

August 5, 1994

Mr. Massoud Tahamtani
Utilities Manager
Division of Energy Regulation
Virginia State Corporation Commission
P.O. Box 1197
Richmond, VA 23209

Dear Mr. Tahamtani:

This responds to your letter of May 9, 1994, to William Gute, asking questions about Part 192.

First, you asked if a polyvalve is subject to the requirement of § 192.63 that thermoplastic fittings be marked in accordance with the 1987 edition of ASTM D2513. Part 192 does not define the term "fitting." However, "fitting" is used separately from "valve" in § 192.63 and elsewhere in Part 192, indicating that valves and fittings are distinct items. Thus, plastic valves need not be marked in accordance with ASTM D2513.

Next, you asked what markings are required for polyvalves. Plastic valves are subject to the marking requirements of § 192.63. This rule requires markings (1) as prescribed in the specification or standard to which the valve was manufactured; or (2) to indicate size, material, manufacturer, pressure rating, and temperature rating, and as appropriate, type, grade, and model. All required information need not be marked on the valve itself. Valves are acceptably marked if they are packaged together and the package shows the markings. However, valves marked in this manner must remain in the package until installation to assure proper valve identification.

Finally, you asked if OSHA's "confined space entry permit procedures" satisfy the requirement of § 192.605(b) that operators make emergency rescue equipment available when needed at an excavated trench. If they do not satisfy this requirement, you asked when must emergency rescue equipment be made available. Because of Section 4(b)(1) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, OSHA's regulations do not apply to a working condition that is regulated under Part 192. However, any procedures that clearly explain how workers in a trench can get equipment when they need it would meet the requirement. Equipment must be available when vapor or gas leaks could accumulate in the trench to create a hazardous working environment.

I hope you find this information useful. If you need any further clarification, please call me.

Sincerely,

Cesar De Leon
Director for Pipeline Safety
Regulatory Programs