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Standard Specification for Mechanical Couplings Using Thermoplastic Elastomeric (TPE) Gaskets for Joining Drain, Waste, and Vent (DWV), Sewer, Sanitary, and Storm Plumbing Systems for Above and Below Ground Use¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification describes the properties of devices or assemblies suitable for use as mechanical couplings using thermoplastic elastomeric (TPE) gaskets, hereinafter referred to as couplings, for joining drain, waste, and vent (DWV) sewer, sanitary, and storm plumbing systems for above and below ground use.

1.2 The pipe to be joined shall be of similar or dissimilar materials or size, or both.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units shall be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.4 The ASTM standards referenced herein shall be considered mandatory.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- A 240/A 240M Specification for Heat-Resisting Chromium and Chromium-Nickel Stainless Steel Plate, Sheet, and Strip for Pressure Vessels²
- A 493 Specification for Stainless and Heat-Resisting Steel Wire and Wire Rods for Cold Heading and Cold Forging²
- A 666 Specification for Annealed or Cold-Worked Austenitic Stainless Steel, Sheet, Strip, Plate and Flat Bar²
- C 717 Terminology of Building Seals and Sealants³
- C 1440 Specification for Thermoplastic Elastomeric (TPE) Gasket Materials for Drain, Waste and Vent (DWV), Sewer, Sanitary and Storm Plumbing Systems
- D 2240 Test Method for Rubber Property—Durometer Hardness⁴

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C-24 on Building Seals and Sealants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C24.75 on Gaskets and Couplings for Plumbing and Sewer Piping.

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² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 01.03.

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 04.07.

⁴ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 09.01.

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this specification, see Terminology C 717.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *center stop*—an integral part of the gasket centered on its axial length intended to limit the insertion depth of the pipe to be coupled.

3.2.2 *fitting*—parts of a pipeline other than straight pipe, couplings, or valves.

3.2.3 *free torque*—the torque value expressed in lbf-in./ (N-m) when the clamp is tightened four revolutions of the screw nut. While in the free state, this value does not include any breakaway effects due to staking method or passage of the band ends beyond the screw heads.

3.2.4 *inserts*—a bushing or ring placed into the coupling socket to accommodate pipe materials of differing outside diameters.

3.2.5 *joint*—the completed assembly of parts consisting of the flexible transition coupling and the joined pipes or fittings, or both.

3.2.6 *lot*—a specific quantity of similar material or collection of similar units from a common source; the quantity offered for inspection and acceptance at any one time. A lot might comprise a shipment, batch, or similar quantity.

3.2.7 *mechanical couplings*—devices used to join between sections of plain end pipe or fittings of the same or different materials, of the same or different size, or any combination of materials and pipe sizes.

3.2.8 *plain-end pipe*—any pipe that does not include any bell, hub, threaded area, or other means of joining.

3.2.9 *shear ring*—an interior or exterior element which is used to span the distance between the pipe ends within a coupling so as to provide increased resistance to axial displacement.

4. Classification

4.1 The couplings shall have a center stop unless telescoping of the pipe is necessary for special applications. The components shall be designed so that the elastomeric material is compressed to form a hydrostatic seal when the joint is assembled. The couplings shall be of the types described in 4.1.1-4.1.3.

4.1.1 *Unshielded*—A coupling consisting of an elastomeric sleeve incorporating corrosion-resistant tension bands and a tightening mechanism. Couplings shall be fabricated without shear rings. Couplings installed without metallic shear rings shall not be installed in fire-resistive construction.

4.1.2 *Shielded*—A coupling consisting of an elastomeric or rubber sleeve incorporating a metallic corrosion-resistant shear ring and tension bands or tightening mechanism, or both.

4.1.3 *Other*—A coupling (gasket) fabricated for elastomeric compression seals.

5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 Elastomeric materials used in the manufacturing of couplings and inserts shall comply with the requirements in accordance with Specification C 1440.

