



# Standard Specification for Glass Fiber Reinforced Thermoplastic Pipe<sup>1</sup>

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## 1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers coiled, machine-made glass fiber reinforced thermoplastic pipe up to 6 in. nominal size, having discrete, unbonded inner and outer layers of thermoplastic compounds and an intermediate structural layer of unbonded, dry glass fiber reinforcement to provide higher strength. Included are a classification system and requirements for materials, mechanical properties, dimensions, performance, methods of test, and marking. Reinforced thermoplastic pipes are used for oil and gas applications, including transport of multiphase fluids, hydrocarbon gases, hydrocarbon liquids and non-potable water.

1.2 The piping system will comprise one or more runs of pipe along with mechanical fittings, designed and for use with this composite pipe, connecting them to each other and to the other pipeline components.

1.3 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 *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:<sup>2</sup>

- A105/A105M Specification for Carbon Steel Forgings for Piping Applications
- A106/A106M Specification for Seamless Carbon Steel Pipe for High-Temperature Service
- A333/A333M Specification for Seamless and Welded Steel Pipe for Low-Temperature Service

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F17 on Plastic Piping Systems and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F17.68 on Energy Piping Systems.

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

A350/A350M Specification for Carbon and Low-Alloy Steel Forgings, Requiring Notch Toughness Testing for Piping Components

D578 Specification for Glass Fiber Strands

D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing

D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics

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

D2105 Test Method for Longitudinal Tensile Properties of "Fiberglass" (Glass-Fiber-Reinforced Thermosetting-Resin) Pipe and Tube

D2122 Test Method for Determining Dimensions of Thermoplastic Pipe and Fittings

D2143 Test Method for Cyclic Pressure Strength of Reinforced, Thermosetting Plastic Pipe

D2412 Test Method for Determination of External Loading Characteristics of Plastic Pipe by Parallel-Plate Loading

D2992 Practice for Obtaining Hydrostatic or Pressure Design Basis for "Fiberglass" (Glass-Fiber-Reinforced Thermosetting-Resin) Pipe and Fittings

D3350 Specification for Polyethylene Plastics Pipe and Fittings Materials

F412 Terminology Relating to Plastic Piping Systems

2.2 PPI Standards:<sup>3</sup>

TR-4 PPI Listing of Hydrostatic Design Basis (HDB), Hydrostatic Design Stress (HDS), Strength Design Basis (SDB), Pressure Design Basis (PDB) and Minimum Required Strength (MRS) Ratings for Thermoplastic Piping Materials or Pipe

2.3 ANSI Standards:<sup>4</sup>

B 16.5 Pipe Flanges and Flanged Fittings

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Definitions are in accordance with Terminologies D883 and F412 and abbreviations are in accordance with Terminology D1600, unless otherwise indicated.

<sup>3</sup> Available from Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI), 105 Decker Court, Suite 825, Irving, TX 75062, <http://www.plasticpipe.org>.

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

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

3.2.1 *glass fiber reinforced thermoplastic pipe, n*—a tubular product comprised of an inner thermoplastic layer reinforced with helically wound un-bonded glass fibers covered with an outer thermoplastic layer.

3.2.2 *inner layer, n*—an inner thermoplastic layer to contain the transported fluid.

3.2.3 *lower confidence limit*—the 95% lower confidence limit of the pressure regression curve, determined as per Practice **D2992**. Unless otherwise stated, the 95% lower confidence limit is defined at the design life.

3.2.3.1 *Discussion*—For 95% confidence limits, there is a 2.5% probability that the mean value for the regression line may fall above the upper confidence limit and a 2.5% probability that the mean value for the regression line may fall below the lower confidence limit.

3.2.4 *outer layer, n*—an outer thermoplastic layer to protect the reinforcement layer.

3.2.5 *reinforcement layer*—a layer, comprised of un-bonded dry glass fibers helically wound around the inner layer, which provides the strength of the composite pipe.

## 4. Classification

4.1 *General*—Pipe meeting this specification is classified by pressure design basis and by a cell classification system that defines the basic mechanical properties of the pipe. These pressure design basis categories and cell classification designations are as follows:

4.1.1 *Pressure Design Basis*—Two methods of classifying the pressure design basis of the pipe are provided. Pipe meeting this specification may be classified using either the cyclic test method or the static test method, or both, and the designations are shown in **Table 1**. **Appendix X1** explains how these pressure design basis categories are to be used.

4.1.2 *Mechanical Properties*—**Table 2** presents a cell classification system for identifying the mechanical properties of pipe covered by this specification.

NOTE 1—**Table 1** and **Table 2** simply list possible combinations covered by the above classification system and are not intended to be indicative of commercial availability.

