

Comments on Case 09-15: Pipe End Protection

Subject: MAG SPECS
Date: Fri, 28 Aug 2009 19:21:49 -0400
From: <Matt.Savage@Ferguson.com>
To: <pnebeker@cox.net>

Hello Paul,

Matt Savage recently emailed the MAG specification change proposal regarding pipe handling and asked for my comment. I forwarded this draft to American Ductile Iron Pipe Company and asked their Field Sales Engineer, Joe Bacik for his perspective as well. Joe's comments are directly below my comments in this email.

From our perspective as a stocking distributor a specification that requires the pipe to be protected at all times presents a number of challenges.

- Pipe is purchased from many sources (DIP, PVC, and HDPE) and these manufactures do not offer capped pipe as a standard. Thus, a price adder would have to be included assuming that a suitable, reliable means could be developed to accomplish the task.
- Manufacturers would need to cap the pipe immediately after production and keep capped in their yards separately from all of their other inventory for MAG customer destination.
- Pipe would have to be tarped on all loads to our yard to prevent ends from coming off during transport. This includes rail transport for DIP to a trans-load yard and then tractor trailer transport to our yard or the jobsite.
- Pipe would have to remain capped in all of our yards and then also be capped and tarped for delivery to the jobsite.

In summary, I would submit that although it might be possible to protect a single load of pipe from a manufacturer to the jobsite the increase in price and the method required makes it impractical. In addition, due to the many sources for stocking material, transportation and handling it is unlikely that we could insure 100% compliance with this specification. My suggestion would be that a suitable specification should focus separately on precautions for protection during construction and inspection. I hope this information is helpful if I can be of further service please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,
Ben Rathke
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From: Bacik, Joseph [mailto:JBacik@acipco.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2009 7:51 AM
To: Rathke, Benjamin E [Ferguson] - 2446 ARIZONA_WATERWORKS
Subject: RE: MAG SPECS

Ben

I would like to respond to the Mag Spec requirement for protection on the ends of the pipe..

American does not support the use of protection on the ends of pipe. The ductile iron pipe industry, as a whole, does not support the use of end caps on pipe either. There are many reasons for this. They are listed below:

1. For the purposes of keeping the pipe clean, the additional cost to provide end caps outweigh any costs of additional disinfection of the pipe. The cost of end caps can add dollars per foot, not pennies per foot, to the pipe price. There will also be added labor costs for installation. In the case of using a Visqueen material taped to the pipe, there is extra labor costs associated with putting that material on the pipe.
2. The use of end caps and plastic wrap prior to shipment, either by truck or rail, opens the manufacturer and trucking company up to liability concerns. For instance, there is a high likelihood that the end caps or plastic wrap could fly out of the pipe during transportation and cause an accident on the roads.
3. Also, there is not a good design for the end caps. For it to be more economical, the end caps would have to be made out of a plastic material. The end caps would have to be secured in the pipe by frictional means.

What happens, particularly in desert climates, is a wide temperature difference between night and day. This causes both the ductile and the plastic end caps to expand and contract at different rates. This will cause the end cap to fall out of place or "weathervane" inside the pipe, rendering the end caps useless. Also, if a plastic wrap, like Visqueen, is required it would have to be taped down on the pipe. The hot weather and rough pipe exterior will affect the adherence of the tape, causing the plastic material to fall off the ends of the pipe, once again rendering the wrap useless.

4. There are also environmental reasons. The use of plastic wrap on the ends of pipe will cause excess debris on the jobsite and roadways. The plastic end caps can be caught by the wind, causing excess debris.

I am willing to have a discussion with the MAG council in regards to this matter, if need be. This is a big issue with American and would like to avoid having end protection requirements.

Thanks