

SECTION 15XXX

HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE (HDPE) PIPE, FITTINGS AND JOINING/FUSION

PART 1 – GENERAL

1.01 SCOPE OF WORK

- A. This specification covers the material (pipe and fittings), joining methods and general installation practice for high density polyethylene pipe (HDPE) piping systems for water and wastewater utility use as indicated on the Drawings.

1.02 SUBMITTALS

- A. Submit product data to the Engineer for review in accordance with the Section XXXXX for all pipe, fittings, and appurtenances.
- B. Contractor shall also submit the following to the Engineer for approval:
1. Certified dimensional as-built drawings/profile of all installed pipe, specials and fittings.
 2. Details of fittings and specials such as elbows, tees, outlets, connections, test bulkheads, nozzles or other special items where shown on the Construction Drawings. All connections to jointed gasketed pipe materials, valves or fire hydrants must be restrained and supported independently to withstand the pressure transients, soil settlement, and external loading conditions.
 3. The Supplier of the material shall submit, through the Contractor, a Certificate of Compliance that the HDPE pipe and fittings furnished for this project are FM approved materials that meet or exceed the standards set forth in this specification. The Contractor shall submit these certificates to the Engineer prior to installation of the pipe materials.
 4. Provide a statement that personnel responsible for fusing the pipe have been trained and qualified.
- C. For items that do not meet all of the requirements of this specification, the bid/submittal shall include a written description of the deviations, along with data that show the magnitude and the justification for the deviation from the specification. The decision to accept material deviating from this specification shall be the responsibility of the specifying engineer and must be approved in writing.

1.03 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND STANDARDS

The standards and documents listed below may apply to the materials and practices in this specification. In the event of a conflict, the requirements of this specification prevail. Unless otherwise specified, references to documents shall mean the latest published edition of the referenced document in effect at the project bid date.

ANSI/AWWA

- ANSI/AWWA C901 Polyethylene (PE) Pressure Pipe and Tubing, ½ In. (13 mm) Through 3 In. (76 mm) for Water Service
- ANSI/AWWA C906 Polyethylene (PE) Pressure Pipe and Fittings, 4 In. (100 mm) Through 63 In. (1,600 mm), for Water Distribution and Transmission
- ANSI/AWWA C651 Standard for Disinfecting Water Mains
- AWWA M55 Manual of Water Supply Practices, PE Pipe–Design and Installation

Plastics Pipe Institute, PPI

- PPI Handbook of Polyethylene Pipe – 2009 (2nd Edition)
- PPI Municipal Advisory Board (MAB) Generic Electrofusion Procedure for Field Joining of 12 Inch and Smaller Polyethylene (PE) Pipe
- PPI Material Handling Guide for HDPE Pipe and Fittings
- PPI TR-33 Generic Butt Fusion Joining Procedure for Polyethylene Gas Pipe
- PPI TR-34 Disinfection of Newly Constructed Polyethylene Water Mains
- PPI TR-38 Bolt Torque for Polyethylene Flanged Joints
- PPI TN-42 Recommended Minimum Training Guidelines for PE Pipe Butt Fusion Joining Operators for Municipal and Industrial Projects
- PPI TR-46 Guidelines for Use of Mini-Horizontal Directional Drilling for Placement of High Density Polyethylene Pipe

ASTM

- ASTM F 585 Standard Guide for Insertion of Flexible Polyethylene Pipe Into Existing Sewers
- ASTM F 714 Standard Specification for Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Pipe (SDR-PR) Based on Outside Diameter
- ASTM F 905 Standard Practice for Qualification of Polyethylene Saddle-Fused Joints
- ASTM F 1055 Standard Specification for Electrofusion Type Polyethylene Fittings for Outside Diameter Controlled Polyethylene and Crosslinked Polyethylene (PEX) Pipe and
- ASTM F 1290 Standard Practice for Electrofusion Joining Polyolefin Pipe and Fittings
- ASTM F 1962 Standard Guide for Use of Maxi-Horizontal Directional Drilling for Placement of Polyethylene Pipe or Conduit under Obstacles, Including River Crossings
- ASTM F 2164 Standard Practice for Field Leak Testing of Polyethylene (PE) Pressure Piping Systems Using Hydrostatic Pressure
- ASTM F2206 Standard Specification for Fabricated Fittings of Butt-Fused Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Pipe, Fittings, Sheet Stock, Plate Stock, or Block Stock
- ASTM D 2321 Standard Practice for Underground Installation of Thermoplastic Pipe for Sewers and Other Gravity-Flow Applications
- ASTM F 2620 Standard Practice for Heat Fusion Joining of Polyethylene Pipe and Fittings
- ASTM D 2683 Standard Specification for Socket-Type Polyethylene Fittings for Outside Diameter-Controlled Polyethylene Pipe and Tubing
- ASTM D 2737 Standard Specification for Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Tubing
- ASTM D 2774 Standard Practice for Underground Installation of Thermoplastic Pressure Piping
- ASTM F 2880 Standard Specification for Lap-Joint Type Flange Adapters for Polyethylene Pressure Pipe in Nominal Pipe Sizes 3/4 in. to 65 in.
- ASTM F 3124 Standard Practice for Data Recording the Procedure Used to Produce Heat Butt Fusion Joints
- ASTM D 3261 Standard Specification for Butt Heat Fusion Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Fittings for Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Pipe and Tubing
- ASTM D 3035 Standard Specification for Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Pipe (DR-PR) Based on Controlled Outside Diameter
- ASTM D 3350 Standard Specification for Polyethylene Plastics Pipe and Fittings Materials

