

STATE OF FLORIDA

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DIVISION OF APPEALS  
DAVID SMITH  
DIRECTOR  
(850) 413-6245

**Public Service Commission**

February 26, 2001

Mr. Carroll Webb  
Joint Administrative Procedures  
Committee  
Room 120 Holland Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

**RE: Docket No. 010105-GU - Proposed Amendment to Rule 25-7.063, F.A.C., Meter Accuracy at Installation**

Dear Mr. Webb:

Enclosed is an original copy of the following material concerning the above referenced proposed rule:

1. A copy of the rule.
2. A copy of the F.A.W. notice.
3. A statement of facts and circumstances justifying the proposed rule.
4. A federal standards statement.
5. No statement of estimated regulatory costs was prepared.

If there are any questions with respect to this rule, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christiana T. Moore".

Christiana T. Moore  
Associate General Counsel

ADM7063.CTM

Enclosures

cc: Division of Records & Reporting

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DOCUMENT NUMBER - DATE

02593 FEB 26 2001

FPSC-REC-RECORDS/REPORTING

1 **25-7.063 Meter Accuracy at Installation.**

2 (1) A new gas meter shall be within plus or minus 1 ~~not more~~  
3 ~~than one~~ percent of accuracy to be ~~(1%) fast and not more than two~~  
4 ~~percent (2%) slow~~ when installed for customer use. Manufacturers'  
5 test data may be used if there is no indication of damage to the  
6 meters resulting from the shipping process. If damage is apparent,  
7 in order for the manufacturers' test data to be used, a random  
8 representative sample of not less than ~~a minimum of ten~~ 10 percent  
9 ~~(10%)~~ of the ~~new~~ meters in the damaged shipment shall be ~~have been~~  
10 tested and found to be ~~insure they are~~ within accuracy limits. If  
11 any meter of the sample is found not to be within accuracy limits,  
12 the entire shipment must be tested, and where necessary, the meters  
13 adjusted to within the plus or minus 1 percent accuracy limits.

14 (2) Every meter removed from service when opened for repairs  
15 shall be adjusted to be not more than ~~one~~ 1 percent ~~(1%) fast and~~  
16 ~~not more than two~~ or 1 percent ~~(2%) slow~~ before being reset. ~~;~~ and  
17 ~~if~~ If not opened for repairs, the meter may be reset without  
18 adjustment if found to be not more than 1 ~~two~~ percent ~~(2%) in error~~  
19 fast or not more than 1 percent slow provided the meter is  
20 otherwise in good condition.

21 (3) ~~(2)~~ No meter may ~~shall~~ be installed unless it has been  
22 tested within the previous 12 months and found to be within the  
23 accuracy limits ~~prescribed in (1) of~~ established by this rule.  
24 ~~within a period no longer than twelve (12) months previous to the~~  
25 ~~date of installation.~~

CODING: Words underlined are additions; words in ~~struck through~~  
type are deletions from existing law.

1 Specific Authority: 366.05(1), F.S.

2 Law Implemented: 366.05(1), F.S.

3 History: Repromulgated 1/8/75, 5/4/75, Amended 2/13/84, formerly  
4 25-7.63.

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CODING: Words underlined are additions; words in ~~struck-through~~  
type are deletions from existing law.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 010105-GU

RULE TITLE:

RULE NO.:

Meter Accuracy at Installation

25-7.063

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the amendment is to improve meter accuracy. The effect will be to have a more cost efficient test to determine the accuracy of new meters at the time they are installed and to reduce the limits that meters may be fast or slow to one percent.

It was also determined that of the meters that failed to meet accuracy limits most had suffered apparent damage. That is why the proposed rule requires an operator to perform a random test of 10 percent of any meter shipment that arrives with apparent damage.

SUMMARY: This rule change prohibits the installation of a meter that has been tested and found to be more than 1 percent slow rather than the 2 percent slow and further removes the requirement for investor-owned gas utilities to perform a random test of 10 percent of all new meters. The proposed rule requires that if damage is apparent on any shipment of new meters, a 10 percent sampling must be performed to assure the damage has not detrimentally changed the meter accuracy of the shipment as a whole.

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY: 366.05(1), FS

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 366.05(1), FS

WRITTEN COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ON THE PROPOSED RULE MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE FPSC, DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING, WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE FOR INCLUSION IN THE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING.

IF REQUESTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE SCHEDULED AND ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

Director of Appeals, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0862, (850) 413-6245.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

**25-7.063 Meter Accuracy at Installation.**

(1) A new gas meter shall be within plus or minus 1 ~~not more than one percent of accuracy~~ to be ~~(1%) fast and not more than two percent (2%) slow when~~ installed for customer use.

Manufacturers' test data may be used if there is no indication of damage to the meters resulting from the shipping process. If damage is apparent, in order for the manufacturers' test data to

be used, a random representative sample of not less than a  
minimum of ten 10 percent (10%) of the new meters in the damaged  
shipment shall be have been tested and found to be insure they  
are within accuracy limits. If any meter of the sample is found  
not to be within accuracy limits, the entire shipment must be  
tested, and where necessary, the meters adjusted to within the  
plus or minus 1 percent accuracy limits.

(2) Every meter removed from service when opened for repairs shall be adjusted to be not more than ~~one~~ 1 percent (~~1%~~) fast ~~and~~ ~~not more than two~~ or 1 percent (~~2%~~) slow before being reset. ~~7~~ ~~and if~~ If not opened for repairs, the meter may be reset without adjustment if found to be not more than 1 ~~two~~ percent (~~2%~~) ~~in error~~ fast or not more than 1 percent slow provided the meter is otherwise in good condition.

(3) ~~(2)~~ No meter may ~~shall~~ be installed unless it has been tested within the previous 12 months and found to be within the accuracy-limits ~~prescribed in (1)~~ established by this rule. ~~within a period no longer than twelve (12) months previous to the date of installation.~~

Specific Authority: 366.05(1), F.S.

Law Implemented: 366.05(1), F.S.

History--Repromulgated 01-08-75, 05-04-75, Amended 02-13-84, formerly 25-7.63.

NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE: C. Edward Mills

NAME OF SUPERVISOR OR PERSONS WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE:

Florida Public Service Commission.

DATE PROPOSED RULE APPROVED: February 20, 2001

DATE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT PUBLISHED IN FAW: Volume  
26, Number 34, August 25, 2000.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES  
JUSTIFYING RULE**

The deregulation of the natural gas industry has resulted in the distribution operator becoming a transporter of natural gas. This new transportation role has developed a demand for greater measurement accuracy. This rule amendment, in part, is an attempt to meet this need by requiring improved meter accuracy at the time the meter is installed at a customer's premise.

The second reason for the amendment of this rule was due to the realization that the requirement to random sample test 10 percent of all new meters purchased by a utility is not cost effective. This random test requirement originated in February 1984 when Rule Chapter 25-7.063 was first amended. At that time, the Commission staff had evidence that the shipment and handling of new meters for the Florida investor-owned utilities did not meet national standards. Since the promulgation of the rule, utility operators have initiated improved procedures for the shipment and handling of new meters.

Meter test data provided by the operators indicate that for those new meters tested in the past six years, only one-tenth of 1 percent of the meters tested were found not to be within allowable accuracy limits. The amendment of Rule Chapter 25-7.063 reduces the requirement for random sample testing of new meters. As proposed, the utility operator would only be required to perform the 10 percent random test if the meter shipment has apparent damage.

**STATEMENT ON FEDERAL STANDARDS**

There is no federal standard on the same subject.