part 7 of **Alberta Regulation 125/2023** (Relocation or Alteration of Pipeline or Other Regulator Direction) matches Part 9 **Alberta Regulation 91/2005** (Relocation or Alteration of Pipeline or Other Regulator Direction)

High Level Summary of Changes

- Simplify the application process with less detailed map requirements.
- Increase transparency by involving more stakeholders (occupants).
- Clarify information requirements and make them more consistent.

Changes introduced by Alberta Regulation 125/2023

- Map requirements: Simplified to a sketch, map, or drawing with key information.
- Affected persons: Slightly broader scope, including landowners and occupants.
- Cost estimate: Clarified that it's required only if known.
- Landowner information: Now requires details on occupants and consent status.
- Notice to Regulator: Wording changes for consistency.

Part 8

High Level Summary of Changes

- Expand the scope of reporting requirements for pipeline incidents.
- Increase transparency and accountability for releases on leases and dispositions.
- Give the Regulator more power to investigate and respond to pipeline issues.
- Place stricter limits on intentional gas releases, with clear exceptions.

Changes introduced by Alberta Regulation 125/2023

- Expanded reporting: Includes leaks, breaks, and contact damage on isolation valves differentiating the pipeline from other equipment.
- Clarified lease/disposition release: Requires reporting for any release of 2 cubic metres or more or causing environmental effects.
- Increased Regulator authority: Can require inspections, investigations, and assessments after leak/break.
- Stricter gas release rules: More specific exemptions for short-duration venting from specific equipment, with emphasis on preventing continuous venting and off-site odours.

Part 9

High Level Summary of Changes

- Simplify the process with clearer options and distinctions.
- Increase Regulator's oversight and authority through closure quotas and plans.
- Expand mandatory abandonment scenarios to address safety and environmental concerns.
- Align with longer inactivity trigger for pipeline action.

Changes introduced by Alberta Regulation 125/2023

- Trigger: Pipeline inactivity for 24 months.
- Discontinuance/abandonment options: Simplified options with clearer distinctions between discontinuance and abandonment.
- Removal: Integrated into abandonment procedures.
- Closure quotas and plans: More detailed provisions and emphasis on Regulator's authority.
- Mandatory abandonment: Expanded list of scenarios, including environmental hazards, licensee inactivity, and licence transfer.
- Resumption: Requires approval for pipelines inactive for more than 24 months.

Part 10

High Level Summary of Changes (Version 1)

- Clarifies transitional provisions for licenses under former rules.
- Extends expiry date by six years, providing more stability.
- Earlier coming into force, streamlining the implementation process.

High Level Summary of Changes (Version 2)

- Offer smoother transition for existing licensees.
- Provide greater certainty with a longer expiry period.
- Simplify implementation by coming into effect sooner.

Changes introduced by Alberta Regulation 125/2023

- Transitional: Defines "former Rules" and clarifies that existing licenses under those rules remain valid.
- Repeal: Repeals the former Pipeline Rules (AR 91/2005).
- Expiry: Extended to January 31, 2031, offering longer validity.
- Coming into force: November 15, 2023, with immediate effect.