



Standard Specification for Polyethylene of Raised Temperature (PE-RT) Plastic Hot and Cold-Water Tubing and Distribution Systems¹

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1. Scope*

1.1 This specification establishes requirements for polyethylene of raised temperature (PE-RT) plastic hot- and cold-water tubing and distribution systems components made in one standard dimension ratio and intended for 100 psig (6.9 bar) water service up to and including a maximum working temperature of 180 °F (82 °C). Components are comprised of tubing, fittings, valves and manifolds. Tubing may incorporate an optional polymeric inner, middle or outer layer. Testing of fittings and PE-RT tubing to the requirements of this standard indicate that these fittings are appropriate for use with PE-RT piping systems. Requirements and test methods are included for materials, workmanship, dimensions and tolerances, burst pressure, sustained pressure, oxidative resistance, temperature cycling tests, bend strength and environmental stress cracking. Also included are tests related to system malfunctions. The components covered by this specification are intended for use in residential and commercial, hot and cold, potable water distribution systems, and building supply lines.

1.2 The text of this specification references notes, footnotes, and appendixes which provide explanatory material. These notes and footnotes (excluding those in tables and figures) shall not be considered as requirements of the specification.

NOTE 1—Suggested hydrostatic design stresses and hydrostatic pressure ratings for tubing and fittings are listed in [Appendix X1](#). UV labeling guidelines are provided in [Appendix X2](#). Design, assembly, and installation considerations are provided in [Appendix X3](#). An optional performance qualification and an in-plant quality control program are recommended in [Appendix X4](#).

1.3 *Units*—The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.4 The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 7, of this specification. *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F17 on Plastic Piping Systems and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F17.26 on Olefin Based Pipe.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

