
**Plastics piping systems for the supply of
gaseous fuels — Unplasticized polyamide
(PA-U) piping systems with fusion
jointing and mechanical jointing —**

**Part 5:
Fitness for purpose of the system**

*Systèmes de canalisations en matières plastiques pour la
distribution de combustibles gazeux — Systèmes de canalisations
en polyamide non plastifié (PA-U) avec assemblages par soudage et
assemblages mécaniques —*

Partie 5: Aptitude à l'emploi du système



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 16486-5 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 138, *Plastics pipes, fittings and valves for the transport of fluids*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Plastics pipes and fittings for the supply of gaseous fuels*.

This first edition of ISO 16486-5 cancels and replaces the first edition of ISO 22621-5:2010 which has been technically revised.

ISO 16486 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Unplasticized polyamide (PA-U) piping systems with fusion jointing and mechanical jointing*:

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- *Part 1: General*
- *Part 2: Pipes*
- *Part 3: Fittings*
- *Part 5: Fitness for purpose of the system*
- *Part 6: Code of practice for design, handling and installation*

Introduction

Thin wall thickness unplasticized polyamide (PA-U) pipes and solvent cement joints are used typically for low pressures, while thicker wall thickness pipes and butt fusion, electrofusion or mechanical joints are typically used for high pressures.

For technical and safety reasons, it is not possible to mix the components of the two types of piping system (thin wall thickness pipes cannot be jointed by butt fusion or mechanical joints and vice versa). In particular, solvent cement joints must not be used for jointing for high pressure piping systems.

So for the time being, the standardization programme dealing with unplasticized polyamide (PA-U) piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels is split into two series of International Standards, with one series (ISO 17467) covering piping systems the components of which are connected by solvent cement jointing and the other (ISO 16486) the components of which are connected by fusion jointing and/or mechanical jointing. When more experience will be gained from the field, it might be reasonable to merge the ISO 17467 series and the ISO 16486 series in one single series applicable to PA-U piping systems.

A similar series (ISO 17135) for fusion and mechanically jointed plasticized polyamide (PA-P) piping systems is in preparation.

Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Unplasticized polyamide (PA-U) piping systems with fusion jointing and mechanical jointing —

Part 5: Fitness for purpose of the system

1 Scope

This part of ISO 16486 specifies the requirements of fitness for purpose of the unplasticized polyamide (PA-U) piping system, intended to be buried and used for the supply of gaseous fuels. It also specifies the definitions of electrofusion and butt fusion joints.

This part of ISO 16486 specifies the method of preparation of test piece joints and the tests to be carried out on these joints for assessing the fitness for purpose of the system under normal and extreme conditions. It also specifies the test parameters for the test methods to which it refers.

ISO 16486 is applicable to PA-U piping systems the components of which are connected by fusion jointing and/or mechanical jointing.

In conjunction with the other parts of ISO 16486, it is applicable to PA-U fittings, their joints and to joints with components of PA-U.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 291, *Plastics — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing*

ISO 1167-1, *Thermoplastics pipes, fittings and assemblies for the conveyance of fluids — Determination of the resistance to internal pressure — Part 1: General method*

ISO 1167-4, *Thermoplastics pipes, fittings and assemblies for the conveyance of fluids — Determination of the resistance to internal pressure — Part 4: Preparation of assemblies*

ISO 6259-1, *Thermoplastics pipes — Determination of tensile properties — Part 1: General test method*

ISO 13953, *Polyethylene (PE) pipes and fittings — Determination of the tensile strength and failure mode of test pieces from a butt-fused joint*

ISO 13954, *Plastics pipes and fittings — Peel decohesion test for polyethylene (PE) electrofusion assemblies of nominal outside diameter greater than or equal to 90 mm*

ISO 13955, *Plastics pipes and fittings — Crushing decohesion test for polyethylene (PE) electrofusion assemblies*

ISO 13956:2010, *Plastics pipes and fittings — Decohesion test of polyethylene (PE) saddle fusion joints — Evaluation of ductility of fusion joint interface by tear test*

ISO 16486-1, *Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Unplasticized polyamide (PA-U) piping systems with fusion jointing and mechanical jointing — Part 1: General*

ISO 16486-2, *Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Unplasticized polyamide (PA-U) piping systems with fusion jointing and mechanical jointing — Part 2: Pipes*

ISO 16486-3, *Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Unplasticized polyamide (PA-U) piping systems with fusion jointing and mechanical jointing — Part 3: Fittings*

3 Terms, definitions, symbols and abbreviated terms

For the purposes of this document, the terms, definitions, symbols and abbreviated terms given in ISO 16486-1 and the following apply.

3.1 Terms and definitions — General

3.1.1

electrofusion joint

joint between a PA-U electrofusion socket or saddle fitting and a pipe or a spigot end fitting

NOTE The electrofusion fittings are heated by the Joule effect of the heating element incorporated at their jointing surfaces, causing the material adjacent to them to melt and the pipe and fitting surfaces to fuse.

3.1.2

butt fusion joint (using heated tool)

joint made by heating the planed ends the surfaces of which match by holding them against a flat heating plate until the PA-U material reaches fusion temperature, removing the heating plate quickly and pushing the two softened ends against one another

3.1.3

fusion compatibility

ability of two unplasticized polyamide materials of the same type to be fused together to form a joint which conforms to the performance requirements of this part of ISO 16486

3.1.4

transition fitting

fitting that makes a transition joint between a unplasticized polyamide (PA-U) piping and a metallic pipe

3.1.5

transition joint

joint at which two different piping materials (the PA-U and metal piping) are connected

3.1.6

anodeless riser

type of transition fitting which is designed to transport gas from an underground unplasticized polyamide (PA-U) service line to above-ground steel piping

NOTE In an anodeless riser, the PA-U pipe is always the gas carrier, at least, in the below ground section.

3.2 Terms and definitions for preparation of test assemblies by electrofusion

3.2.1

reference time

t_R
theoretical fusion time indicated by the fitting manufacturer for the reference ambient temperature

NOTE See Annex B.

3.2.2

fusion energy

electrical energy supplied during the fusion-jointing cycle as measured at the terminals of the fitting at a given ambient temperature, T_a , and for electrical parameters whose values lie within the tolerance ranges declared by the manufacturer

NOTE 1 The fitting manufacturer is generally required to state in the technical file any variations in fusion energy input required as a function of the ambient temperature in the range T_{min} to T_{max} .