

## 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 D2513<sup>i</sup>, F2785<sup>ii</sup> and F2945<sup>iii</sup> 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<sup>iv</sup>, F714<sup>v</sup>, F2160<sup>vi</sup> and NEMA TC7<sup>vii</sup> 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                              |

<sup>i</sup> ASTM D2513 Standard Specification for Polyethylene (PE) Gas Pressure Pipe, Tubing and Fittings, ASTM International, West Conshohocken, PA, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)

<sup>ii</sup> ASTM F2785 Standard Specification for Polyamide 12 Gas Pressure Pipe, Tubing and Fittings

<sup>iii</sup> ASTM F2945 Standard Specification for Polyamide 11 Gas Pressure Pipe, Tubing and Fittings

<sup>iv</sup> ASTM D3035 Standard Specification for Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Pipe (DR-PR) Based on Controlled Outer Diameter

<sup>v</sup> ASTM F714 Standard Specification for Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Pipe (DR-PR) Based on Outside Diameter

<sup>vi</sup> ASTM F2160 Standard Specification for Solid Wall High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Conduit Based on Controlled Outside Diameter

<sup>vii</sup> NEMA TC7 Smooth-Wall Coilable Electrical Polyethylene Conduit. National Electrical Manufacturers Association, Rosslyn, VA, [www.nema.org](http://www.nema.org)