- D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing
- D1598 Test Method for Time-to-Failure of Plastic Pipe Under Constant Internal Pressure
- D1599 Test Method for Resistance to Short-Time Hydraulic Pressure of Plastic Pipe, Tubing, and Fittings
- D1600 Terminology for Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics (Withdrawn 2024)³
- D1898 Practice for Sampling of Plastics (Withdrawn 1998)³
- D2122 Test Method for Determining Dimensions of Thermoplastic Pipe and Fittings
- D2683 Specification for Socket-Type Polyethylene Fittings for Outside Diameter-Controlled Polyethylene Pipe and Tubing
- D2749 Symbols for Dimensions of Plastic Pipe Fittings
- D2837 Test Method for Obtaining Hydrostatic Design Basis for Thermoplastic Pipe Materials or Pressure Design Basis for Thermoplastic Pipe Products
- D3261 Specification for Butt Heat Fusion Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Fittings for Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Pipe and Tubing
- D3350 Specification for Polyethylene Plastics Pipe and Fittings Materials
- D3895 Test Method for Oxidative-Induction Time of Polyolefins by Differential Scanning Calorimetry
- F412 Terminology Relating to Plastic Piping Systems
- F1055 Specification for Electrofusion Type Polyethylene Fittings for Outside Diameter Controlled Polyethylene and Crosslinked Polyethylene (PEX) Pipe and Tubing
- F1282 Specification for Polyethylene/Aluminum/Polyethylene (PE-AL-PE) Composite Pressure Pipe
- F1290 Practice for Electrofusion Joining Polyolefin Pipe and Fittings
- F1473 Test Method for Notch Tensile Test to Measure the Resistance to Slow Crack Growth of Polyethylene Pipes and Resins
- F1960 Specification for Cold Expansion Fittings with PEX Reinforcing Rings for Use with Cross-linked Polyethylene (PEX) and Polyethylene of Raised Temperature (PE-RT) Tubing
- F1807 Specification for Metal Insert Fittings Utilizing a Copper Crimp Ring, or Alternate Stainless Steel Clamps, for SDR9 Cross-linked Polyethylene (PEX) Tubing and SDR9 Polyethylene of Raised Temperature (PE-RT) Tubing
- F2023 Test Method for Evaluating the Oxidative Resistance of Crosslinked Polyethylene (PEX) Pipe, Tubing and Systems to Hot Chlorinated Water
- F2159 Specification for Plastic Insert Fittings Utilizing a Copper Crimp Ring, or Alternate Stainless Steel Clamps for SDR9 Crosslinked Polyethylene (PEX) Tubing and SDR9 Polyethylene of Raised Temperature (PE-RT) Tubing
- F2620 Practice for Heat Fusion Joining of Polyethylene Pipe and Fittings
- F2735 Specification for Plastic Insert Fittings For SDR9 Cross-linked Polyethylene (PEX) and Polyethylene of Raised Temperature (PE-RT) Tubing
- F2080 Specification for Cold-Expansion Fittings with Metal Compression-Sleeves for Crosslinked Polyethylene (PEX) Pipe and SDR9 Polyethylene of Raised Temperature (PE-RT) Pipe
- 2.2 *ANSI Standard:*⁴
- B36.10 Standards Dimensions of Steel Pipe (NTS) [ASTM F2769-24](#)
- Z 17.1 Preferred Numbers [/catalog/standards/astm/ee1fb6c0a-1e78-4e9f-8555-8d08007109fd/astm-f2769-24](#)
- 2.3 *Federal Standard:*⁵
- FED-STD-123 Marking for Shipment (Civil Agencies)
- 2.4 *Military Standard:*⁵
- MIL-STD-129 Marking for Shipment and Storage
- 2.5 *PPI Publications:*⁶
- PPI TR-3 Policies and Procedures for Developing Hydrostatic Design Basis (HDB), Hydrostatic Design Stresses (HDS), Pressure Design Basis (PDB), Strength Design Basis (SDB), and Minimum Required Strength (MRS) Ratings for Thermoplastic Piping Materials or Pipe
- PPI TR-4 PPI Listing of Hydrostatic Design Basis (HDB), Strength Design Basis (SDB), Pressure Design Basis (PDB) and Minimum Required Strength (MRS) Ratings for Thermoplastic Piping Materials or Pipe
- 2.6 *NSF Standards:*⁷
- NSF 14 Standard No. 14 for Plastic Piping Components and Related Materials
- NSF 61 Drinking Water System Components – Health Effects
- 2.7 *ISO Standard:*⁸
- ISO 13760 : Plastics pipes for the conveyance of fluids under pressure -- Miner's rule -- Calculation method for cumulative damage

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

⁴ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

⁵ DLA Document Services Building 4/D 700 Robbins Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094 <http://quicksearch.dla.mil/>

⁶ Available from Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI), 105 Decker Court, Suite 825, Irving, TX 75062, <http://www.plasticpipe.org>.

⁷ Available from NSF International, P.O. Box 130140, 789 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0140, <http://www.nsf.org>.

⁸ Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), 1, ch. de la Voie-Creuse, Case postale 56, CH-1211, Geneva 20, Switzerland, <http://www.iso.ch>.

3. Terminology

3.1 Terminology used in this standard is in accordance with Terminologies **F412**, **D1600**, and **D2749** unless otherwise specified. The abbreviation for polyethylene of raised temperature is PE-RT. Plastic tubing denotes a particular diameter schedule of plastic pipe in which outside diameter of the tubing is equal to the nominal size plus 1/8 in. Plastic pipe outside diameter schedule conforms to ANSI B36.10.