5.2 The stainless steel tension band assembly shall be 300 series stainless steel, excluding copper bearing alloys, meeting the requirements of the appropriate ASTM standard for stainless steel.

5.3 Couplings with bushings or inserts, or both, of multi-piece construction or with splices shall show no separation, peeling, or other defects when tested in accordance with Section 9.

5.4 The coupling shall be free from porosity and air pockets. Its surface shall be smooth and free from pitting, cracks, blisters, air marks, or any other imperfections that affect its performance in service. The flash extension shall not exceed 1/32 in. (0.8 mm) at any point where the presence of flash affects performance.

6. Requirements

6.1 In horizontal installations, unshielded couplings shall be supported on both sides of the coupling with suitable hangers or support necessary to support the pipe and fittings joined. The support must be located within 18 in. (457 mm) of the center of the coupling.

6.2 Couplings shall not be installed in locations where the expected internal or external temperatures are below 0°F (-18°C) or exceed 130°F (54°C).

6.3 Unshielded couplings shall not be installed in construction that has a fire rating that restricts the use of flammable materials through penetrations or plenums without additional fire-resistive protection.

7. Dimensions, Mass, and Permissible Variations

7.1 Coupling and bushing dimensions shall be compatible with the dimensions and tolerances of the specific piping material which it is designed to join.

8. Sampling, Tests, and Retests

8.1 Test specimens representative of the couplings to be used shall be randomly selected from the manufactured lot for testing.

8.2 Not less than two couplings for each size or type shall be tested, unless otherwise specified or waived by the purchaser.

8.3 Where there is a failure in the original test, the entire test shall be rerun with twice the number of samples and any failure shall be cause for rejection.

9. Test Methods

9.1 *Elastomeric Materials*—Physical properties of gaskets shall be in accordance with specification ASTM C 1440. Many thermoplastic elastomeric gaskets are temperature-sensitive. Refer to Specification C 1440 for the allowable temperature range of materials.

9.2 *Tension Band Performance:*

9.2.1 *Torque Resistance*—Stainless steel tension bands shall be tested to withstand 150 % of the manufacturer’s specified installation torque without visible signs of failure. The band shall be tested over a steel mandrel of the appropriate coupling diameter and torqued as required.

9.2.2 The maximum free running torque shall be 4 lbf-in. (0.45 N-m).

9.2.2.1 Stainless steel tension bands with torque resistance in excess of 100 lbf-in. shall have a maximum free running torque of 8 lbf-in.

9.2.3 *Test Procedure for Free Running Torque:*

9.2.3.1 With the nonstressed clamp hand-held and the slotted band fully engaged, the screw shall be rotated clockwise four revolutions with the maximum value of the torque meter recorded.

9.2.3.2 The equipment required shall be a hand-held torque meter with a 0 to 15-lbf-in. range.

9.3 *Joint Assemblies Test Methods:*

9.3.1 *Deflection Sealing Resistance Test*—The joint shall have sufficient flexibility to permit deflection in any direction as defined by Table 1 and shall show no visible leakage when so deflected while under an internal hydrostatic pressure of 4.3 psi (30 kPa). The ends of the test pipe shall be restrained only by an amount necessary to prevent longitudinal movement. The deflection shall be measured as the distance the free end of the one pipe has moved away from the center line of the fixed pipe. See Fig. 1.

9.3.2 *Shear Loading Resistance*—The joint shall have sufficient resistance to shear loading to meet the requirements of the following test. Two lengths of randomly selected pipe shall be joined by a coupling with the two joined lengths of pipe supported on blocks at three locations. One length of pipe shall be supported on two blocks, one near the unjoined end, and the other immediately adjacent to the joint. This length shall then be firmly restrained in position. The other length of pipe shall be supported by a single block located 36 in. (0.9 m) from the

TABLE 1 Requirements - Deflection per Foot of Pipe Length

Nominal ID, in. (mm), incl.	Offset in./linear ft (mm/linear m)
1 1/2-4	1/2 in.