

CLASS II HDPE PIPE BUYER BEWARE

On July 23, 2008, FDOT provided interim acceptance of Class II HDPE pipe sizes 18" - 48" manufactured by a well-known manufacturer.

This pipe has met FDOT's initial test protocols BUT HAS NOT met FDOT's full service life protocol. The manufacturer must continue to test pipe for final, full protocol. If you attempt to install this product, know this:

Class II HDPE pipe can still deflect, buckle, and collapse due to installation conditions, design flaws, or material issues. This pipe is no stiffer than current market-available HDPE pipe.

Class II HDPE installations will be laser profile inspected per FDOT. If it deflects 5% or more FDOT requires the pipe to be removed, replaced, and retested. This can apply to any public or private job that references FDOT specifications.



Example of HDPE pipe deflection problems

Evaluation of HDPE Pipelines Structural Performance on Virginia DOT and Municipal Projects, University of Texas at Arlington, Feb. 2008.

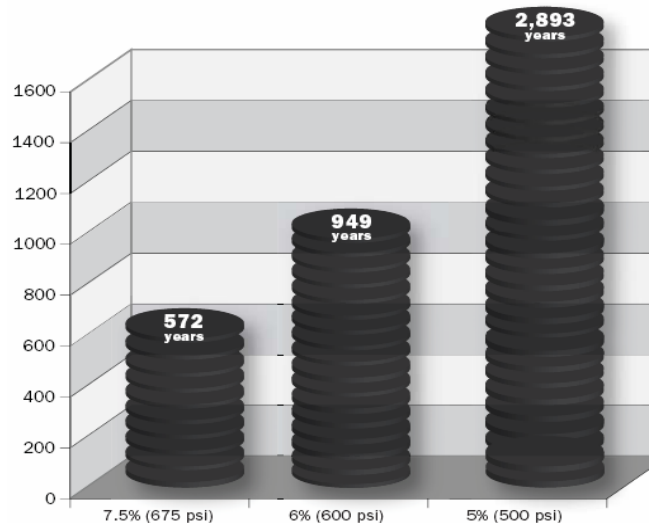
Class II HDPE pipe is a major risk. Engineers and contractors trust the proven performance of RCP.

Choose reinforced concrete pipe!

SCIENCE OR SCIENCE FICTION?

Projected Service Life of Corrugated HDPE Pipe

Independent Studies Published at Plastics Pipe XIII Conference, 2006, Washington, DC



Source: *Plastic Pipe Institute web site, http://drainage.plasticpipe.org/index.Service_Life.asp*
HDPE service life claims such as this are unbelievable. Our descendants may uncover ancient HDPE pipe, but don't expect it to still be round or functional.

Class II HDPE pipe installations cannot be designed per AASHTO because the Class II HDPE pipe long-term material properties are not quantified. Why assume the risk of installing a pipe engineers can't even design?

Class II HDPE pipe cannot be installed under interstates, limited access roads, and critical facilities.

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