3.2 *standard dimension ratio (SDR), n*—a specific ratio of the average specified outside diameter to the minimum specified wall thickness (D_o/t) for outside diameter-controlled plastic pipe, the value of which is derived by adding one to the pertinent number selected from the ANSI Preferred Number Series 10. **F412**

3.2.1 Discussion—

For PE-RT-tubing, it is calculated by dividing the average outside diameter of the tubing in inches or in millimeters by the minimum wall thickness in inches or millimeters. If the wall thickness calculated by this formula is less than 0.070 in. (1.78 mm) it shall be arbitrarily increased to 0.070 in. except for sizes 5/16 in. and smaller. The SDR values shall be rounded to the nearest 0.5

3.3 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.3.1 *hydrostatic design stress (HDS), n*—the estimated maximum tensile stress the material is capable of withstanding continuously with a high degree of certainty that failure of the tube will not occur. This stress is circumferential when internal hydrostatic water pressure is applied. For materials with Hydrostatic Strength Classification 3 or 4 per Specification **D3350**, the HDS is equal to the hydrostatic design basis (HDB) times the design factor (DF) for water. For this standard, the design factor is equal to 0.5.

$$\begin{aligned} HDS &= HDB \times DF \\ &= HDB \times 0.5 \text{ (for this standard)} \end{aligned}$$

3.3.2 *relation between dimensions, hydrostatic design stress, and pressure rating, n*—the following expression, commonly known as the ISO equation, is used in this specification to relate dimensions, hydrostatic design stress, and pressure rating:

$$2HDS/P = (D_o/t) - 1 \quad (1)$$

or

$$2HDS/P = R - 1$$

where: <https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/astm/ee1b6c0a-1e78-4e9f-8555-8d08007109fd/astm-f2769-24>

- HDS* = hydrostatic design stress, psi (or MPa),
- P* = pressure rating, psig (or MPa),
- D_o* = average outside diameter, in. (or mm),
- t* = minimum wall thickness, in. (or mm), and
- R* = standard dimension ratio, SDR.

3.3.3 *standard thermoplastic material designated code, n*—the pipe material designation code shall consist of the abbreviation for the type of plastic (PE) followed by Arabic numerals which describe the short term properties in accordance with Specification **D3350**, the hydrostatic design stress for water at 73 °F (23 °C) in units of 100 psi with any decimal figures dropped. Where the hydrostatic design stress code contains less than two figures, a zero is used before the number.

3.3.3.1 Discussion—

Further information regarding testing and approval can be obtained from the National Sanitation Foundation or other accredited laboratory.

4. Classification

4.1 *Tubing*—This specification covers one PE-RT tubing material in one standard dimension ratio, 9.0, and by a maximum continuous use temperature that shall be 180 °F (82 °C), and by nominal tubing sizes from 1/8 through 6.

4.2 *Fittings*—This specification classifies fittings, including manifolds, intended for use in systems with PE-RT tubing, by a maximum continuous use temperature that shall be 180 °F (82 °C) and by nominal sizes from 1/8 through 6 on the basis of resistance to burst pressure, hydrostatic sustained pressure, excessive temperature and pressure, and thermocycling.

5. Materials

5.1 *General*—The polyethylene used to make tubing shall be virgin plastic or reworked plastic, or both, as specified in 5.4, that meets the requirements of this standard and shall have a Plastic Pipe Institute (PPI) rating at 73 °F (23 °C) and 180 °F (82 °C). Fitting materials shall meet the applicable material requirements of a least one of the Specifications D2683, D3261, F1055, F1807, F1960, F2080, F2159, or F2735. Polyethylene material used in fusion fittings shall meet the requirements of Table 1 and Table 2. Fittings shall be made from materials that are generally regarded as corrosion resistant.

5.2 *Basic Tubing Materials*—PE-RT tubing meeting the requirements of this specification are primarily defined by two criteria namely, basic short-term properties, 5.2.1, and long-term hydrostatic properties, 5.2.2.

5.2.1 *Basic Short-Term Properties*—This specification covers tubing materials meeting the following requirements:

5.2.1.1 *Classification*—Polyethylene materials suitable for use in the manufacture of tubing under this specification shall be classified in accordance with Specification D3350 as shown in Table 1.

5.2.2 *Long-Term Hydrostatic Strength*—This specification covers PE-RT tubing which is further defined on the basis of long-term hydrostatic strength tests (Appendix X1). The material shall have a minimum pressure rating as per Table 2.

