

## Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection 310 CMR 7.72

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) has enacted 310 CMR 7.72: Reducing Sulfur Hexafluoride Emissions from Gas-Insulated Switchgear.

- Gas-insulated switchgear of FIS means all electrical power system equipment insulated with SF<sub>6</sub> gas. Gas-insulated switchgear (GIS) includes switches, stand-alone gas-insulated equipment, and any combination of electrical disconnects, fuses, electrical transmission lines, transformer and/or circuit breakers used to isolate gas-insulated electrical power system equipment.
- The methodology used to calculate annual emissions is the identical mass balance model used in Subpart DD of the U.S. EPA Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule:

Emissions = Decrease in SF<sub>6</sub> Inventory + Acquisitions of SF<sub>6</sub> – Disbursements of SF<sub>6</sub> – Net Increase in the Nameplate Capacity of Equipment

- The table below shows the maximum annual SF<sub>6</sub> emission rate for each calendar year for each GIS owner.

Calendar Year	Max Allowable Emissions Rate
2015	3.5%
2016	3.0%
2017	2.5%
2018	2.0%
2019	1.5%
2020 and each Calendar Year thereafter	1.0%

Emergency Event Exemption:

- A federal reporting GIS owner may exempt emission from a sudden and unforeseen event from the calculation of the maximum allowable emission rate if the federal reporting GIS owner demonstrates the release of SF<sub>6</sub>:
  - Was caused by an emergency event, such as a fire, flood, earthquake, or act of vandalism; and
  - Could not have been prevented by the exercise of prudence, diligence, and care; and
  - Was beyond the control of the federal reporting GIS owner; or
  - Was necessary to avoid an immediate electrical system outage.

In order for emissions to be exempted from the calculation of the maximum allowable emission rate, Mass DEP requires a detailed description of the emergency event.

For further information please see: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/reducing-sulfur-hexafluoride-sf6-emissions-from-gas-insulated-switchgear-310-cmr>