

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO NATURAL GAS SERVICE LINE INSTALLERS REGARDING CHANGES TO COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA POLICIES

In 2007, as a result of regulatory activity at the State and Federal level, Columbia Gas implemented a change affecting the installation of service lines within the Columbia Gas service territory, ensuring the integrity of Columbia Gas' operating system and to adhere to current and pending regulations governing work on natural gas lines.

Columbia Gas requires all service line installers, including those doing “new construction” work, to comply with the following requirements:

1. **DOT Operator Qualification** – Installers must qualify initially, and every three (3) years thereafter.
2. **Mechanical Joining of Plastic Pipe** – In order to make stab fittings on plastic pipe, all installers must meet the requirements of 49 CFR 192.285. Columbia Gas will require all installers to qualify initially and annually to perform this task.
3. **Energy Worldnet (EWN) is contracted with Columbia Gas to house all Operator Qualifications.** Plumbers must set up an account with EWN to maintain all qualification records as stated in items 1 and 2. EWN can be contacted at 855-396-5267 or bdrteam@energyworldnet.com.
4. **Drug and Alcohol Testing** – Installers must participate in a program that meets the requirements of 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 and have that program listed with National Compliance Management Services (NCMS).

GETTING QUALIFIED

Being “qualified” means that the Columbia Gas approved 3rd Party Qualifier has evaluated an individual and verified their ability to perform the various covered tasks. Columbia Gas does not provide qualification services for service line installers. Instead, we have approved the programs of the following three providers. Please contact the third-party qualifiers directly regarding qualification session schedule, availability, and price.

**Utility Technologies International
Corp.(UTI)**
Phone: 1-614-482-8080
www.uti-corp.com/training.html

ARC Randolph & Associates
Phone: 1-412-580-8668
www.arcrandolph.com

ASTAR Inc.
Phone: 1-412-378-1596
www.javant@astarinc.com

J.D. Rellek Co. Inc.
Phone: 1-888-362-6202
jeff@jdrellek.com

Additional information regarding qualification can be found on the Columbia Gas web site:

<https://www.columbiagaspa.com/plumber-qualifications>

DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAMS

Every installer performing natural gas service line work must be included in a drug and alcohol testing program that meets the requirements of 49 CFR Part 40. Columbia Gas utilizes the services of National Compliance Management Services (NCMS) to verify the status of these programs. Instead of administering their own plan and testing program, most small employers opt to join a consortium that administers the plan and testing program on their behalf. Several of these are listed below.

There are several components required to comply with Federal Pipeline Regulations regarding Drug and Alcohol Programs. These include: A DOT anti-drug and alcohol misuse prevention plan, preemployment and random testing for prohibited substances, post-accident and reasonable cause testing for alcohol and prohibited substances, training, recording keeping, and an Employee Assistance Program.

Below are several consortiums available that meet these regulatory requirements. Columbia Gas does not endorse any particular consortium. Please contact them by phone or mail, if interested.

Ameritest 1221 Granville Pike Lancaster, Oh 43130 Phone: 888-708-2008 Fax: 888-708-2008 Email: lynn@ameritest.com	Bem Enterprises, Inc 145 Eagle Avenue Indiana, PA 15701 Phone: 1-800-862-2191 Email: bementerprises@verizon.net www.bemdrugtesting.com
DDTA Services, Inc. P.O. Box 461 East Palestine, OH 44413 Phone: 1-800-488-3382 Email: DDTAservices@epohi.com	U.S. Health Works 7010 Spring Meadows Dr., West Holland, Ohio 43528 Phone: 419-865-4448 www.ushealthworks.com
Integrity Verifications, Inc. 735 N. Court Street, Suite D Medina, Ohio 44256 Phone: 330.725.3866 Fax 330.725.7981 www.integrityverifications.com	Pipeline Testing Consortium, Inc. 9 Compound Drive Hutchinson, KS 67502 Phone: 1-800-294-8758 Email: justin@pipelinetesting.com
Spectrum Medical Services, Inc. 6505 Mars Road Cranberry Township, PA 16066 Phone: 1-800-253-5077 Fax: 724-776-9022 www.spectrummedical.com	

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 Columbia Gas uses to verify your status.

SUMMARY

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

In conclusion –

Individuals who are currently in compliance with all requirements:

1. DOT Operator Qualification – 3 Year Plumber Program
2. Annual Mechanical Joining of Plastic Pipe
3. A DOT Approved Drug & Alcohol Program listed with National Compliance Management Services – NCMS

Columbia Gas must be able to verify electronically the individuals **EWN-ID** before we establish or restore service.

Each person who works as an Operator Qualified Plumber must be individually qualified and have their own EWN ID. It is not acceptable for an employee of a company to use the EWN-ID of their supervisor/boss or another employee.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding the above changes, please contact:

Justin J. Magestro
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania
Compliance Specialist II
Standards & Compliance
Office - 724-651-9864
E-mail – jmagest@nisource.com