4.1.3 *Pipe Designation Code*—The pipe designation code shall consist of the static or cyclic PDB level in a capital letter

and four Arabic numbers identifying, respectively, the cell classification designations of the short-term rupture pressure, longitudinal tensile strength, longitudinal tensile modulus and pipe stiffness.

4.1.3.1 *Example*: D1234. Such a designation would describe a glass fiber reinforced thermoplastic pipe having a cyclic pressure design basis of 630 psig (4.34 MPa); a short-term rupture pressure exceeding 1 000 psig (6.89 MPa), a longitudinal tensile strength exceeding 15 000 psi (103 MPa), a longitudinal tensile modulus exceeding  $3 \times 10^6$  psi (20 700 MPa) and a pipe stiffness exceeding 300 lbf/in<sup>2</sup> (2 069 kPa).

## 5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 *General*—The thermoplastic materials, glass fiber reinforcement, colorant, or other materials, or a combination thereof, when combined as piping components, shall produce a pipe system that shall meet the performance requirements of this specification.

5.2 *Pipe layers*—Reinforced Thermoplastic Pipe is a composite pipe product, capable of being made in long continuous lengths and coiled for storage, transport and installation. The first step in the production process is extrusion of a thermoplastic inner layer or barrier to contain the transported fluid and contribute a portion of the mechanical strength. The next step is addition of a structural glass fiber layer over the inner layer to provide the majority of the mechanical strength to withstand the loads applied during service and installation. This structural layer typically consists of an even number of balanced helical windings of continuous glass fiber reinforcement, applied as helically wound unbonded fibers using an automated process control. In the third and final step an outer thermoplastic layer is extruded on top of the structural layer. This outer layer protects the structure during installation and operation, and may help transfer mechanical loads within the end fitting. Mechanical end fittings are used to terminate pipe ends or connect adjacent pipe sections.

5.3 *Materials Selection*—The manufacturer shall be responsible for the selection and supply of all materials so that they meet the specified service and installation requirements. Different material grades can be used in the thermoplastic inner and outer layers provided the combination meets the requirements of this standard.

5.3.1 *Thermoplastic Inner Layer*—The inner layer shall be constructed from polyethylene or crosslinked polyethylene material complying with Specification **D3350** and listed in PPI TR-4. Either PE2708, PE3608 or PE4710, as defined and listed in PPI TR-4, with a Specification **D3350** minimum cell classification of 233373, 345464 and 444474 respectively is to be used for polyethylene. PEX materials as defined and listed in PPI TR-4 are to be used for crosslinked polyethylene.

5.3.2 *Structural Layer*—The structural layer provides the strength of the composite pipe. The material used shall be boron-free modified E-glass (ECR) fibers as defined in Specification **D578**. The glass shall be applied in two layers that have opposite wrap directions. The angle of each wrap layer shall be  $55 \pm 5$  degrees from the axial direction, such that the angle between the layers when they cross is  $110 \pm 10$  degrees.

**TABLE 1 Pressure Design Basis Categories**

Cyclic Test Method		Static Test Method	
Designation	Pressure Design Basis, psig (MPa)	Designation	Pressure Design Basis, psig (MPa)
A	315 (2.17)	N	315 (2.17)
B	400 (2.76)	O	400 (2.76)
C	500 (3.45)	P	500 (3.45)
D	630 (4.34)	Q	630 (4.34)
E	800 (5.52)	R	800 (5.52)
F	1 000 (6.89)	S	1 000 (6.89)
G	1 250 (8.62)	T	1 250 (8.62)
H	1 600 (11.0)	U	1 600 (11.0)
I	2 000 (13.8)	V	2 000 (13.8)
J	2 500 (17.2)	W	2 500 (17.2)
K	3 150 (21.7)	X	3 150 (21.7)
L	4 000 (27.6)	Y	4 000 (27.6)

**TABLE 2 Physical Property Requirements**

Designation Order Number	Mechanical Property	0 <sup>A</sup>	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Short-term rupture pressure, min, psig (MPa)	...	1 000 (6.89)	2 000 (13.8)	3 000 (20.7)	4 000 (27.6)	5 000 (34.5)	6 000 (41.4)
2	Longitudinal tensile strength, min, psi (MPa)	...	8 000 (55.2)	15 000 (103)	25 000 (172)	35 000 (241)	45 000 (310)	55 000 (379)
3	Longitudinal tensile modulus, min, psi X 10 <sup>6</sup> (MPa)	...	1 (6 900)	2 (13 000)	3 (20 700)	4 (27 600)	5 (34 500)	6 (41 400)
4	Pipe stiffness at 5% deflection, min, lbf/in <sup>2</sup> (kPa)	...	100 (689)	150 (1,034)	200 (1,379)	300 (2,069)	400 (2,759)	500 (3,448)

<sup>A</sup>Unspecified.

