

Alberta's 2 kPa Rule for shut-in durations <14 days allows for initial and annual tests to be submitted without analysis. Note the Board's computer check has built-in leniency and will accept pressure changes $< \pm 2.5$ kPa/h. Static gradient and 'single-shot' AWS files are checked over the last 2.0 h. Extended subsurface, surface, and acoustic well sounder (AWS) transient gauge data files are checked over the final 6.0 h.

Gradient (GRD.pas) Files

Static gradient survey and 'single shot' AWS data are submitted in the GRD.pas format. Gradient recorders must be on bottom at least 2.0 h (even 30 seconds shy will be rejected, so 125 minutes is suggested as a confidence measure). If using surface pressures and acoustic well sounder (AWS) confirmation of any liquid level, on a gas well, there must be at least four shots over the 2.0 h period (i.e. every half-hour).

Check the File on Site

Consultants should check all gradients for $< \pm 2.5$ kPa/h/2 h compliance on site. If a file does not pass, the well should be left shut-in, and a solution determined: install recorders down-hole, conduct a second gradient at a future date, or do a follow-up AWS.

Transient (TRG.pas) Files

Extended wireline, surface box, and acoustic well sounder (AWS) tests are submitted in the TRG.pas (transient gauge) format. If the intent is to simply pass the 2 kPa rule then flow & buildup is not necessary. Gauges need to be in/on the well for at least 8.0 h (but are checked over 6 h). If $< \pm 2.5$ kPa/h/6 h is not achieved then pressure transient analysis will be required. This can be accomplished via conventional flow & buildup techniques or, possibly, via the perforation inflow test analysis method.

Shut-in > 14 Days

A conventional static gradient survey, with a 10–15 minute on-bottom stop, is acceptable. Sometimes the extended gauge won't pass the 2 kPa Rule, but the gradient will because the shut-in was >14 days.

Initial Pressure Requirements

Subsurface pressures are mandatory for compliance with AER regulations for Initial Pressure Gas, Oil, and SD — Commingled.

Annual Pressure Requirements

For gas wells, surface AWS surveys will be rejected if the fluid level was above the top perforation. Via application, the Board may accept these pressures if there is sufficient well control (i.e. static gradient surveys).

Non-Compliance

With good well control (i.e. CBM $\frac{1}{8}$ DSU) Initial Pressure requirements might be waived. Otherwise you may have to shut-in your well for buildup.