PART 2 – PRODUCTS

2.01 HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE MATERIALS

A. Resin and Material Requirements

1. All material shall be manufactured from a PE 4710 resin listed with the Plastic Pipe Institute (PPI) as TR-4. The resin material shall meet the specifications of ASTM D 3350 with a minimum cell classification of 445474C. HDPE pipe and fittings shall contain no recycled compounds except that generated in the manufacturer's own plant from resin of the same specification from the same raw material. HDPE products shall be homogeneous throughout and free of visible cracks, holes, foreign inclusions, voids, or other injurious defects.

B. HDPE Pipe

1. Pipe shall be made of HDPE material with a minimum material designation code of PE4710 and with a minimum Cell Classification as noted in 2.01.A. The polyethylene compound shall be suitably protected against degradation by ultraviolet light by means of carbon black of not less than 2 percent. The manufacture of the HDPE resin shall certify the cell classification indicated.
2. Pipe sizes 3" and large shall have a manufacturing standard of ASTM F 714, while pipe smaller than 3" shall be manufactured to the dimensional requirements listed in ASTM D 3035. Dimension Ratio (DR) and Outside Diameter (IPS/DIPS) shall be as specified on plans.
3. Pipe shall meet AWWA C901 (1/2" to 3") or AWWA C906 (4" to 63"), and shall be listed as meeting NSF-61.
4. When required by the owner, pipe shall be color coded for the intended service. The color coding shall be permanently co-extruded stripes on the pipe outside surface as part of the pipe's manufacturing process. Color coding shall be as follows:
 - a. Sewer – green
 - b. Water – blue
 - c. Reclaim – purple

C. HDPE Fittings

1. Butt Fusion Fittings- Fittings shall be made of HDPE material with a minimum material designation code of PE4710 and with a minimum Cell Classification as noted in 2.01.A. Fittings shall have a minimum pressure rating equal to or greater than the pipe to which they are joined unless otherwise specified on the plans or accepted by owner/engineer. All fittings shall meet the requirements of AWWA C901 or C906.
 - a. Molded fittings shall comply with the requirements of ASTM D 3261.
 - b. All fabricated elbows, tees, reducing tees and end caps shall be produced and meet the requirements of ASTM F 2206, as manufactured by ISCO Industries, Inc or other approved manufacturer holding an ISO 9001 quality system certificate. Each fitting will be marked per ASTM F 2206 section 10 including the nominal size and fitting EDR, which will meet or exceed the pipe DR identified for the project. Fabricated fittings shall be manufactured using a McElroy DataLogger to record fusion pressure and temperature, and shall be stamped with unique joint number that corresponds to the joint report. A graphic representation of the temperature and pressure data for all fusion joints made producing fittings shall be maintained for a minimum of 5 years as part of the quality control and will be available upon request of owner. Test results to validate ASTM F 2206 section 7.3 and 9 shall be provided to owner or owner's representative upon request.
 - c. Socket fittings shall meet ASTM D 2683.
2. Electrofusion Fittings - Fittings shall be made of HDPE material with a minimum material designation code of PE 4710 and with a minimum Cell Classification as noted in 2.01.A. Electrofusion Fittings shall have a manufacturing standard of ASTM F1055. Fittings shall have a minimum pressure rating equal to or greater than the pipe to which they are joined unless otherwise specified on the plans. For potable water systems, all electrofusion fittings shall have AWWA approval.