5.3 *Barrier Layers*—PE-RT tubing may incorporate an optional interior wall, mid wall or outer wall layer or a combination of such layers of non-PE-RT material for the express purpose of providing gas barrier properties to the pipe. The tubing shall meet the minimum wall thickness requirements of this standard without using the barrier layer thickness in the determinations. PE-RT tubing with a barrier layer within the wall of the tubing (neither exterior layer nor interior layer) shall demonstrate a hydrostatic design stress (HDS) rating equivalent to that of PE-RT tubing without a barrier layer. This determination shall be made in accordance with policies no less restrictive than those of the PPI TR-3 and meet the requirements of this standard.

5.4 *Rework Material*—Clean rework material of the same commercial designation, generated from the manufacturer’s own tubing production shall not be used unless the tubing produced meet all the requirements of this specification. PE-RT tubing with a barrier layer shall not be used for rework material.

5.5 *Tubing Material Designation*—The tubing meeting the requirements of this specification shall be designated PE-RT.

5.6 *Certification*—Tubing and fittings intended for use in the transport of potable water shall be evaluated and certified as safe for this purpose by a testing agency acceptable to the local health authority. The evaluation shall be in accordance with the requirements for chemical extraction that are not less restrictive than those included in NSF Standard 61. The seal or mark of the laboratory making the evaluation shall be included on the tubing.

NOTE 2—Further information regarding testing and approval can be obtained from an accredited certification provider.

6. Requirements

6.1 *Workmanship*—The tubing shall be homogeneous throughout and free of visible cracks, holes, foreign inclusions, or other defects. The tubing shall be as uniform as commercially practicable in color, opacity, density, and other physical properties. For tubing that incorporates a barrier layer per 5.3 each layer shall meet the workmanship requirements per this section.

6.2 *Dimensions and Tolerances:*

TABLE 1 Required D3350 Cell Classification for PE-RT

Physical Properties:	Cell Classification
Density	3 or 4
Melt index	2, 3, 4, or 5
Flexural modulus	3 or higher
Tensile strength	2 or higher
Slow crack growth resistance	7
Hydrostatic Strength Classification	3 or 4

TABLE 2 Pressure Ratings for PE-RT SDR 9 Tubing for Water

Rated Temperature		Minimum Hydrostatic Design Stress		Minimum Pressure Rating for Water	
°F	(°C)	psi	(MPa)	psi	(bar)
73.4	(23)	640	(4.41)	160	(11.0)
180	(82.2)	400	(2.76)	100	(6.90)

6.2.1 The dimensions and tolerances of fittings shall meet the specific requirements contained in Specifications **D2683**, **D3261**, **F1055**, **F1807**, **F1960**, **F2080**, **F2159**, **F2735**, or other recognized specification.

6.2.2 *Outside Diameters of Tubing*—The outside diameters and tolerances of the tubing including the layers shall be as shown in **Table 3**, when measured in accordance with **7.4** and **7.4.1**.

6.2.3 *Wall Thickness of Tubing*—The wall thickness and tolerances shall be as shown in **Table 4**, when measured in accordance with **7.4** and **7.4.2**.

6.2.3.1 *Layer*—Tubing that incorporates an inner, middle or outer layer shall meet the minimum wall thickness and tolerances requirements as specified in **Table 4**. In addition, the layer shall not result in the reduction of the total PE-RT material below that specified in **Table 4**. In the case of tubing with a middle layer, the total base PE-RT material wall thickness shall be the sum of the inner and outer base PE-RT material wall thicknesses.

6.2.4 *Out-of-Roundness*—The maximum out-of-roundness requirements shown in **Table 3** for tubing, apply to the average measured diameter. Tubing shall be measured prior to coiling.

