

BPF PIPES GROUP URGES ADOPTION OF NEW WATER UK STANDARD

The British Plastic Federation's Pipes Group has worked with Water UK to update the water industry's key specification for the fusion jointing of polyethylene pressure pipeline systems. Last published in 2002, WIS 4-32-08 has been re-written to ensure it remains relevant to the demands of today's water applications and is now totally aligned with European Standards used for the manufacturing and purchasing of polyethylene pipes.

In all pipeline construction the integrity of the joint between pipe lengths and ancillaries is vital to ensuring that a new pipeline is leak free. WIS 4-32-08: 'Specification for the fusion jointing of polyethylene pressure pipeline systems using PE80 and PE 100 materials' provides clear and detailed guidance on the jointing of PE pipes which underpins the water industry's desire to move towards achieving zero leakage.

The BPF Pipes Group is urging water companies to actively review the draft WIS 4-32-08 which is now available for public comment (<http://www.water.org.uk/publications/WIS-IGN/comment>) and work with partners to prepare for the improvements that adopting the best practices outlined in this updated specification can deliver. Leakage from new and replacement pipelines is a major issue that needs addressing and this revision is a significant step towards adopting the highest standards of installation.

Dominic O'Sullivan, chair of the BPF Pipes Group's pressure pipes and fittings working group, advocates that this standard simply cannot be ignored: "It is vital that the entire supply chain works together to adopt best practice in jointing of PE pipe water mains to deliver the improvements needed to achieve zero leakage. This collaboration between the BPF Pipes Group and Water UK

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to deliver the improvements needed to achieve zero leakage. This collaboration between the BPF Pipes Group and Water UK demonstrates the commitment to ongoing improvements which will ultimately increase confidence in jointing.”

The Plastic Pipes Group is part of the British Plastics Federation (BPF) and is dedicated to promoting the development, acceptance and usage of manufactured plastic piping systems at all levels in the building, construction, civil and utilities industries.

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**For further media information or images please contact
Caroline Ayres at carolinea@plasticpipesgroup.com**