3. Bolted Connections- Flanges and MJ Adapters shall be fused onto the pipe and have a minimum pressure rating equal to or greater than the pipe unless otherwise specified on the plans.
 - a. Metallic back-up rings (Van-Stone style lap joint flanges), shall have a radius on the inside diameter of the bore so as to be compatible with HDPE Flanges. Back up rings shall have bolt pattern that will mate with AWWA C207 Class D (generically known as 150 pound patterns).
 - b. Flange assemblies shall be assembled and torqued according to PPI TN-38, "Bolt Torque for Polyethylene Flanged Joints."
 - c. Where shown on the drawings, 4" and larger transitions to mechanical joint fittings and valves shall be accomplished using a MJ Adapter with kit. The D.I./HDPE mechanical joint adaptor shall consist of an HDPE mechanical joint transition fitting, rubber gasket, a mechanical joint backup drive ring, and Corten mechanical joint tee bolts.
- D. Mechanical Fittings: The use of mechanical coupling and saddles shall be approved by the owner or engineer prior to installation. Mechanical Fittings shall be designed for use and compatible with HDPE pipe, including SS stiffeners when required by manufacturer. Mechanical fittings shall have a pressure rating equal to or greater than the pipe.
- E. Fusion Equipment Requirements
 1. Butt fusion equipment must be in satisfactory working order and the hydraulic system must be leak free. Heater plates shall be free from scrapes, gouges, and have a consistent clean coated surface. The pressure gage and thermometer should be checked for accuracy. When requested by the owner, records showing a maintenance service/inspection within 3 months prior to use for this project shall be provided.
 2. Rental Butt Fusion Equipment must be maintained by a McElroy Authorized Service and Repair Center with at least one McElroy Certified Master Mechanic on staff and inspected within 3 months prior to arrival at jobsite will be provided.
 3. Electrofusion Processors shall be maintained and calibrated per manufacturer's requirements and recommendations.
- F. Approved Suppliers
 1. All Pipe, Fittings, and Fusion Equipment shall be provided by one supplier. Approved suppliers are ISCO Industries, Inc. or approved equal.

2.02 PIPELINE LOCATING MATERIALS

- A. Detectable Marker Tape- Plastic marker tape shall be 5 mil minimum thickness with a solid aluminum core of .35mil minimum thickness and a minimum width of 2". The background of the tape shall be colored based on pipe service with black lettering continuously printed. Marker tape shall have a minimum 35 lbs./inch tensile strength. The installation of the tape shall be at 18 inches below finish grade.
- B. Tracer Wire- All HDPE pipe 4" and greater shall be installed with an extra high-strength, copper clad steel tracer wire including 45 mil HDPE jacket that has a minimum average break load of at least 1150 lbs. The jacket shall be colored based on pipe service, with blue for potable water or green for sewer. Tracer wire gauge shall be 12 AWG, 10 AWG, or 8 AWG depending upon application and installation procedure. This wire shall to be continuous and brought up in the valve boxes at the ends of each line segment with splices made only by methods per the equipment manufacturer's recommendation. All miscellaneous splicing components shall be furnished and installed by the Contractor.

PART 3 – EXECUTION

3.01 GENERAL

- A. All HDPE pipe and fittings shall be cut, joined, and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Joining, laying, and pulling of polyethylene pipe shall be accomplished by personnel experienced in working with polyethylene pipe systems.

3.02 TRANSPORTATION, UNLOADING, HANDLING, AND STORAGE

- A. The manufacturer shall package product in a manner designed to deliver the pipe and fittings to the project neatly, intact and without physical damage. During transportation each pipe shall rest on suitable pads, strips skids, or blocks securely wedged or tied in place.
- B. During loading, transportation, and unloading, every precaution should be taken to prevent damage to the pipe. The handling of the pipeline shall be in such a manner that the pipe is not damaged by dragging it over sharp and cutting objects. Cuts or gouges that reduce the wall thickness by more than 10% are not acceptable and must be cut out and discarded.
- C. Handle the pipe in accordance with the PPI Handbook of Polyethylene Pipe (2nd Edition), Chapter 2. All pipe and accessories shall be loaded and unloaded by lifting with hoists or by skidding in order to avoid shock or damage. Under no circumstances shall materials be dropped. Pipe handled on skidways shall not be rolled or skidded against pipe on the ground. Slings, hooks or pipe tongs shall be padded and used in such a manner as to prevent damage to the exterior surface or interior of the pipe. All pipe and fittings shall be subjected to visual inspection at time of delivery and before they are lowered into the trench to be laid.
- D. Materials, if stored, shall be kept safe from damage and shall not be stacked higher than the limits recommended by the manufacturer. The bottom tiers shall be kept off the ground on timbers, rails, or concrete. Pipe shall not be stored close to heat sources. The contractor shall be responsible for all security, damage and loss of pipe, excluding Acts of God.
- E. The interior of the pipe as well as all sealing surfaces of mating components (i.e. flange faces) shall be kept free from dirt or foreign matter at all times. The open ends of all sections of joined and/or installed pipe (not in service) shall be plugged to prevent insects, animals, or foreign material from entering the pipe line or pipe section. The practice of stuffing cloth or paper in the open ends of the pipe will not be permitted. Use waterproof nightcaps to prevent the entrance of any type of natural precipitation into the carrier or containment pipe and will be secured to the pipe in such a manner that the wind cannot blow them loose. Where possible, the pipe shall be raised and supported at a suitable distance from the open end such that the open end will be below the level of the pipe at the point of support.

