

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

2100 Second Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20593-0001
Staff Symbol: CG-5214
Phone: (202) 372-1386
FAX: (202) 372-1924
E-mail: kevin.y.pekarek2@uscg.mil

16714/164.141/General
January 23, 2008

To: All manufacturers and accepted laboratories for plastic pipe

Subj: PFM 1-98 EQUIVALENT ALTERNATIVE FIRE ENDURANCE TEST METHOD

We have recently received a second request for an equivalent alternative fire endurance test method we first accepted in 2003. To reduce the burden of processing similar requests in the future, this letter establishes a uniform policy on the subject.

Any manufacturer wishing to qualify FRP piping for both Level 3 fire endurance and Level 3 dry/wet fire endurance may, as an alternative to guidance specified in PFM 1-98, conduct only a Level 3 dry/wet fire endurance test, where the first 5 minutes are dry pipe, followed by 25 minutes of wet pipe, with no-flow conditions at a specified pressure not less than what is expected at the most remote nozzle. A satisfactory result in the dry/wet test will be accepted as demonstrating compliance with the Level 3 fire endurance test.

This alternative test method was determined to meet the requirements for equivalence as allowed for in PFM 1-98, Enclosure (2), Section 4.1.2, as it was deemed to be most severe. For manufacturers wishing to qualify pipe for deluge system applications for use on MODUs and floating production platforms this represents a potential for significant savings in initial pipe testing costs since two tests are replaced by one.

If any pipe fails to pass the alternative test method, it must be re-tested to both Level 3 and Level 3 dry/wet test procedures. This policy is effective immediately. We will add this equivalent alternative to the appendix to Enclosure (2) to PFM 1-98 when we next revise the PFM.

If you have any questions or concerns on this subject, please contact LCDR Kevin Y. Pekarek at the above address or telephone number:

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P.E. Little", written over a white background.

P.E. LITTLE

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard

Chief, Office of Design and Engineering Standards

By direction