NOTE 2—The wrap angle is controlled during manufacture by the process equipment parameters. A successful burst test result verifies the adequacy of the applied wrap angle.

5.3.2.1 The structural layer thickness shall meet the requirements given in [Table 3](#).

5.3.3 *Thermoplastic Outer Layer*—The outer layer shall be constructed from polyethylene or crosslinked polyethylene material complying with Specification [D3350](#) and listed in PPI TR-4. Either PE2708, PE3608 or PE4710, as defined and listed in PPI TR-4, with a Specification [D3350](#) minimum cell classification of 233373, 345464 and 444474 respectively is to be used for polyethylene. PEX materials as defined and listed in PPI TR-4 are to be used for crosslinked polyethylene. The outer layer material shall contain a suitable level of UV inhibitor for the service intended.

5.4 *Rework Material*—Clean rework material only from the first step production of the PE inner layer and not subjected to the second step glass fiber wrapping, generated from the pipe manufacturer’s own pipe production, may be used for the inner or outer layers, provided that it can be demonstrated that the composite pipe produced meets all the requirements of this specification.

5.5 *Fittings*:  
 5.5.1 Fittings shall be of metallic construction complying with material designation AISI 4130 or 4140, Specifications [A105/A105M](#), [A106/A106M](#), [A333/A333M](#) or [A350/A350M](#). Specific materials referenced in this section are common materials used in these types of products. Alternate materials proven to provide equal or better performance are acceptable.

5.5.2 All steel flanges shall comply with ANSI B 16.5 requirements.

5.5.3 The fittings may be finished with a protective coating compatible with the intended service.

## 6. Physical Requirements

6.1 *Workmanship*—The pipe shall be free of all defects including indentations, bubbles, pinholes, and foreign inclusions, which, due to their nature, degree, or extent, detrimentally affect the strength and serviceability of the pipe. The pipe shall be as uniform as commercially practicable in color, opacity, and other physical properties. The bore of the pipe shall be smooth and uniform. All pipe ends shall be cut at right angles to the axis of the pipe and any sharp edges removed.

6.2 *Dimensions and Tolerances*—The inside diameter, outside diameter, wall thickness and tolerances of pipe meeting this specification shall conform to the requirements of [Table 4](#), when determined in accordance with [8.3](#).

### 6.3 Pipe Requirements:

6.3.1 *Pressure Design Basis (PDB)*—Pipe meeting this specification shall be categorized by a long - term static or cyclic pressure design basis as shown in [Table 1](#). A pipe from each Design Basis Category shall be tested in accordance with [8.4](#) or [8.5](#), as applicable. The pressure design basis of other pipe sizes with the same pressure design basis having the same materials, reinforcement configuration, reinforcement wrap angles, and reinforcement stress levels but different pipe diameter as pipe previously tested in accordance with [8.4](#) or [8.5](#) shall be confirmed through testing in accordance with [8.9](#). Pipe used in static pressure applications shall also meet the cyclic capability requirement described in [8.16](#).

NOTE 3—Since the ratio of inside diameter to structural layer thickness is constant within a PDB rating, only one pipe diameter per PDB rating needs complete Specification [D2992](#) testing. The other pipe diameters within a PDB rating shall be confirmed by testing per Specification [D2992](#) Section 12. See [Appendix X2](#) for inside diameter/structural layer thickness ratios.

**TABLE 3 Structural Layer Thickness, in. (mm)**

Nominal Pipe Size	PDB Psig (MPa)	Structural Layer Thickness	Tolerance of Layer Thickness
2	800 (5.52)	0.025 (0.64)	± 0.002 (0.04)
2	2,000 (13.8)	0.059 (1.50)	± 0.004 (0.09)
2	4,000 (27.6)	0.120 (3.05)	± 0.007 (0.18)
3	800 (5.52)	0.035 (0.89)	± 0.002 (0.05)
3	2,000 (13.8)	0.085 (2.16)	± 0.005 (0.13)
3	4,000 (27.6)	0.165 (4.19)	± 0.01 (0.25)
4	800 (5.52)	0.046 (1.17)	± 0.003 (0.07)
4	2,000 (13.8)	0.109 (2.77)	± 0.007 (0.17)
4	4,000 (27.6)	0.220 (5.59)	± 0.013 (0.34)
6	800 (5.52)	0.058 (1.47)	± 0.003 (0.09)
6	2,000 (13.8)	0.140 (3.56)	± 0.008 (0.21)
6	4,000 (27.6)	0.280 (7.11)	± 0.017 (0.43)