

national scope; therefore, this direct final rule will not significantly or uniquely affect Tribal communities, much less impose substantial compliance costs on Native American Tribal governments or mandate Tribal action. For these reasons, PHMSA has concluded that the funding and consultation requirements of E.O. 13175 and DOT Order 5301.1A do not apply.

J. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d) requires that PHMSA provide interested members of the public and affected agencies with an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping requests. This rulemaking will not create, amend, or rescind any existing information collections.

K. Executive Order 13609 and International Trade Analysis

E.O. 13609, *Promoting International Regulatory Cooperation*, requires agencies to consider whether the impacts associated with significant variations between domestic and international regulatory approaches are unnecessary or may impair the ability of American business to export and compete internationally. In meeting shared challenges involving health, safety, labor, security, environmental, and other issues, international regulatory cooperation can identify approaches that are at least as protective as those that are or would be adopted in the absence of such cooperation. International regulatory cooperation can also reduce, eliminate, or prevent unnecessary differences in regulatory requirements.

Similarly, the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (Pub. L. 96–39), as amended by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (Pub. L. 103–465), prohibits Federal agencies from establishing any standards or engaging in related activities that create unnecessary obstacles to the foreign commerce of the United States. For purposes of these requirements, Federal agencies may participate in the establishment of international standards, so long as the standards have a legitimate domestic objective, such as providing for safety, and do not operate to exclude imports that meet this objective. The statute also requires consideration of international standards and, where appropriate, that they be the basis for U.S. standards.

PHMSA engages with international standards setting bodies to protect the safety of the American public. PHMSA has assessed the effects of the direct

final rule and has determined that its regulatory amendments will not cause unnecessary obstacles to foreign trade.

L. Cybersecurity and Executive Order 14028

E.O. 14028, *Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity*, directed the Federal government to improve its efforts to identify, deter, and respond to “persistent and increasingly sophisticated malicious cyber campaigns.” PHMSA has considered the effects of the direct final rule and has determined that its regulatory amendments will not materially affect the cybersecurity risk profile for pipeline facilities.

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 192

Incorporation by reference, Natural gas, Pipeline safety.

For the reasons set forth above, PHMSA amends 49 CFR part 192 as follows:

PART 192—TRANSPORTATION OF NATURAL AND OTHER GAS BY PIPELINE: MINIMUM FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS

- 1. The authority citation for part 192 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 30 U.S.C. 185(w)(3), 49 U.S.C. 5103, 60101 *et seq.*, and 49 CFR 1.97.

- 2. In § 192.7, revise paragraph (i)(3) to read as follows:

§ 192.7 What documents are incorporated by reference partly or wholly in this part?

* * * * *

(i) * * *

(3) NFPA 59, Utility LP-Gas Plant Code, 2024 edition, effective September 14, 2023, (NFPA 59); IBR approved for § 192.11.

* * * * *

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 22, 2026, under the authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

Paul J. Roberti,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2026–08075 Filed 4–23–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–60–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 192

[Docket No. PHMSA–2026–1543; Amdt. No. 192–171]

RIN 2137–AG47

Pipeline Safety: Editorial Corrections and Clarifications to Criteria for Conducting Integrity Assessments Using Guided Wave Ultrasonic Testing

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule makes certain editorial corrections and non-substantive changes to the criteria for conducting integrity assessments using guided wave ultrasonic testing.

DATES: This rule is effective on August 3, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Angela Hill, Transportation Specialist, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, 202–680–2034, angela.hill@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In this final rule, PHMSA is making certain editorial corrections and non-substantive changes to the criteria for conducting integrity assessments using guided wave ultrasonic testing (GWUT). Specifically, Appendix F to 49 CFR part 192 establishes criteria for using GWUT as an integrity assessment method. The existing list of criteria in part 192, Appendix F is numbered incorrectly and includes a duplicate XIV. PHMSA is revising part 192, Appendix F to replace the duplicate XIV with XIX. This typographical correction will remove regulatory uncertainty regarding part 192, Appendix F.

