



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety  
Administration**  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
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**MEMO TO FILE**

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**Subject: Categorical Exclusion Determination**  
**Pipeline Safety: Standards Update – ASTM F2620**

#### **FINAL ACTION**

Through this Direct Final Rule (DFR), PHMSA is incorporating by reference an update to a voluntary, consensus industry technical standard already incorporated by reference within the pipeline safety regulations (49 CFR part 192). Specifically, PHMSA is updating the referenced edition of industry standard ASTM F2620, Standard Practice for Heat Fusion Joining of Polyethylene Pipe and Fittings, to the 2024 edition (ASTM F2620).

ASTM F2620 describes procedures for making joints with polyethylene pipe and fittings by means of heat fusion joining in, but not limited to, a field environment. References to the 2024 edition of the standard will replace the existing references in §§ 192.281(c) and 192.285(b) to ASTM F2620-20ae2, Standard Practice for Heat Fusion Joining of Polyethylene Pipe and Fittings, approved December 1, 2020. This updated standard will maintain or improve public safety, prevent regulatory confusion, reduce compliance burdens on stakeholders, and satisfy a mandate in the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) of 1995.

#### **APPLICABLE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

Categorical exclusions (CE) are categories of actions that the agency has determined normally do not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and therefore do not require either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS). [DOT Order 5610.1D](#), DOT's current National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures, notes in paragraph 9(f) that "[a]n OA may apply a CE established in another OA's procedures." PHMSA coordinated with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to determine that the following FHWA CE is applicable to the action described above and can be used by PHMSA per Section 9(f) of DOT Order 5610.1D:

