

Integrity Management for Distribution Companies

Distribution operators have a very good safety record. Nevertheless, incidents continue to occur, some of which involve significant consequences, including death and injury. It is not possible to significantly reduce high consequence pipeline incidents without reducing the likelihood of their occurrence on distribution pipelines.

Different institutions (i.e. the United States Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration) have made it mandatory for utilities and natural gas companies to comply with distribution integrity management programs. Operators are mandated to achieve minimum standards, often an integrity management approach similar to that used for transmission pipelines. Reflecting the different nature of distribution pipelines fitting adjustments were made to improve safety standards.

The regulation requires natural gas distribution companies to develop and implement a distribution integrity management program (DIMP) with the following elements:

- Document detailed knowledge of the system
- Evaluate and rank risks
- Identify system threats
- Report results

FUNCTIONALITY AT A GLANCE

1. Data import from any GIS system
2. Complete data management with audit logging
3. Dynamic segmentation based on the data items selected for assessment
4. Freely configurable assessment engine
5. Handling of time-dependent data (e.g. for corrosion prognosis)
6. Support for what-if scenarios and comparison of line and assessment data
7. Thematic mapping of pipes according to assessment results
8. Link to any WMS for use as a background map or web services such as Bing, Open Street Maps, or GIS map layers
9. Excel export for easy reporting

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