6.3 *Sustained Pressure*—The tubing and fittings, assembled using the manufacturer’s instructions and tested as assemblies, shall not fail, balloon, burst, or weep at the test pressures given in **Table 5** when tested in accordance with **7.5**.

6.3.1 If present, valves shall be tested in the open or unrestricted position.

6.4 *Burst Pressure*—The tubing and fittings, assembled using the manufacturer’s instructions and tested as assemblies, shall meet the minimum burst pressure given in **Table 6**, when determined in accordance with **7.6**. Leakage or separation at any of the fittings tested shall constitute failure of the fitting.

6.4.1 If the manifold has more than one connection size, the test pressure selected from **Table 5** shall be based on the largest nominal tubing connection.

TABLE 3 Outside Diameters and Tolerances for PE-RT Tubing

Nominal Tubing Size		Average Outside Diameter		Tolerances for Average Diameter		Out-of-Roundness ^A	
in.	(mm)	in.	(mm)	in.	(mm)	in.	(mm)
1/8	(3)	0.250	(6.35)	±0.003	(±0.08)	0.008	(0.20)
1/4	(7)	0.375	(9.52)	±0.003	(±0.08)	0.008	(0.20)
5/16	(8)	0.430	(10.92)	±0.003	(±0.08)	0.008	(0.20)
3/8	(10)	0.500	(12.70)	±0.003	(±0.08)	0.012	(0.32)
1/2	(13)	0.625	(15.88)	±0.004	(±0.10)	0.016	(0.40)
5/8	(16)	0.750	(19.05)	±0.004	(±0.10)	0.016	(0.40)
3/4	(19)	0.875	(22.22)	±0.004	(±0.10)	0.016	(0.40)
1	(25)	1.125	(28.58)	±0.005	(±0.12)	0.020	(0.48)
1 1/4	(32)	1.375	(34.92)	±0.005	(±0.12)	0.020	(0.48)
1 1/2	(38)	1.625	(41.28)	±0.006	(±0.16)	0.024	(0.60)
2	(51)	2.125	(53.98)	±0.006	(±0.16)	0.030	(0.76)
2 1/2	(64)	2.625	(66.68)	±0.007	(±0.18)	0.038	(0.95)
3	(76)	3.125	(79.38)	±0.008	(±0.20)	0.045	(1.14)
3 1/2	(89)	3.625	(92.08)	±0.008	(±0.20)	0.046	(1.16)
4	(102)	4.125	(104.78)	±0.009	(±0.23)	0.052	(1.32)
4 1/2	(114)	4.625	(117.48)	±0.009	(±0.23)	0.059	(1.49)
5	(127)	5.125	(130.18)	±0.010	(±0.25)	0.065	(1.65)
6	(152)	6.125	(155.58)	±0.011	(±0.28)	0.072	(1.83)

^A The Out-of-Roundness specification applies only to tubing prior to coiling.

TABLE 4 Wall Thickness and Tolerances for PE-RT SDR 9 Tubing^A

Nominal Tubing		Minimum Wall Thickness		Tolerance	
in.	(mm)	in.	(mm)	in.	(mm)
1/8	(3)	0.047 ^B	(1.19) ^B	+0.007	(+0.18)
1/4	(7)	0.062 ^B	(1.57) ^B	+0.010	(+0.25)
5/16	(8)	0.064	(1.63)	+0.010	(+0.25)
3/8	(10)	0.070 ^B	(1.78) ^B	+0.010	(+0.25)
1/2	(13)	0.070 ^B	(1.78) ^B	+0.010	(+0.25)
5/8	(16)	0.083	(2.12)	+0.010	(+0.25)
3/4	(19)	0.097	(2.47)	+0.010	(+0.25)
1	(25)	0.125	(3.18)	+0.013	(+0.33)
1 1/4	(32)	0.153	(3.88)	+0.015	(+0.38)
1 1/2	(38)	0.181	(4.59)	+0.019	(+0.48)
2	(51)	0.236	(6.00)	+0.024	(+0.61)
2 1/2	(64)	0.292	(7.41)	+0.030	(+0.76)
3	(76)	0.347	(8.82)	+0.033	(+0.84)
3 1/2	(89)	0.403	(10.23)	+0.035	(+0.89)
4	(102)	0.458	(11.64)	+0.040	(+1.02)
4 1/2	(114)	0.514	(13.05)	+0.045	(+1.14)
5	(127)	0.569	(14.46)	+0.050	(+1.27)
6	(152)	0.681	(17.29)	+0.060	(+1.52)