3.03 RECEIPT INSPECTION

- A. All pipe and fittings shall be subjected to visual inspection at time of delivery and before they are installed or lowered into the trench to be laid. Defective, damaged, or unsound pipe will be rejected. Cuts, punctures, or gouges that penetrate or reduce the wall thickness by 10% or more are not acceptable and must be removed and discarded.

3.04 FUSION AND JOINING

- A. Fusion Joining Requirements:
 - 1. All HDPE pipe shall be joined to itself by the heat fusion process which produces homogeneous, seal, leak tight joints. Tie-ins between sections of HDPE pipe shall be made by butt fusion whenever possible.

2. Butt Fusion: The pipe shall be joined by the butt fusion procedure outlined in ASTM F 2620 or PPI TR-33. A record or certificate of training for the fusion operator must be provided that documents training to the fundamentals of ASTM F 2620. Considerations should be given to and provisions made for adverse weather conditions, such as temperatures below freezing, precipitation, or wind, which is accepted by the owner/engineer.
3. Electrofusion: Electrofusion joining shall be done in accordance with the manufacturers recommended procedure. Other sources of electrofusion joining information are ASTM F 1290, PPI TN 34, and PPI Municipal Advisory Board (MAB) Generic Electrofusion Procedure for Field Joining of 12 Inch and Smaller Polyethylene (PE) Pipe. The electrofusion processor must be capable of reading and storing the input parameters and the fusion results for later download to a record file. Qualification of the fusion technician shall be demonstrated by evidence electrofusion training within the past year on the equipment to be utilized for this project.

B. Fusion Operators:

1. The employer of the fusion machine operator is responsible for the fusion joint quality of the fusion weld made by that individual. The employer is responsible for documenting all training and qualification records for that individual, including compliance to any code requirements for fusion/bonder operators.
2. All HDPE fusion equipment operators shall be qualified to the procedure used to perform pipe joining. Fusion equipment operators shall have current, formal training on all fusion equipment employed on the project. Training received more than two years prior to operation with no evidence of activity within the past 6 months shall not be considered current.
3. For Projects with at least 5,000 feet or with pipe larger than 24 inches, operators or their supervisor must have a current McElroy Fusion Training Certificate for the equipment to be used on the project

C. Butt Fusion Equipment:

1. For 6" and larger pipe sizes, the pipe butt fusion machine shall be a hydraulic fusion machine capable of butt fusing HDPE pipe. The carriage must be removable from the chassis for in-ditch use. The machine must be compatible with an electronic data recording device, McElroy DataLogger or equal. Accessories will include all butt fusion inserts for the specified range of pipe sizes, a pyrometer kit for checking the surface temperature of the heater, extension cord of appropriate gauge (25' minimum), and hydraulic extension hoses (minimum of four). The butt fusion machine will be McElroy, or approved equivalent.

3.05 INSTALLATION

A. Direct Burial

1. Buried HDPE pipe and fittings shall be installed in accordance with ASTM D 2321 or ASTM D 2774 for pressure systems and AWWA Manual of Water Supply Practices M55 Chapter 8. The Design Window identified in AWWA M55 Chapter 5 (page 65 of 2006 version) shall be considered acceptable design and installation conditions.
2. Unless required by the owner's engineer, no thrust blocks shall be placed in the HDPE pipe system since the fused system is fully restrained.

