

STATEMENT V

Plastics Pipe Institute Position Statement on Recommended Color Code for Solid Wall Plastic Pipe and Conduit

Issued January 2003
Reviewed/Revised April 2017

Rationale for Proposed Changes

The recommended color code provided in Statement V is consistent with the American Public Works Association Uniform Color Code. The following statements are taken from the APWA's Guidance Position Statement:

The APWA urges that wherever practical, the outside covering of buried cable, pipe, duct, or conduit be colored or color marked in accordance with the APWA Uniform Color Code. The APWA further urges that line owners and manufacturers of underground utility lines, cables, pipes, ducts, and conduits be encouraged to incorporate permanent markings in their products in accordance with the APWA Uniform Color Code. Finally, the APWA urges that United States and Canadian governmental agencies adopt this APWA permanent color marking in their laws, codes of practice and regulations.

BACKGROUND

The recommended color code provided in this document is consistent with the American Public Works Association (APWA) Uniform Color Code.

A critical purpose of this color code for solid wall pipe and conduit is to identify the intended end-use application of **fuel gas (methane or propane)** piping. This color code provides standardization for solid yellow or black with yellow stripe plastic pipe used in fuel gas applications. Although ASTM D2513ⁱ, F2785ⁱⁱ and F2945ⁱⁱⁱ do not currently require that Polyethylene, Polyamide 12, and Polyamide 11 (respectively) gas distribution pipe be yellow, they do state that if an identifying color is used, such as a stripe or solid color, it must be yellow.

In addition, other standards such as ASTM D3035^{iv}, F714^v, F2160^{vi} and NEMA TC7^{vii} are explicit in stating that in the choice of colors or stripes that yellow identifies gas service and shall not be used for pipes or conduit manufactured to meet these standards.

RECOMMENDED COLOR CODE

An important note is that this color code is only intended for solid wall pipe used outside of buildings— it is not intended for corrugated or other profile pipe or solid wall pipe used inside of buildings.

Color or Stripe Color	Solid Wall Piping & Conduit Application
Red	Electric power lines, cable, conduit, and lighting cables
Orange	Telecommunication, alarm or signal lines, cables, or conduit
Yellow	Fuel gas (methane or propane), oil, petroleum, steam, or gaseous materials
Green	Sewers and drain lines
Blue	Potable water
Purple (Lavender)	Reclaimed water, irrigation, and slurry lines

ⁱ ASTM D2513 Standard Specification for Polyethylene (PE) Gas Pressure Pipe, Tubing and Fittings, ASTM International, West Conshohocken, PA, www.astm.org

ⁱⁱ ASTM F2785 Standard Specification for Polyamide 12 Gas Pressure Pipe, Tubing and Fittings

ⁱⁱⁱ ASTM F2945 Standard Specification for Polyamide 11 Gas Pressure Pipe, Tubing and Fittings

^{iv} ASTM D3035 Standard Specification for Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Pipe (DR-PR) Based on Controlled Outer Diameter

^v ASTM F714 Standard Specification for Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Pipe (DR-PR) Based on Outside Diameter

^{vi} ASTM F2160 Standard Specification for Solid Wall High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Conduit Based on Controlled Outside Diameter

^{vii} NEMA TC7 Smooth-Wall Coilable Electrical Polyethylene Conduit. National Electrical Manufacturers Association, Rosslyn, VA, www.nema.org