

Mr. Gunter Schlicht, President  
SYSPAC Incorporated  
280 W. MacArthur Boulevard  
Oakland, CA 94611

Dear Mr. Schlicht:

The following responds to the questions in your letter of November 17, 1974, concerning flanges on plastic pipe.

First, you ask whether 49 CFR 193.147 requires that flanges on plastic pipe be metallic since the specifications incorporated by reference in section 192.147(a) only relate to metallic flanges. Section 192.147 provides that each flange must meet the minimum requirements of one of the referenced specifications "or the equivalent." Under this requirement, a nonmetallic flange may be used as long as it provides a level of safety equivalent to that required for a metallic flange.

Secondly, you ask if section 192.147 does not require the use of metallic flanges, what minimum safety factors must be designed into a flange joint for plastic pipe. The general design requirements of Section 192.143 would apply. Also, if a plastic flange is used, the criteria for design of plastic fittings under section 192.191 would apply, and the design criteria for plastic pipe under sections 192.121 and 192.123 would be appropriate.

In answer to your third question, yes this Department encourages the usage of innovative products that help to conserve the Nation's financial and material resources without having adverse effects on the safety of pipeline systems. Any innovation, nonetheless, must meet the requirements of the Federal gas pipeline safety standards before it may be used in the transportation of gas to which the standards apply.

Finally, you ask how you can find recognition and acceptance of your revolutionary flange in pipeline system regulated by this Department. Unfortunately, we are unable to help you in this respect because it is Department policy not to endorse proprietary items.

We appreciate your interest in pipeline safety.

Sincerely,

/signed/

Joseph C. Caldwell  
Director, Office of Pipeline Safety



