

Mr. Harry J. Hagan
Senior Planning Engineer
The Southern Connecticut Gas Co.
880 Broad Street
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06609

Dear Mr. Hagan:

This letter is in response to your request for information and clarification on Section 192.187 of the "Minimum Federal Safety Standards for Gas Pipelines" Part 192, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

Your question "what is meant by sealed?" Does a sealed container of volumetric content volumetric content between 75 cubic feet and 200 cubic feet have to meet any test criteria to assure that it in effect is sealed?

In Part 192 we have defined those terms which are being used in a different sense than the commonly understood meaning. In the case of "sealed" it would be the dictionary meaning ... to prevent the passage or return of air or gas into a pipe or container. The intent of Section 192.187 is to eliminate so far as practicable the possibility of explosion or fire in a vault which can be done by either sealing or ventilating. The operator may choose the means that best suits his situation and accomplishes the requirement. Our regulation do not specify test criteria for section 192.187. The responsibility for the effectiveness of the means selected is the operators.

Thank you for your interest in the pipeline safety programs.

Sincerely,

/signed/

Joseph C. Caldwell
Acting Director
Office of Pipeline Safety