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**Attention**  
**Natural Gas Service Line Installers**  
**Revisions to Equitable Policies**

**August 28, 2006**

As a result of regulatory activity at the State and Federal level, Equitable is implementing a few changes and reinforcing compliance with its Operator Qualification Program. These changes will affect the installation of service lines within the Equitable service territory and are being made to ensure the integrity and safety of Equitable's operating system, in addition to complying with existing and pending regulations governing repair, maintenance and **new installation** of service lines up to the meter set assembly.

All plumbers/installers working on, replacing and maintaining service lines are required to comply with the following regulations.

1. **Operator Qualification** – Plumbers/Installers must qualify initially and every three (3) years thereafter.

Individuals performing maintenance/repairs or renewals must re-qualify on or before the 3-year anniversary of the qualification date (not the calendar year). Example: if you were qualified on April 15, 2005, your qualification would expire on April 15, 2008. **Beginning April 1 2007, Equitable will require all Plumbers/Installers performing "New Construction" work to be qualified.**

2. **Mechanical Joining of Plastic Pipe** – In order to make mechanical fitting connections on plastic pipe, all plumbers/installers must meet the requirements of Federal Regulation 49 CFR 192.285. To ensure compliance with this regulation, Equitable requires all Plumbers/Installers to qualify annually to perform this task.

3. **Drug and Alcohol Testing** – Plumbers/Installers must participate in an approved program that meets the requirements of Federal Regulation 49 CFR Part 40, Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs and 49 CFR part 199 (subparts A&B), Drug and Alcohol Testing.



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### **Item 1 – Operator Qualification:**

In an effort to address mandates of the Pipeline Safety Act of 1992, on August 27 1999, the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) published a Federal regulation known as the Operator Qualification rule. The rule appears in the Code of Federal regulations at 49 CFR 192.801 - .809. The regulation requires the “Operator” of the pipeline to verify that only qualified individuals perform “covered task” work, or direct and observe the performance of “covered task” work by non-qualified individuals. Several of the tasks performed in accordance with the installation of natural gas service lines fall within the scope of this regulation.

### **Item 2 – Mechanical Joining:**

Included in Equitable’s gas service line installation program is a qualification to join plastic pipe using mechanical fittings. 49 CFR 192.281 - .287 addresses plastic pipe joining and requires each operator to establish a method to determine “that each person making joints in the operators system is qualified in accordance with this section”. **This task requires an annual qualification.** Plumbers/Installers need to qualify annually and remain in compliance with this regulation or they will be removed from the approved installers list. The two approved third party qualifiers are listed below.

### **Getting Qualified:**

Being “qualified” means the operator or designated representative has evaluated an individual and verified his/her ability to perform the required covered tasks. Equitable does not provide qualification services for service line installers. Instead we have approved the programs of the following two providers. Please contact the third party qualifiers directly to schedule a qualification class, availability and price.

#### **Utilities Technology International (UTI)**

**Phone: 614 879-7316**

**[www.uti-corp.com/training.html](http://www.uti-corp.com/training.html)**

#### **Professional Utility Resources (PUR)**

**Phone: 216-870-2707**

**[www.PUR-CO.COM](http://www.PUR-CO.COM)**

Additional Information regarding qualification can be found on the Equitable web site:

<http://www.eqt.com>



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**Item 3 – Drug & Alcohol Testing Programs:**

All plumbers/installers performing natural gas service line replacement work must be included in an approved drug and alcohol testing program that meets the requirements of Federal Regulation 49 CFR Part 40. Equitable utilizes the services of National Compliance Management Services (NCMS) to verify the status of these programs. Several of these are listed below.

There are several components required to comply with Federal Pipeline Regulations with respect to Drug & Alcohol Programs. These include: A DOT anti-drug and alcohol misuse prevention plan, pre-employment and random testing for alcohol and certain prohibited substances, training, record keeping, and an Employee Assistance Program.

Most small employers opt to join a consortium that develops and administers the plan and testing on their behalf, instead of developing their own plan and approved program. There are several consortia available that meet these regulatory requirements. Equitable does not endorse one consortium, below is a listing of several national consortia. Please contact them by phone or mail, if interested.

I.B.E.T. Corporation  
P.O. Box 266  
Mogador, Ohio 44260  
Phone: 1 800 628-5106

Advantage Resources  
Route 30 East  
10 Oakley Park  
Greensburg, Pa. 15601  
Phone: 1 724 600-0180

Substance Abuse Management  
500 North 19<sup>th</sup>. Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
Phone: 1 800 247-7264

Bem Enterprises, Inc.  
145 Eagle Ave.  
Indiana, Pa. 15701  
Phone: 1 800 862-2191  
Email [Bemdriver@thesafety.net](mailto:Bemdriver@thesafety.net)

Pipeline Testing Consortium, Inc.  
9 Compound Drive  
Hutchinson, KS 67502  
Phone: 1 800 294-8758

D.D.T.A. Services, Inc.  
P.O. Box 461  
East Palestine, Ohio 44413  
Phone: 1 800 488-3382

Spectrum Medical Services Inc.  
6505 Mars Road  
Cranberry Township, Pa. 16066  
Phone: 1 800 253-5077



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You are encouraged to visit the DOT website for more detail on the drug and alcohol testing regulations.

If interested, contact any or all of the companies listed above for information and pricing. **If you elect to join a consortium, ensure that your information is going to be submitted to NCMS for inclusion in their database.** This is the only method Equitable has to verify your status.

NCMS may be contacted by:

Phone: 620 669-0954

Internet: <http://www.nationalcompliance.com>

### **Summary:**

Equitable is fully committed to complying with all Federal and State Regulations and takes seriously its role in providing a safe, reliable gas delivery system. As the “operator” of the system, Equitable is responsible for all aspects of the installation, maintenance and operation of the system, including the customer-owned service line. Service line installers must comply with Equitable policies, qualification requirements and procedures or the right to install service lines may be revoked.

### **Questions:**

If you have questions regarding the above revisions, you may submit them in writing one of two ways or call the individuals listed below.

### **E-mail: (preferred method)**

From our web site ([www.eqt.com](http://www.eqt.com)), go to find it fast on the Home page. Click on Technician, click Technical Training, click Contact us then Technical Training Inquiry. Complete required fields and clearly state your question. Click on submit form button.



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**U.S.Mail:**

Pennsylvania:  
Equitable Gas Company  
200 Allegheny Center  
Pittsburgh, PA. 15212

West Virginia:  
Equitable Gas Company  
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Clarksburg, WV. 26301-1550

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