^A The minimum is the lowest wall thickness of the tubing at any cross section. The maximum permitted wall thickness, at any cross section, is the minimum wall thickness plus the stated tolerance. All tolerances are on the plus side of the minimum requirement.

^B For tubing sizes of 1/2 in. and below, wall thickness minimums are not functions of SDR.

TABLE 5 Sustained Water Pressure Test Condition for PE-RT SDR 9 Tubing

Nominal Tubing Size	Pressure Required for Test, psig ^A (MPa)							
	For 1250 psi HDB at 73.4 °F				For 1600 psi HDB at 73.4 °F			
	73 °F	(23 °C)	180 °F	(82 °C)	73 °F	(23 °C)	180 °F	(82 °C)
1/8	595	(4.10)	355	(2.45)	740	(5.10)	355	(2.45)
1/4	515	(3.55)	305	(2.10)	635	(4.38)	305	(2.10)
5/16	455	(3.14)	270	(1.86)	560	(3.86)	270	(1.86)
3/8	425	(2.93)	250	(1.72)	520	(3.59)	250	(1.72)
1/2	330	(2.28)	195	(1.34)	405	(2.79)	195	(1.34)
5/8 and larger	325	(2.24)	190	(1.31)	400	(2.76)	190	(1.31)

^A The fiber stresses used to derive these test pressures are: at 73 °F (23 °C) 1300 psi (8.96 MPa) for a 1250 psi HDB material and 1600 psi (11.0 MPa) for a 1600 psi HDB material at 180 °F (82 °C) 770 psi (5.31 MPa)

TABLE 6 Burst Water Pressure Test Condition for PE-RT SDR 9 Tubing

Nominal Tubing Size	Pressure Required for Test, psig ^A (MPa)							
	For 1250 psi HDB at 73 °F				For 1600 psi HDB at 73 °F			
	73 °F	(23 °C)	180 °F	(82 °C)	73 °F	(23 °C)	180 °F	(82 °C)
1/8	870	(6.00)	495	(3.41)	1345	(9.28)	495	(3.41)
1/4	752	(5.19)	420	(2.90)	1150	(7.93)	420	(2.90)
5/16	660	(4.55)	370	(2.55)	1015	(7.00)	370	(2.55)
3/8	620	(4.27)	345	(2.38)	945	(6.52)	345	(2.38)
1/2	480	(3.31)	270	(1.86)	730	(5.03)	270	(1.86)
5/8 and larger	475	(3.27)	265	(1.83)	720	(4.97)	265	(1.83)

^A The fiber stresses used to derive these test pressures are: at 73 °F (23 °C) 1900 psi (13.10 MPa) for a 1250 psi HDB material and 2900 psi (20.0 MPa) for a 1600 psi HDB material at 180 °F (82 °C) 1065 psi (7.33 MPa)

6.5 *Oxidative Resistance in Potable Chlorinated Water Applications*—PE-RT tubing chlorine classification codes shall be determined based on a minimum extrapolated time-to-failure of 50 years when tested and evaluated in accordance with 7.8 and Table 7.

TABLE 7 Oxidative Resistance Classification Codes

Standard	CL1	CL2	CL3	CL4	CL5
Usage Ratios	75% at 73 °F and 25 % at 140 °F	Reserved for future use	50% at 73 °F and 50 % at 140 °F	Reserved for future use	100% at 140 °F