



Designation: F 2303 – 03

# Standard Practice for Selection of Gravity Sewers Suitable for Installation of Optical Fiber Cable and Conduits<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 2303; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This practice specifically addresses the criteria for determining the suitability of gravity sewers for secondary uses such as the installation of optical fiber systems.

1.1.1 This practice applies to the process of selecting gravity sewers that are appropriate for accepting an optical fiber system as opposed to standards for the installation, operation and maintenance of such system within sewers.

1.2 This practice applies to both man accessible and man inaccessible sewer systems.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The values provided in parentheses are for information purposes only.

1.4 *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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:

**D 543** Test Method for Resistance of Plastics to Chemical Reagents<sup>2</sup>

**D 1600** Terminology for Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics<sup>2</sup>

**F 412** Terminology Relating to Plastic Piping System<sup>3</sup>  
ASTM Safety Document—Reference to be Announced

### 2.2 Other Documents:

“Gravity Sanitary Sewer Design and Construction,” Manual of Practice No. FD-5, ASCE Recommended Specifications for Sewer Collection System Rehabilitation (NASCCO Standard)

Sewer Rehabilitation Manual (SRM) produced by the Water Research Center (WRc, Swindon, England)

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F36 on Technology and Underground Utilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F36.10 on Optical Fiber Systems within Existing Infrastructure.

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<sup>2</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.01.

<sup>3</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.04.

## 3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions are in accordance with Terminology **F 412** and abbreviations are in accordance with Terminology **D 1600**, unless otherwise specified.

### 3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *combined sewers*—sewers that carry both wastewater and storm or surface water.

3.2.2 *engineer*—the licensed professional designated by the owner/operator of the sewer system to represent the owner’s/operator’s interests during the selection process.

3.2.3 *installer*—the person(s) or body installing the optical fiber system within the sewer.

3.2.4 *manholes*—vertical shafts to connect intersecting sewers to allow transitions in size, alignment and grade and to allow entry to the sewers for cleaning, inspection, and maintenance.

3.2.5 *optical fiber cable*—cable formed of many strands of optical fiber for transmission of data, video, audio, voice, and other information.

3.2.6 *optical fiber conduit*—fully-supported tubes suitably affixed to or suitably incorporated into the wall structure of the sewer.

3.2.7 *optical fiber system*—the complete set of installed optical fiber components including cable, conduit and attachment components.

3.2.8 *owner/operator*—the person(s) or body charged with maintenance and operation of the sewer system.

3.2.9 *sanitary sewers*—sewers that carry wastewater from users to the treatment plant.

3.2.10 *service lateral*—portion of the sewer system that connects a user to the sewer.

3.2.11 *sewer*—buried piping designed to carry wastewater or storm run-off.

3.2.12 *storm sewers*—sewers that carry storm or surface water away from roadways or structures to waterways.

## 4. Summary of Practice

4.1 Optical fiber cable and conduit systems in existing sewers shall be designed and installed so that they have a minimal effect on the sewer’s hydraulic performance and no effect on their structural integrity. Their design and installation

shall also allow for the safe and efficient operation and maintenance of the sewer, and provide for the safe and efficient operation of the optical fiber system. The ultimate success of the installation and operation of optical fiber and sewer systems depends upon the proper evaluation and selection of appropriate sewers. The steps in the process include the following items:

- 4.1.1 Cleaning,
- 4.1.2 Inspection and evaluation of the sewers which are candidates for optical fiber cable or conduit installation,
- 4.1.3 Selection of sewer route, and
- 4.1.4 Documentation of cable routing.

## 5. Significance and Use

5.1 This practice is intended to assist engineers and sewer owner/operators in determining the suitability of sewers for a secondary use as hosts for optical fiber cables and conduits. It must be kept in mind that the primary use of the sewers is to carry wastewater and/or storm water. Any secondary use of the system shall not significantly impair the primary use. It is up to the engineer to decide upon any exceptions that may be involved in the selection process.

5.2 Before the selection procedure begins, the installer must have explicit authorization from the owner/operator allowing an evaluation to be conducted for the installation of optical fiber cables or conduits within their sewer system.