B. Trenchless or Pull-in Installation Methods

1. For Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), refer to ASTM F1962, PPI TR-46, PPI PE Handbook (Chapter 12) and www.PPIBoreAid.com. See Section XXXXX of this Specification.
2. For sliplining, refer to ASTM F585, PPI PE Handbook (Chapter 11) and www.HDPEapp.com. See Section XXXXX of this Specification.
3. For pipe bursting, refer to PPI PE Handbook (Chapter 16)

C. Appurtenances

1. All appurtenances (tees, elbows, services, valves, air relief valves, fire hydrants, etc.), must be independently supported and shall not rely on the pipeline and its connections for this support. Excessive stresses may be encountered when appurtenances are inadequately supported.
2. Hydrant Assemblies shall be installed and field tested according to the requirements of AWWA M17.
3. Installation of Tracer Wire. When tracer wire is required, the Contractor shall install along the entire section of pipeline per local and manufacturer's requirements.. The tracer wire shall be installed simultaneously with the polyethylene piping system. Tracer wire shall be installed by the Contractor once backfill has been placed and compacted to at least 12 inches above the top of the pipe and not more than 18 inches above the top of the pipe. Tracer wire shall be properly spliced at each end connection and each service connection. Care should be taken to adequately wrap and protect wire at all splice locations. No bare tracer wire shall be accepted. Provide magnesium alloy anode for cathodic protection that conforms to the requirements of ASTM B843

3.06 FLUSHING, CLEANING, AND DISINFECTING

- A. All mains shall be cleaned and flushed to remove all dirt, sand, debris and foreign matter.
- B. Disinfection:
 1. Cleaning and disinfecting of potable water systems shall be in accordance with AWWA C651 and AWWA M55 Chapter 9, and PPI Handbook of Polyethylene Pipe Chapter 2 (2nd Edition). The disinfection chemicals should be limited to less than 12% active chlorine. The duration of the disinfection should not exceed 24 hours. Chlorine tablets and powders are not permitted. Upon completion, the system should be thoroughly flushed with fresh water, and sampled to verify the disinfectant chlorine level has been reduced to potable drinking water concentrations in all service water tubing and branch lateral pipes.

3.07 TESTING AND LEAKAGE

- A. The contractor shall insure testing can be accomplished in a safe manner, including protection of personnel, equipment, and public in the event of a failure during testing. The contractor shall restrain pipe, components, and test equipment as required. All pumps, valves, temporary connections, meters, gauges and other measuring devices shall be furnished, installed and operated by the Contractor and all such equipment and devices and their installation shall be approved by the Owner's Engineer.
- B. The test pressure shall be 1.5 times the operating pressure, based on the lowest point in elevation in the test section.
- C. Test pressures require consideration of thermal conditions. Polyethylene piping materials are typically pressure rated at 73°F (23°C) and PE piping at temperatures greater than 80°F (26°C) require reduced test pressures. (Note that higher pipe temperatures should consider both ambient temperatures and radiant solar heating of exposed black HDPE pipe) Guidance for elevated temperatures can be found in the appendix of Chapter 3 (Material Properties) of the PPI Handbook of PE Pipe.

- D. Pressure Pipelines-Pressure testing shall be conducted in accordance with requirements and recommendations of ASTM F 2164 (Field Leak Testing of Polyethylene Pressure Piping Systems Using Hydrostatic Pressure), AWWA M55 Chapter 9, and PPI Handbook of Polyethylene Pipe Chapter 2 (2nd Edition). Pneumatic (compressed air) leakage testing of HDPE pressure piping is prohibited for safety reasons.
1. The section of pipe to be tested shall be filled with potable or generally clean water (uncontaminated river/lake water) approved by the Owner/Engineer. While the system is being filled with water, air shall be carefully and completely exhausted.
 2. If the Contractor elects to perform hydrostatic testing against valves in an existing distribution system, it does so at his own risk and will bear the cost of any damages to the existing valve, piping system, private or public property, or the new pipeline under test.
 3. The test procedure for HDPE pipe consists of two steps: 1) the initial phase or expansion phase and 2) the test phase. During the initial/expansion phase, sufficient make-up water shall be added hourly for 3 hours to return to the test pressure. During the test phase, the expansion phase pressure is reduced by 10 psi to test phase pressure and monitored for at least one hour (3 hours maximum).
 4. Under no circumstances shall the total time under test exceed eight (8) hours. If the test is not completed due to leakage, equipment failure or any other reason, depressurize the test section and permit the system to "relax" for eight (8) hours prior to the next testing sequence.
 5. In accordance with section 9.8 of ASTM F 2164, the pipe shall pass if the final pressure is within 5% of the test phase pressure for the testing period (3 hours maximum). If the test section fails this test, the Contractor shall repair or replace all defective materials and/or workmanship at no additional cost to the Owner.

END OF SECTION