



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety  
Administration**  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**DATE 04/21/2026**

**MEMO TO FILE**

**From:** Carolyn Nelson, P.E.  
**Director of Environmental Analysis & Compliance Division**  
[carolyn.nelson@dot.gov](mailto:carolyn.nelson@dot.gov)

**Subject:** **Categorical Exclusion Determination**  
**Pipeline Safety: Standards Update – ASTM D2513**

#### **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 D2513, Standard Specification for Polyethylene (PE) Gas Pressure Pipe, Tubing, and Fittings, to the approved 2024 edition (ASTM D2513).

ASTM D2513 presents the current state of knowledge and technology applicable to PE pipe, tubing, and fittings used for fuel gas pipelines, including pipe that is used to distribute natural gas. A reference to the 2024 version of the standard will replace the existing reference within appendix B to part 192 to ASTM D2513-20, Standard Specification for Polyethylene (PE) Gas Pressure Pipe, Tubing, 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:

