

Bulletin RUB 2004-02

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Historical Polyethylene Pipe Material Codes – R, Q, and P

The only PE pipe that was available in the early 1970s was not CSA certified. As a result, the Branch along with the pipeline regulatory authority, the Energy Resources Conservation Board (now the Energy Utilities Board) and the manufacturers worked together to develop a CSA certified product. This new CSA certified pipe followed the manufacturing guidelines set out in CSA B137.

Three separate categories of pipe were identified by the following material codes:

- Non-certified pipe installed prior to 1973 received an “R” designation, which rated the series 125 – SDR11 pipe at 345 kPa (50 psig)
- Interim-certified pipe installed between 1973 and 1975 received a “Q” designation, which rated the series 125 – SDR11 pipe at 440 kPa (60 psig). This had shown that manufacturers had reached quality control standards outlined in B137.

It is important that operating pressures on material codes “R” and “Q” DO NOT EXCEED the rated pressures.

- CSA certified pipe installed after 1975 received a “P” designation, which rated the series 125 – SDR11 pipe at 550 kPa (80 psig), this indicated that the pipe manufacturer was certified by CSA in accordance with CSA B137.

In Clause 12 of the 1999 edition of CSA Z622, design factors were amended to allow for the operation of SDR 11 PE at a pressure of 700 kPa (100 psig). Any CSA certified pipeline built prior to 1999 may be upgraded provided an engineering analysis is performed in accordance with Clause 10 .11.4.

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