

Electrical Distribution Safety

DISTRIBUTION COMPANY AWARENESS

The intent of this bulletin is to inform Electricity Distributors what are the minimum separation distances between Distributor owned electrical equipment and specific combustible gas equipment.

ESA DIRECTION

A natural gas discharge opening shall be separated (i) radially or (ii) with an * open air distance (such as around a corner of a building), by a minimum of 0.9 m (3 ft) to

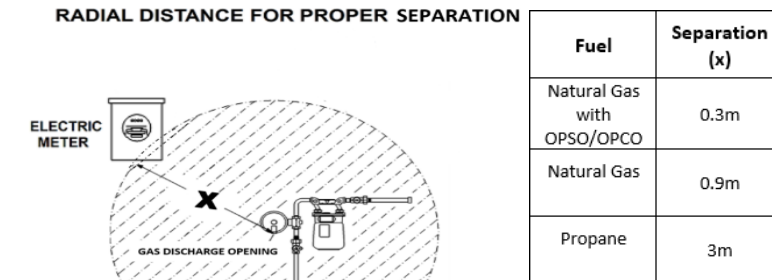
- transformers;
- switchgear;
- overhead switching equipment;
- electrical metering equipment with an internal service disconnecting feature (i.e. service switch);
- meter base plug in transfer devices; or
- meter base plug in devices with an internal service disconnecting feature.

A propane gas discharge opening shall be separated (i) radially or (ii) with an * open air distance (such as around a corner of a building), by a minimum of 3 m (10 ft) to

- transformers;
- switchgear;
- overhead switching equipment;
- electrical metering equipment with an internal service disconnecting feature (i.e. service switch);
- meter base plug in transfer devices; or
- meter base plug in devices with an internal service disconnecting feature.

The above separations for natural gas (0.9 m) may be reduced to 300 mm provided that a regulator is equipped with overpressure shutoff capability. These devices may be labeled as “OPSO” (Overpressure Shut-off) or “OPCO” (Overpressure Cut-Off), with limited relief (“LR”) or no relief (“P”). Note that there may not always be a label, depending on the manufacturer and/or weathering of the label.

More information on the electrical equipment listed above can be found within the OESC Bulletin 2-10-* (see below for a link to this bulletin).



ESA RECOMMENDS

ESA recommends that Electricity Distributors review the direction above and incorporate the separations within their approved standards and/or specifications. ESA also recommends replacing any previous revisions of OESC Bulletin 2-10-*, entitled “Electrical equipment near combustible gas equipment”, with the latest edition. The latest edition is available, free of charge using the following link (<https://www.esasafe.com/contractors/bulletins/bulletins-list>).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

* “open air distance” is also known as a string test distance or measuring around obstructions. For example, a string test distance would be the use of a 0.9m or 3m piece of string with one end held at the edge of the gas discharge opening, which can go around the corner of a building if applicable, to the electrical equipment.

Information requests and follow-up may be directed to ESA at Utility.Regulations@ElectricalSafety.on.ca. For questions on this bulletin please be prepared to quote Bulletin “DB-03/19”.