

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Research and Special Programs Administration****49 CFR Part 192**

[Docket No. PS-103, Amdt. No. 192-61]

Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline; Incorporation by Reference of ASTM D2513**AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA).**ACTION:** Final rule.

SUMMARY: This amendment updates to the 1987 edition the existing incorporation by reference of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Specification D2513, "Standard Specification for Thermoplastic Gas Pressure Piping Systems." This update improves pipeline safety by requiring improved technology, materials, and practices.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This amendment takes effect October 24, 1988.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Cory, (202) 366-4561, regarding changes on safety standards or the Dockets Unit, (202) 366-5046, for copies of this final rule or other material in the docket.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Part 192 incorporates by reference the requirements of ASTM D2513 concerning thermoplastic pipe and fittings using in the transportation of natural gas. This document is referenced in several sections of the Code of Federal Regulations. It is referenced in § 192.59(a)(1) as a manufacturing qualification for the use of thermoplastic pipe, in § 192.63 as a standard for marking thermoplastic pipe, and in § 192.121 for the design of thermoplastic pipe. It is also referenced in § 192.191 for the design of thermoplastic fittings, in § 192.281 as a standard for solvent cement, and in § 192.283 as burst test requirements in qualifying joining procedures for thermoplastic pipe.

The 1981 edition is the latest edition of ASTM D2513 that is incorporated by reference, as indicated by the listing in Appendices A and B to Part 192. This edition has been superseded by the 1987 edition.

In response to a petition of the Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI) (Petition No. P-32), RSPA has reviewed the 1987 edition and finds that it reflects the latest developments in materials and plastic pipe technology. Although most of the changes that have been made between the 1981 edition and the 1987 edition are editorial in nature, a few

changes reflect the latest improvements in plastic pipe technology relating to material properties and quality control. Accordingly, it is in the interest of both safety and efficient operation to require the use of the 1987 edition for pipelines subject to Part 192. A summary of the differences between the 1981 and 1987 editions was included in the petition, which is part of the docket.

In addition to requesting that the referenced edition of ASTM D2513 be updated, the petition requests that § 192.63(b) be deleted. This section, concerning material marking, refers to earlier editions of ASTM D2513 (1974a and 1975b) that are no longer in use. The marking requirements established by reference to these earlier editions are not relevant to newly manufactured materials. They were established as an interim rule for marking plastic pipe until the then existing reference to ASTM D2513 could be updated. (See Amdt. 192-31, 43 FR 13880.) Therefore, RSPA is, by this document, deleting paragraph (b) of § 192.63.

The petition further requests that § 192.281(b)(3), relating to handling of solvent cements, be amended by deleting the reference to Appendix A of ASTM D2513. In the 1987 edition of ASTM D2513, the safety requirements relating to handling solvent cements are no longer in Appendix A, but are referenced in the body of the ASTM D2513 specification. Specification ASTM D2513 is incorporated by reference in § 192.281(b)(2). Thus, the safety requirements for handling solvent cements are in effect through the reference to ASTM D2513 in § 192.281(b)(2). The out-of-date reference in § 192.281(b)(3) is not needed and is therefore deleted.

Because this document does not change any of the basic substantive requirements of Part 192 in any significant way, RSPA believes that notice and public procedure are unnecessary. Therefore, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553, the amendment is final. Also, the amendment will have a positive effect on the economy of less than \$100 million a year, will result in a cost savings to consumers and industry and will have no adverse effects. Hence, this action is not considered "major" under Executive Order 12291 or "significant" under DOT procedures.

RSPA has analyzed this action in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 12612 and has determined that it does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant preparing a Federalism Assessment.

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 192

Pipeline safety, Thermoplastic pipe, Incorporation by reference.

In consideration of the foregoing, Part 192 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 192—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for Part 192 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 App. U.S.C. 1672 and 1804; 49 CFR 1.53.

§ 192.63 [Amended]

2. In § 192.63, paragraph (b) is removed and paragraphs (c), (d), and (e) are redesignated (b), (c), and (d), respectively.

§ 192.28 [Amended]

3. In § 192.281(b), paragraph (3) is removed and paragraph (4) is redesignated (3).

Appendix A [Amended]

4. In section II.B. of Appendix A, item (21) is amended by removing "(D 2513-81)" and adding in its place "(D 2513-87)."

Appendix B [Amended]

5. In Section I of Appendix B, the listing for ASTM D2513 is amended by removing "(1981)" and adding in its place "(1987)."

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 15, 1988.

M. Cynthia Douglass,
Administrator, Research and Special Programs Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 663**

[Docket No. 71158-7258]

Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of fishing restriction and request for comments.

SUMMARY: NOAA issues this notice modifying earlier restrictions to limit the levels of fishing for widow rockfish taken in the groundfish fishery off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California, and seeks public comment on this action. This action is authorized under regulations implementing the