Regulatory Analyses and Notices

A. Legal Authority

This final rule is published under the authority of the Secretary of Transportation set forth in the Federal Pipeline Safety Laws (49 U.S.C. 60101 *et seq.*) and delegated to the PHMSA Administrator pursuant to 49 CFR 1.97. PHMSA has good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) to issue this final rule without prior notice and comment. PHMSA is simply correcting a typographical error in 49 CFR part 192, Appendix F. PHMSA finds that notice and comment is unnecessary because this amendment is editorial in nature and does not impose any new requirements.

B. Executive Order 12866

E.O. 12866, *Regulatory Planning and Review*, as implemented by DOT Order 2100.6B (“Policies and Procedures for Rulemaking”) and DOT Order 2100.7 (“Ensuring Reliance upon Sound Economic Analysis in Department of Transportation Policies, Programs, and Activities”), requires agencies to regulate in the “most cost-effective manner,” to make a “reasoned determination that the benefits of the intended regulation justify its costs,” and to develop regulations that “impose the least burden on society.” In arriving at those conclusions, E.O. 12866 requires that agencies should consider “both quantifiable measures . . . and qualitative measures of costs and benefits that are difficult to quantify” and “maximize net benefits . . . unless a statute requires another regulatory approach.” E.O. 12866 also requires that “agencies should assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives, including the alternative of not regulating.” DOT Order 2100.6B directs that PHMSA and other Operating Administrations must generally choose the “least costly regulatory alternative that achieves the relevant objectives” unless required by law or compelling safety need. DOT Order 2100.6B also specifies that regulations should generally “not be issued unless their benefits are expected to exceed their costs” except where required by law or compelling safety need. DOT Order 2100.7 requires that “all rulemaking activities shall be based on sound economic principles and analysis supported by rigorous cost-benefit requirement.”

E.O. 12866 and DOT Order 2100.6B also require that PHMSA submit “significant regulatory actions” to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) within the Executive Office of the President’s Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. This final rule is a not significant regulatory action pursuant to E.O. 12866; OMB also has not designated this rule as a “major rule” as defined by the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*).

PHMSA has complied with the procedural and analytical requirements in E.O. 12866 as implemented by DOT Order 2100.6B and DOT Order 2100.7. This final rule does not impose new burdens. The changes made are editorial in nature and do not impose new requirements in the Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations. Therefore, it is not necessary that PHMSA prepare a regulatory impact analysis.

C. Executive Orders 14192 and 14219

This final rule is considered a deregulatory action pursuant to E.O. 14192, *Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation*. PHMSA estimates that the total costs of the rule on the regulated community will be *de minimis*. The non-substantive changes of this rulemaking do not impose any new requirements on pipeline operators and should improve the clarity and compliance with the Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations. Nor does this rule implicate any of the factors identified in section 2(a) of E.O. 14219, *Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President’s “Department of Government Efficiency” Deregulatory Initiative*, indicative that a regulation is “unlawful . . . [or] that undermine[s] the national interest.”

D. Energy-Related Executive Orders 13211, 14154, and 14156

The President has declared in E.O. 14156, *Declaring a National Energy Emergency*, a National emergency to address America’s inadequate energy development production, transportation, refining, and generation capacity. Similarly, E.O. 14154, *Unleashing American Energy*, asserts a Federal policy to unleash American energy by ensuing access to abundant supplies of reliable, affordable energy from (inter alia) the removal of “undue burden[s]” on the identification, development, or use of domestic energy resources such as PHMSA-jurisdictional gases and hazardous liquids. PHMSA finds this final rule is consistent with each of E.O. 14156 and E.O. 14154. The final rule will correct a typographical numbering error in 49 CFR part 192, Appendix F to remove the duplicate number XIV. The provisions of this final rule are not substantive and will not impose new requirements on pipeline operators; they are intended to promote the ease of operators complying with the existing regulations.

