



US Department of Transportation
Research and Special Programs Administration

400 Seventh Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20590

PIPELINE SAFETY ALERT NOTICE

Alert Notice: ALN-80-04

Date: 10/01/80

To: All Gas Operators (Pre-OPS Alert Notice)

ALERT NOTICE BY MTB: Prepared by Materials Transportation Bureau

Subject:

Purpose:

ALERT NOTICE BY MTB: Prepared by Materials Transportation Bureau

The August 1980 issue of Pipeline and Gas Journal contained an article, "Band Clamp Repair for Damaged Plastic Pipe," written by Bernard A. Silverberg. This article was adapted from a presentation by the author at the AGA 1980 Distributor Conference in Detroit. It describes the results of a research program conducted by the Wisconsin Gas Company to test the effectiveness of using full encirclement stainless steel band clamps for permanent repair of damaged plastic pipe. The article concluded that properly designed stainless steel band clamps with a fully gridded gasket which is resistant to natural gas is effective for making permanent repairs for damaged polyethylene (P.E.) pipe.

Notice:

Background:

The article pointed out that the stainless steel band clamps must be properly designed and sized for the specific outside diameter of the plastic pipe. The article noted that the amount of damage to the pipe also placed restrictions on the use of the clamp.

The Materials Transportation Bureau has reviewed this article and advises that the use of stainless steel band clamps for permanent repair of damaged plastic pipe is not in compliance with 49 CFR Section 192.311 as presently written. Therefore, MTB cautions gas operators not to use stainless steel band clamps for permanent repairs on plastic pipe.

MTB again reminds operators that when it is not clear whether or not a design, construction procedure, maintenance procedure, or new material is in compliance with 49 CFR Part 192, the operator is advised to request an interpretation from MTB.

If an operator wishes to use a method or material for the transportation of gas not currently allowed by Part 192, an operator is urged to petition MTB or the appropriate State agency according to the procedures contained in Section 3 of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, as amended (49 USC 1672(d)), for a grant of a waiver, or petition MTB for a rule change. Before the waiver will be granted, or rulemaking action started, the operator must demonstrate a need and convince MTB that its methods, designs, or materials are equal or superior to the alternate required by 49 CFR Part 192 and thus not inconsistent with gas pipeline safety.