

Purging Customer Supply Piping Systems FAQ



January 2023

Questions	Answers
What are the requirements for purging a natural gas piping system into service?	Clauses 6.23 and 6.24 of CSA B149.1 describe the acceptable methods of purging natural gas piping systems. The 2020 publication of CSA B149.1 introduced a change for when purging with an inert gas is required. Table 6.4 shows the lengths of piping for given diameters. If any of the specified lengths is exceeded within the natural gas piping system and filled with air (whether brand new installation, or taken out of service for repair, replacement, or alteration), then before the fuel gas can be introduced or reintroduced, those lengths of piping must first be purged with an inert gas.
Why is purging with an inert gas important?	If air remains in the gas piping system, it is possible that when natural gas is introduced, it can mix with the air and cause an explosive mixture, which, if ignited, could cause death, serious injury, or property damage. Purging with an inert gas is intended to remove air from the gas piping system and reduce the likelihood this will happen.
Why is it my responsibility to purge with an inert gas?	The installer and/or commissioning technician of the system must install the gas appliance system in accordance with CSA B149.1, and so would also be responsible for purging. Enbridge Gas' role as fuel distributor as described in Ontario regulation 212/01, under the Technical Standards and Safety Act, is to check and be satisfied that CSA B149.1 is met before allowing gas to be introduced to the system for the first time. It is not to undertake any of the installation practice or commissioning of the gas appliance system.
Do I need to purge all natural gas piping installations with an inert gas?	No, lengths of piping that are not exceeded in Table 6.4 will not require purging with an inert gas.
Are the requirements of Table 6.4 exempted for all residential construction?	It doesn't matter what the type of building is or its intended occupancy, if the lengths in Table 6.4 are exceeded, then an inert gas must be used for purging. If the lengths are not exceeded, then it is not mandatory to purge with an inert gas.
Are the requirements of Table 6.4 applicable to all commercial and industrial and institutional or assembly buildings?	Regardless of the type of building or its intended occupancy, if the lengths in Table 6.4 are exceeded, then an inert gas must be used for purging. If they are not exceeded, then it is not mandatory to purge with an inert gas.

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I am constructing a gas piping system for a new building that has part of the system that exceeds one or more of the specified lengths in CSA B149.1, Table 6.4. What are Enbridge Gas' expectations when I contact you to introduce gas for the first time into the system?	Prior to Enbridge Gas activating the gas, the builder shall: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. arrange to have the piping system purged with an inert gas such that there is no air;2. attach a purging tag to the start of the piping system, signed by a certificate holder (gas technician).
I am constructing a gas piping system for a new building that has part of the system that exceeds one or more of the specified lengths in CSA B149.1, Table 6.4, and I will be using gas for construction heat. What are Enbridge Gas' expectations when I contact you to introduce gas for the first time into the system?	Since the conditions in Table 6.4 are met, then you will need to purge with an inert gas in advance of introducing the gas into the system for construction heat purposes. When Enbridge Gas arrives to do the final inspection, gas will already be in the system and so we will not look for the tag.
I am constructing a gas piping system for a new building that has part of the system that exceeds one or more of the specified lengths in CSA B149.1, Table 6.4, but I will be introducing gas to different parts of the entire system at different times in stages. Do I need to use the purging tag?	Use the purging tag to indicate that it is only part of the system being introduced. When ready at each subsequent stage, attach another purging tag to that part of the system.
Can anyone complete the purging tag?	Only a certified gas technician can complete the tag. Enbridge Gas expects all fields to be completed, and that includes fields for the technician's provincial certificate number and signature.
Can I use my own tags or other form?	Yes, provided it contains at least as much information as shown on Enbridge Gas' tag.
Can I get tags from Enbridge Gas?	Yes, Enbridge Gas will fulfill requests for tags free of charge. Tags can be ordered at Residential/Commercial Builders & HVACs Enbridge Gas .
Does the tag have to remain attached even after natural gas is introduced?	No, once the system is energized, the tag can be discarded.
What happens if the purging tag is not attached, or is missing, or is not completed in full, or is not legible?	Enbridge Gas will not energize the gas piping system and you will have to work with us to reschedule the activation.
Will there be a cost for rescheduling?	A service charge may be applicable in the former Enbridge Gas areas.

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What happens if the purging tag is completed in full, is legible, and is attached, but purging with an inert gas has not actually been done?	Enbridge Gas is not evaluating the quality of the purge and would proceed to energize. If something goes wrong and there is a natural gas incident during energizing, it is likely to be investigated by TSSA. Any person falsifying information would likely be charged under the TSSA Act, either fined or imprisoned, and possibly stripped of their certificate.
Should I consult with Enbridge Gas before I do the purging?	If your gas piping system is already connected to Enbridge Gas' meter or pressure regulating station, be sure to consult with us before you undertake the purging. We will first need to determine if its assets will be adequately protected during the purging. Should any damage happen to Enbridge Gas assets, it could introduce failure of those assets that could lead to death, serious injury, or property damage, and at the very least would be a costly replacement billed to the building owner. If you are dealing with an Enbridge Gas technician or supervisor during project development, review your plans with this person to understand the requirements for Enbridge Gas' turn on to be successful and for "final inspections" to pass.
Do I need to provide Enbridge with advance notice to energize my project with natural gas?	Continue to follow existing scheduling practices and contact Enbridge Gas a minimum of three business days in advance. Former Enbridge Gas Distribution areas: gdsstationops@enbridge.com or call 416-495-5195 . Former Union Gas areas: 1-866-772-1045 .

CSA B149.1-20, Table 6.4

Gas piping systems which require purging (See Clauses 6.23.1 to 6.23.3)

Nominal piping, tubing, or gas hose size in inches	Length of piping, tubing, or gas hose in feet (m)
≥ to 2-1/2 but < 3	> 50 (15.2)
≥ to 3 but < 4	> 30 (9)
≥ to 4 but < 6	> 15 (5)
≥ to 6 but < 8	> 10 (3)
> 8	Any length

Note: Corrugated stainless steel tubing of size 2 in or less are to be sized accordingly to the same as piping.