This final rule is not a “significant energy action” under E.O. 13211, *Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use*, which requires Federal agencies to prepare a Statement of Energy Effects for any “significant energy action.” Because this final rule is not a significant action under E.O. 12866, it will not have a significant adverse effect on supply, distribution, or energy use.

E. Executive Order 13132: Federalism

PHMSA analyzed this final rule in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in E.O. 13132,

Federalism, and the Presidential Memorandum (“Preemption”) published in the **Federal Register** on May 22, 2009. E.O. 13132 requires agencies to assure meaningful and timely input by State and local officials in the development of regulatory policies that may have “substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the National Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.”

While the final rule may operate to preempt some State requirements, it would not impose any regulation that has substantial direct effects on the States, the relationship between the National Government and the States, or the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Section 60104(c) of the Federal Pipeline Safety Laws prohibits certain State safety regulation of interstate pipelines. Under the Federal Pipeline Safety Laws, States that have submitted a current certification under section 60105(a) can augment Federal pipeline safety requirements for intrastate pipelines regulated by PHMSA but may not approve safety requirements less stringent than those required by Federal law. A State may also regulate an intrastate pipeline facility that PHMSA does not regulate. The preemptive effect of the regulatory amendments in this final rule is limited to the minimum level necessary to achieve the objectives of the Federal Pipeline Safety Laws. Therefore, the consultation and funding requirements of E.O. 13132 do not apply.

F. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) requires Federal agencies to conduct a Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA) for a final rule subject to notice-and-comment rulemaking, unless the agency certifies that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The RFA applies only to rules for which an agency is required to first publish a proposed rule (*see* 5 U.S.C. 603(a) and 604(a)). PHMSA is not required to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking for this final rule, so the RFA does not apply. However, PHMSA expects no affected operators will face significant costs from the regulatory amendments introduced here as they are editorial and non-substantive in nature.

G. *Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995*

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA, 2 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*) requires agencies to assess the effects of Federal regulatory actions on State, local, and Tribal governments, and the private sector. For any proposed or final rule that includes a Federal mandate that may result in the expenditure by State, local, and Tribal governments, in the aggregate of \$100 million or more (in 1996 dollars) in any given year, the agency must prepare, amongst other things, a written statement that qualitatively and quantitatively assesses the costs and benefits of the Federal mandate.

This final rule does not impose unfunded mandates under UMRA because it does not result in costs of \$100 million or more (in 1996 dollars) per year for either State, local, or Tribal governments, or to the private sector.

H. *National Environmental Policy Act*

PHMSA has analyzed this rule pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and has determined it is categorically excluded under 23 CFR 771.117(c)(20), which applies to the promulgation of rules, regulations, and directives. Under section 9 of DOT Order 5610.1D (“DOT’s Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts”), PHMSA may apply a categorical exclusion established in another Operating Administration’s procedures. PHMSA followed the requirements outlined in DOT Order 5610.1D to apply a categorical exclusion issued by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to this deregulatory action. PHMSA does not anticipate any adverse environmental impacts from this rule, and PHMSA has determined no unusual circumstances are present under 23 CFR 771.117(b). PHMSA’s Categorical Exclusion Determination memo for this action is available on PHMSA’s website.¹

I. *Executive Order 13175*

PHMSA analyzed this final rule according to the principles and criteria in E.O. 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, and DOT Order 5301.1A (“Department of Transportation Tribal Consultation Policies and Procedures”). E.O. 13175 requires agencies to assure meaningful and timely input from Tribal government representatives in the

development of rules that significantly or uniquely affect Tribal communities by imposing “substantial direct compliance costs” or “substantial direct effects” on such communities or the relationship or distribution of power between the Federal Government and Tribes.

PHMSA assessed the impact of the final rule and determined that it will not significantly or uniquely affect Tribal communities or Indian Tribal governments. The rulemaking’s regulatory amendments have a broad, national scope; therefore, this final rule will not significantly or uniquely affect Tribal communities, much less impose substantial compliance costs on Native American Tribal governments or mandate Tribal action. For these reasons, PHMSA has concluded that the funding and consultation requirements of E.O. 13175 and DOT Order 5301.1A do not apply.

