

February 14, 1992

Mr. Glen D. Smith
Chief, Pipeline Safety Utilities Division
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 S.w. Arrowhead Rd.
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am responding to your letter of May 16, 1991, to Mr. George Tenley, regarding the requirements of 49 CFR 192.283(a)(1)(i) for testing a procedure used to join polyethylene pipe by fusion. These requirements refer to paragraph 8.7, Minimum Hydrostatic and Burst Pressure, of ASTM D2513 (1987 edition). You questioned the applicability of paragraph 8.7 to polyethylene because paragraph 8.7 does not provide a test pressure for this material or a fiber stress for calculation of a test pressure.

Although your observations about paragraph 8.7 are correct, ASTM D2513 (1987 edition) provides another means for qualifying polyethylene pipe that is tested under paragraph 8.7. Paragraph 6.3 of ASTM D2513 (1987 edition) provides:

For Pe materials, the pipe shall fail as defined in D1599. In addition, the pipe shall fail in a ductile manner, when tested in accordance with 8.7.

So, if polyethylene pipe specimens with fusion joints are tested under paragraph 8.7, and the specimens fail as defined in ASTM D1599 and in a ductile manner, the fusion joining procedure qualifies under § 192.283(a)(1)(i).

We will be amending the ASTM D2513 references in Part 192 to reflect the change in the 1991a edition of ASTM D2513. In the 1991a edition, paragraph 6.7 and Annex A1 include the above ASTM requirements regarding minimum hydrostatic burst pressure for testing polyethylene pipe specimens. We will amend § 192.283(a)(1)(i) to reflect this change in the 1991a edition of ASTM D2513.

Sincerely,

Cesar De Leon
Director, Regulatory Programs
Office of Pipeline Safety