

**CertainTeed****Technical Bulletin**

May 14, 1974

TO: ALL DISTRICT SALES MANAGERS  
ALL TERRITORY MANAGERS  
ALL CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGERS  
ALL PRODUCT MANAGERS  
ALL SALES SERVICE MANAGERS  
ALL QUALITY CONTROL MANAGERS  
ALL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS  
ALL SALES ENGINEERS  
ALL VF MARKETING & SALES PERSONNEL

FM: E. J. LAWLESS *eg*

RE: TESTING A-C AND PVC PRESSURE PIPE

Our published literature is very explicit in that pressure pipe is not to be tested with air.

Page 10 of the PVC Installation brochure No. 40-22-16H and PVC Solvent Weld General Specification brochure No. 40-34-05H, paragraph 6.00 states that air testing is not recommended. Further, the A-C Pressure Pipe Installation Guide, page 29, in bold-face type states that we do not recommend air testing.

Because of the potential danger to personnel (as well as property), we again want to emphasize that Certain-teed does not recommend nor condone nor can we be responsible for this type of testing. The only type of testing that we recommend for pressure pipe is with water.

Some contractors still test with air despite the warnings because they are not familiar with the potential danger. If they knew how dangerous it is, we feel that they would not continue to do so.

To put it in an easily understood frame of reference, we have made some calculations. Specifically, if a 16" A-C pipe 1,000 ft. long is filled with compressed air to 25 psi, the stored energy is equivalent to 1,000,000 pounds lifted to a height of 5 ft. With potential energy of this magnitude, it is quite possible to blow the pipe completely out the the ground even though it may be backfilled.

Even though the danger is spelled out in our published literature and in this bulletin, we cannot assume that the contractor is aware of it. We must take every opportunity to tell those contractors who test with air--he may not have read the literature.

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