

Challenging the 10% wall thickness rule for HDPE marine pipelines

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ABSTRACT

Solid wall HDPE pipes have been used for marine applications in Europe since the 1960-ties. The sizes of solid wall PE marine pipes have been steadily increasing over the years and the maximum size today is OD3500 mm.

HDPE pipe can be relatively easily scratched during the manipulation on the site, which is especially true for the marine pipelines. Scratches can occur for example during the transport, manipulation with the marine vessels, mounting of concrete ballast blocks or assembling a manhole.

Installing the scratched marine pipe with the S bend method presents a risk and might not be accepted by the client. Therefore, the usual procedure is to perform smoothing of the surface and filling the removed material by hand extrusion.

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