J. *Paperwork Reduction Act*

The Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d) requires that PHMSA provide interested members of the public and affected agencies with an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping requests. This rulemaking will not create, amend, or rescind any existing information collections.

K. *Executive Order 13609 and International Trade Analysis*

E.O. 13609, *Promoting International Regulatory Cooperation*, requires agencies consider whether the impacts associated with significant variations between domestic and international regulatory approaches are unnecessary or may impair the ability of American business to export and compete internationally. In meeting shared challenges involving health, safety, labor, security, environmental, and other issues, international regulatory cooperation can identify approaches that are at least as protective as those that are or would be adopted in the absence of such cooperation. International regulatory cooperation can also reduce, eliminate, or prevent unnecessary differences in regulatory requirements.

Similarly, the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (Pub. L. 96–39), as amended by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (Pub. L. 103–465), prohibits Federal agencies from establishing any standards or engaging in related activities that create unnecessary obstacles to the foreign commerce of the United States. For purposes of these

requirements, Federal agencies may participate in the establishment of international standards, so long as the standards have a legitimate domestic objective, such as providing for safety, and do not operate to exclude imports that meet this objective. The statute also requires consideration of international standards and, where appropriate, that they be the basis for U.S. standards.

PHMSA engages with international standards setting bodies to protect the safety of the American public. PHMSA has assessed the effects of the final rule and has determined that its regulatory amendments will not cause unnecessary obstacles to foreign trade.

L. *Cybersecurity and Executive Order 14028*

E.O. 14028, *Improving the Nation’s Cybersecurity*, directs the Federal Government to improve its efforts to identify, deter, and respond to “persistent and increasingly sophisticated malicious cyber campaigns.” PHMSA has considered the effects of the final rule and has determined that its regulatory amendments will not materially affect the cybersecurity risk profile for pipeline facilities.

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 192

Natural gas, Pipeline safety.

In consideration of the foregoing, PHMSA amends 49 CFR part 192 as follows:

PART 192—TRANSPORTATION OF NATURAL AND OTHER GAS BY PIPELINE: MINIMUM FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 192 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 30 U.S.C. 185(w)(3), 49 U.S.C. 5103, 60101 *et seq.*, and 49 CFR 1.97.

■ 2. In appendix F to part 192:

- a. Designate the table at the end of the appendix as table 1 to appendix F;
- b. Remove the second paragraph XIV; and
- c. Add paragraph XIX.

The addition reads as follows:

Appendix F to Part 192—Criteria for Conducting Integrity Assessments Using Guided Wave Ultra-Sonic Testing (GWUT)

* * * * *

XIX. *Timing of direct examination of all indications above the detection sensitivity threshold.* Operators must either replace or conduct direct examinations of all indications identified above the detection sensitivity threshold according to table 1 to this appendix. Operators must conduct leak surveys and reduce operating pressure as

¹ PHMSA, *Implementing Procedures*, <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/planning-and-analytics/environmental-analysis-and-compliance/implementing-procedures>.

specified until the pipe is replaced or direct examinations are completed.

* * * * *

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 22, 2026, under the authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

Paul J. Roberti,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2026-08061 Filed 4-23-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 192

[Docket No. PHMSA-2026-1530; Amdt. No. 192-166]

RIN 2137-AG34

Pipeline Safety: Standards Update— ASTM F1973

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Direct final rule (DFR); request for comments.

SUMMARY: This DFR amends PHMSA's regulations to incorporate by reference an updated edition of industry standard ASTM F1973, Standard Specification for Factory Assembled Anodeless Risers and Transition Fittings in Polyethylene (PE) and Polyamide (PA11) and Polyamide 12 (PA12) Fuel Gas Distribution Systems. This updated standard will maintain or improve public safety, prevent regulatory confusion, reduce compliance burdens on stakeholders, and satisfy a mandate in the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) of 1995.

