

Civil Penalty Summary

This summary provides a broad approximate overview designed to aid the public in understanding the basis of civil penalty calculations. However, it should not be relied upon for determining the specific penalties PHMSA might impose. Following an inspection or investigation of a pipeline facility that reveals a probable violation, the Office of Pipeline Safety prepares a Violation Report to document the violation. For any violation that warrants a civil penalty, data from the completed Violation Report is used to calculate risk-based civil penalties considering the statutory assessment considerations in 49 U.S.C. § 60122 and 49 C.F.R. § 190.225.

The Assessment Considerations are listed below in the left side column of the table. The middle column, Range of Conduct, explains the range of potential conduct that was observed by PHMSA in connection with the violation, generally from least to most severe. A Violation Report must make a selection within this range for each assessment consideration. The right column provides the Approximate Civil Penalty Range that may be assessed under each assessment consideration.

A civil penalty for a single violation is determined by combining the amounts assigned under each assessment consideration. Application of the assessment considerations in an individual case will depend on the facts specific to that case.

Assessment Consideration	Range of Conduct	Approximate Civil Penalty Range
Nature	- Records: Examples: Missing, inaccurate, or incomplete records - Activities: Examples: Performance or conduct of activities/processes: inspections, tests, maintenance, meetings, notifications, reports, emergency response, not preparing procedures, not complying with a special permit, not complying with a PHMSA order, or not following procedures - Equipment/Facilities: Examples: Equipment not installed, missing, defective, inoperative, not properly sized, or not compatible with transported commodity	\$1,862 ↓ \$9,310
Circumstances	- Operator self-reported the violation to PHMSA (PHMSA includes State Partners) before it was discovered by PHMSA - PHMSA or a State partner discovered the violation - Public reported the violation to PHMSA (including State Partners)	Variable credit ↓

		\$14,896
Gravity	- Violation occurred; however, pipeline safety was minimally affected - Violation occurred NOT within an HCA or “could affect” HCA, and NOT within an area required to be covered by a gas distribution system integrity management program. This includes violations that do not involve an HCA or specific pipeline facilities. - Violation occurred within an HCA or “could affect” HCA, or within an area required to be covered by a gas distribution system integrity management program; or the violation is against 49 CFR 193. - Violation increased the severity of a reportable accident/incident (as defined in §§ 191.3 and 195.50) - Violation was a causal factor in a reportable accident/incident (as defined in §§ 191.3 and 195.50) - The number of instances of a violation incrementally increases the penalty Accident/Incident Consequences Factor Multipliers for the base penalty applied for any and all assessment considerations: - Reportable accident or incident - Unintentionally released Gas - Hazardous Liquid releases - Hospitalization injuries - Fatalities	\$1,862 ↓ Maximum
Culpability	Based on operator actions before the violation occurred: - After the operator found the non-compliance, the operator took documented action to address the cause of the non-compliance, and corrected the non-compliance before PHMSA learned of the violation. - After the operator found the non-compliance, the operator took documented action to address the cause of the non-compliance, and was in the process of correcting the non-compliance before PHMSA learned of the violation. - The operator failed to comply with an applicable requirement. - The operator made a deliberate decision not to comply with an applicable requirement. - The operator took egregious action (examples: manipulation of records or reconfiguration of equipment) that evidenced an effort to evade compliance or conceal non-compliance.	-\$27,930 ↓

		Maximum
History of Prior Offenses	Prior findings of violation include a civil penalty or compliance order in the five years that precede the date of the Notice. The prior findings of violation may be the same, similar, or different violations.	\$0 ↓ \$18,620
Good Faith	Based on operator actions before PHMSA discovered the violation: - The operator had a reasonable justification for its non-compliance. (For example, the operator's interpretation of the requirement was reasonable, or the operator failed to achieve compliance for reasons such as unforeseeable events/conditions that were partly or wholly outside its control.) - The operator did not have a reasonable justification for its non-compliance.	-\$18,620 ↓ \$0
Other Matters as Justice May Require (Any and all appropriate factors will be applied to the violation)	Examples of individual Other Matters as Justice May Require: - Operator's written procedures exceeded a regulatory requirement and the non-compliance was against the requirements of the procedure that exceeded the regulation. - Violation of Section 60129, Protection of employees providing pipeline safety information - Reporting- Not reporting a known death with a telephonic or accident/incident report; Not reporting a known reportable injury or release >238 bbls in water with a telephonic or accident/incident report; Telephonic or accident/incident report not submitted before PHMSA discovers it was not submitted. - Additional penalty for LNG violation per (190.223(c)) - Repeat Violation - Repeat of a Repeat Violation	-\$5,586 ↓ Maximum
Economic Benefit	Economic Benefit gained from not complying with the regulation.	Variable addition
Ability to Continue in Business	Determination based on additional information that is presented later by operator	Variable credit

The total civil penalty per violation is calculated based on these assessment considerations and adjusted for the applicable daily and series limit. If a calculated penalty exceeds the maximum

amount permitted by statute, the penalty will be reduced by the amount exceeding the cap. As of December 28, 2023, under 49 U.S.C. § 60122 and 49 CFR § 190.223, operators are subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$266,015 per violation per day the violation persists up to a maximum of \$2,660,135 for a related series of violations pursuant to the requirements of Section 701 of the “Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015” (Pub. L. 114–72), which amended the “Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990” (Pub. L. 101–410) (Inflation Adjustment Act).