

## Electrical Equipment Near Combustible Gas Equipment

### Distribution Company Awareness

The intent of this bulletin is to inform Electrical Distributors what are the minimum separation distances between Electrical Distributor owned electrical equipment and specific combustible gas equipment.

### ESA Direction

A natural gas discharge opening shall be separated (i) radially or (ii) with an \*\* open air distance (such as around a corner of a building), by a minimum of 0.9 m (3 ft) to

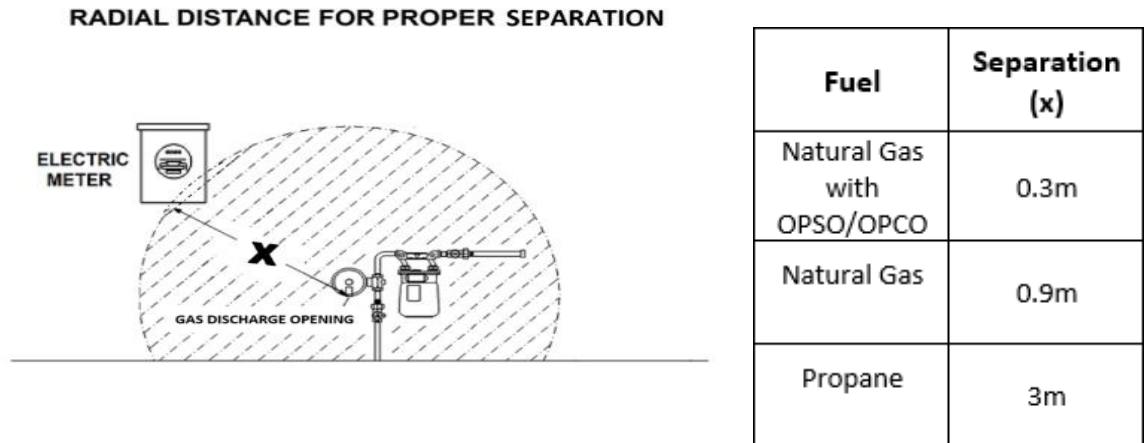
- a) transformers;
- b) switchgear;
- c) overhead switching equipment;
- d) electrical metering equipment with an internal service disconnecting feature (i.e. service switch);
- e) meter base plug in transfer devices; and
- f) meter base plug in devices with an internal service disconnecting feature.

A propane gas discharge opening for a tank that has an aggregate capacity less than or equal to 3,800 L shall be separated (i) radially or (ii) with an \*\* open air distance (such as around a corner of a building), by a minimum of 3 m (10 ft) to

- a) transformers;
- b) switchgear;
- c) overhead switching equipment;
- d) electrical metering equipment with an internal service disconnecting feature (i.e. service switch);
- e) meter base plug in transfer devices; and
- f) meter base plug in devices with an internal service disconnecting feature.

The above separations for natural gas (0.9 m) may be reduced to 300 mm provided that a regulator is equipped with overpressure shutoff capability. These devices may be labeled as certified “OPSO” (Overpressure Shut-off) or “OPCO” (Overpressure Cut-Off), with limited relief (“LR”) or no relief (“P”). Note that there may not always be a label, depending on the manufacturer and/or weathering of the label.

More information on the electrical equipment listed above can be found within the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) Bulletin 2-10-\* (see below for a link to this bulletin).



## ESA Recommends

ESA recommends that Electrical Distributors incorporate the above separations within their approved standards and/or specifications. ESA also recommends replacing any previous revisions of OESC Bulletin 2-10-\*, entitled “Electrical equipment near combustible gas equipment”, with the latest edition. The latest edition is available, using the following link (<https://esasafe.com/electrical-products/bulletins/>).

## Additional Information

\*\* “open air distance” is also known as a string test distance or measuring around obstructions. For example, a string test distance would be the use of a 0.9m or 3m piece of string with one end held at the edge of the gas discharge opening, which can go around the corner of a building if applicable, to the electrical equipment.