DATES: The DFR is effective January 1, 2027, unless adverse comments are received by June 23, 2026. If adverse comments are received, notification will be published in the **Federal Register** before the effective date withdrawing the rule and publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking to provide an additional opportunity for public comment. Compliance after June 23, 2026 is authorized. The incorporation by reference of certain material listed in this rule is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of January 1, 2027.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by the Docket Number PHMSA-2026-1530 using any of the following methods:

E-Gov Web: <https://www.regulations.gov>. This site allows

the public to enter comments on any **Federal Register** notice issued by any agency. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Mail: Docket Management System: U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

Alternatively, hand delivery is available to this address between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Fax: 1-202-493-2251.

For commenting instructions and additional information about commenting, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Alyssa Imam, Transportation Specialist, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, by phone at 202-738-3850 *ore-mailatallyssa.imam@dot.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Discussion

Through this DFR, PHMSA is incorporating by reference an update to a voluntary, consensus industry technical standard already incorporated by reference within 49 CFR part 192. Specifically, PHMSA is updating the referenced edition of industry standard ASTM F1973, "Standard Specification for Factory Assembled Anodeless Risers and Transition Fittings in Polyethylene (PE) and Polyamide (PA11) and Polyamide 12 (PA12) Fuel Gas Distribution Systems," to the 2025 edition (ASTM F1973).

ASTM F1973 covers requirements and test methods for the qualification of factory assembled anodeless risers and transition fittings, for use in polyethylene (PE), in sizes through NPS 8, and Polyamide 11 (PA11), in sizes through NPS 6, gas distribution systems.

References to the 2025 edition of the standard will replace existing references in § 192.204(b) and Appendix B to part 192 to ASTM F1973-21, Standard Specification for Factory Assembled Anodeless Risers and Transition Fittings in Polyethylene (PE) and Polyamide 11 (PA11) and Polyamide 12 (PA12) Fuel Gas Distribution Systems, November 1, 2021.¹ In parallel with updating in August 2025 regulatory references to this standard to the 2021 edition, PHMSA continued to review more recent editions of the standard for potential incorporation in its regulations. Based on that technical

review, PHMSA now supports further updating of the standard to the 2025 edition.

This updated standard will maintain or improve public safety, prevent regulatory confusion, and reduce compliance burdens on stakeholders. The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 (note)) directs Federal agencies to, "when practical and consistent with applicable laws, use technical standards developed by voluntary consensus standard bodies instead of government-developed technical standards." Consistent with that mandate, PHMSA incorporates more than 80 industry standards by reference into the Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations (49 CFR parts 190-199); however, many standards become outdated over time as new editions become available. 49 U.S.C. 60102(I) directs PHMSA to update incorporated industry standards.

Updating this standard ensures better alignment of PHMSA's regulations with innovations in operational and management practices, materials, testing, and technological advancements; enhances compliance by avoiding conflict between different versions of the same industry standards; and facilitates safety-focused allocation of resources by pipeline operators. PHMSA technical experts have evaluated the changes in the updated edition of ASTM F1973 and concluded it will either maintain or enhance the protection of public safety. These updates effectively mitigate safety gaps by incorporating innovations in equipment design, operational and maintenance practices, and testing, while addressing latent vulnerabilities that were historically unidentifiable due to the technical limitations of legacy data-gathering and monitoring capabilities. Indeed, PHMSA on July 1, 2025, published a direct final rule updating the reference within part 192 to the 2021 edition of this standard after preliminarily finding the revisions in that edition enhanced pipeline safety (90 FR 28079); PHMSA's evaluation of the handful of changes introduced in the standard since 2021 yield a similar conclusion regarding their safety impact. PHMSA further concludes that the direct final rule's updated standard is technically feasible, reasonable, cost-effective, and practicable because of its respective anticipated commercial and public safety benefits; and because the benefits better support PHMSA's safety priorities compared to alternatives, thereby justifying any associated compliance costs.

¹ "Periodic Safety: Standards Update—ASTM F1973," 90 FR 28079 (July 1, 2025) (effective Jan. 1, 2026).