



Five Minute Meeting:

Topic: Required OQ's for contractors installing new PE Pipe Gas Facilities

Date: October 30, 2025

Audience: All 2nd party (Alliance Contractors) and 3rd party (Applicant Install Contractors) who install Polyethylene Pipe for PG&E Gas facilities

The key thing you need to know:

Currently there are over 1,100 contractors registered with Industrial Training Services (ITS) performing some type of Gas Facility Covered Task work which requires individuals to be qualified with Operator Qualifications (OQ).

Why it matters to you:

Not all contractors bid on and perform the same scope of work type.

There are some contractors that do not install any gas pipeline and there are contractors that will install new PE Natural Gas Pipeline Facilities.

Key discussion points:

- For the contractor who is only performing excavation work around the gas main per GDS TD4412P-05 Excavation for Damage Prevention configuring the service trench (joint or gas only), and applying bedding through final fill and compaction of the service trench and the affected gas main, shall be qualified in:
 - OQ-0215 Installation, Backfill, Compaction
 - OQ-0507 Damage Prevention During Excavation
- For the contractor that will install new PE Natural Gas pipeline facilities and will be performing plastic connections in accordance with TD-4171S (Qualifications for Joining Polyethylene Pipe) formerly D-34, must be qualified with the OQ's listed below, depending on the method and work type they are performing.
 - OQ-0212 Install Pipe in a Bore
 - OQ-0214 Tracing Wire on Plastic Pipe
 - OQ-0215 Installation, Backfill, Compacting
 - OQ-0320 Protective Coating for Meters, Regulators, Valves, and Connected Piping (This OQ is only required for any application of aerosol and brush on paint to protect Meters, Regulators, Valves, and above ground Distribution Connected Piping)
 - OQ-0403 Leak Test at Operating Pressure (Soap Test) (is required when performing any plastic connections (21 series OQ's)
 - OQ-0404 Pressure Test for Facilities Operating below 100 psi (Leak Test) - (is required when performing pressure tests on newly installed plastic pipe)
 - OQ-0502 Standby Pipeline (Require if Observing and documenting the excavation of Company facilities designated as critical or high priority facilities)
 - OQ-0504 Non-Production Locate and / or Mark
 - OQ-0507 Damage Prevention during Excavation
 - OQ-0613 Polyethylene tapping tee (outlet sizes 1/2" to 2")

- OQ-2217 Steel Pipe Joining: Flanged Joints (including flanged gas risers) • OQ-2218 Steel Pipe Joining: Threaded Joints
- **Please Note:** Plastic Fusion Qualifications would be dependent upon what the job calls for, not all plastic pipe joining qualifications below will be required to hold, so qualifications can fluctuate wildly from contractor to contractor.
- OQ-2103 Heat Iron Socket Fusion
- OQ-2105 Heat Iron Saddle Fusion (Mechanical Assist)
- OQ-2106 Heat Iron Butt Fusion (Mechanical)
- OQ-2107 Heat Iron Butt Fusion (Hydraulic)
- OQ-2108 Electrofusion (Coupling)
- OQ-2109 Electrofusion (Saddle)
- OQ-2112 Mechanical Fitting (Threaded)
- OQ-2114 Mechanical Fitting Connections for Polyethylene Pipe (Lyall Lycofit Brand)

Questions to ask for understanding:

1. Do I need to hold all PE Pipe Joining OQ's in the 2100 series?

No, only the qualification for the pipe joining method you are performing.

2. Is it adequate to wait until the inspector is present to perform work under their SOC?

Working under the inspectors SOC is within compliance, however it is not the intent of SOC to manage work based on unqualified individuals.

If individuals must wait for a qualified person to be present to perform work, then that person should be qualified.

3. Do I need to hold OQ-2217 Steel Pipe Joining (Flanged Joints) if there is no connection at the flange?

NO, this task qualifies a successful candidate to complete the assembly of flanges, bolting in sequence, and to torquing as specified on any connection that uses flanges.

4. When does D-34 get replaced with the new Qualifications for Joining Polyethylene Pipe TD-4171S, Rev. 0?

Qualifications for Joining Polyethylene Pipe TD-4171S, Rev. 0 is effective May 1st, 2023.

Who do I contact with questions?

OQ Gas Program Manager OQPgmMGR@pge.com