5.3 Engineers and owners should also be cognizant of how the installation of optical fiber cable or conduits will impact the future operational, maintenance and rehabilitation needs of the sewers.

## 6. Sewer Selection Procedure

### 6.1 *Cleaning and Flow Bypass:*

6.1.1 *Requirement to Clean*—Prior to selection of a candidate sewer, the sewer must be thoroughly cleaned to allow for proper inspection and evaluation according to the selection criteria outlined below. The National Association of Sewer Services Companies (NASSCO) provides a helpful standard. This cleaning process shall be performed with the equipment recommended by the optical fiber installer as being compatible (see 6.1.3). The cleaning process then serves as a test of the effectiveness of the cleaning equipment as well as allowing the inspection of the integrity of the sewer.

6.1.2 *Exceptions to Cleaning Requirement*—In cases where the pipe has recently been cleaned or has been recently installed, the cleaning requirement may be waived by mutual consent of the system owner and optical fiber system installer.

6.1.3 *Requirement for Compatibility*—The installer shall recommend compatible sewer-cleaning methods to the owner/operator. Such methods shall be compatible with both the existing pipeline (material and condition) and with the optical fiber system, and shall be effective in maintaining the operation of the sewer without compromising the performance of the sewer. The installer shall provide written assurance of the suitability for use of these methods throughout the term that the optical fiber system remains installed in the sewer.

6.1.4 *Requirement to Bypass*—Unless otherwise agreed by the owner/operator, the flow in the candidate sewer must be

temporarily stopped or fully bypassed prior to inspection to allow for a complete examination and evaluation of the internal pipe circumference.

### 6.2 *Inspection:*

6.2.1 *Televising*—The inspection of the sewer system and appurtenances shall be accomplished by means of a closed circuit television system (CCTV) or other equivalent technology. Records of the inspection in analog or digital format will be maintained and forwarded to the system owner/operator in the selection report.

6.2.1.1 *Visual Quality*—The visual quality will be such as to allow determination of the presence of cracks, separated joints, grease, deposits, sags, high water marks, infiltration, corrosion, and root intrusion.

6.2.1.2 *Distance Recording*—The distance from the starting point of each inspection run must be designated by a specific reference (for example, middle of manhole) acceptable to the owner/operator.

6.2.1.3 *Acceptability of Digital Optical Scanning (New Technology)*—If acceptable to the owner, digital optical scanning may be substituted for CCTV. The requirement for degree of resolution and recording of data remains the same as for CCTV methods.

6.2.1.4 *Replicable System Assessment Method*—The method used to document the presence and severity of sewer faults shall be replicable. Unless otherwise specified by the owner/operator, a standard fault coding system such as the WRc Standard Fault Code (or equivalent) may be used to satisfy this criterion. The system selected should be capable of documenting, at a minimum, the presence and severity of the following types of faults: longitudinal cracks, radial cracks, breaks, gapped joints, damaged seals, infiltration/inflow, sags, levels of corrosion, out-of-round pipe, and uneven slopes.

6.2.1.5 *Requirement for Trained Professional*—The inspection operator shall be a trained individual with suitable professional qualifications (for example, NASCCO certification) to provide a qualified inspection opinion as to fault coding.

### 6.3 *Sewer Selection Criteria:*

6.3.1 The data from the inspection and evaluation should be used to identify the sewer sections and manholes suitable for installation of optical fiber cables and conduits. The candidate sewer must meet minimum criteria based upon hydraulic, structural, operations and maintenance, and flow chemistry analysis. Those sections not meeting the selection criteria shall be rejected, suitably repaired or rehabilitated, or otherwise modified and re-inspected. Otherwise, an alternative route shall be selected in order for the project to receive recommendation.

6.3.2 *Requirement for Professional Opinion*—The individual(s) reviewing the inspection video and evaluating the sewer as a potential candidate for optical fiber cables and conduits must be a professional engineer or qualified individual acceptable to the owner/operator who has both the training and experience in sewer assessment required to provide a qualified opinion on the suitability of the sewer in accordance with the selection criteria.