



Operation of Heavy Equipment in the Vicinity of Buried Natural Gas Pipelines

Additional precautions are necessary when equipment in excess of 7,000 kg (15,400 lb) for plastic mains and 10,000 kg (22,046 lb) for steel mains is operated in the vicinity of buried facilities where no pavement exists or where grading operations are taking place.

- Prior to operating heavy equipment in the vicinity of buried Enbridge Gas (or associated affiliates within Ontario or Quebec) pipelines, the location of the gas main must first be staked out by an Enbridge Gas representative.
 - The excavator is responsible for confirming the location and depth of the main. Test hole spacing must not exceed 50 m (160 ft).
- Equipment moving across the pipeline:
 - Crossing locations for heavy equipment must be kept to a minimum.
 - The use of equipment is contingent upon a review by Enbridge Gas (contact mark-ups@enbridge.com). Once the crossing locations have been established, heavy equipment is restricted to crossing at these locations only.
 - Pipelines may require additional protection at crossing locations by constructing berms or installing steel plates over the pipeline.
 - Equipment must not remain stationary on top of a pipeline.
 - Equipment must not cross with loaded side boom or other unbalanced loads.
 - Equipment must cross perpendicular (not parallel) to the pipeline.
 - Equipment must operate at slow speeds when crossing a pipeline.
- Existing cover over a pipeline must not be reduced.
- Vibratory compaction equipment must not operate within 1.2 m (4 ft) of a pipeline.
- Equipment moving along the pipeline:
 - Heavy equipment can be operated parallel to existing pipelines provided that a minimum offset of both:
 - 1 m (3.3 ft) is maintained on pipeline sizes less than NPS 16.
 - 2 m (6.6 ft) on pipeline sizes NPS 16 and larger, unless otherwise directed by Enbridge Gas.
 - Only lightweight, rubber-tired equipment may be operated directly over the existing gas pipelines, unless a minimum pipe cover of twice the pipe diameter or 1 m (3.3 ft) (whichever is greater) can be verified. The use of all other equipment is contingent upon review and approval by Enbridge Gas.

For more detailed information on the above, please review the Enbridge Gas [Third-Party Requirements in the Vicinity of Natural Gas Facilities Standard](#) which is also available from the Enbridge Gas [“Working near vital natural gas pipelines” webpage](#).