

STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS

SECTION 15043

LEAKAGE AND INFILTRATION TESTING OF NON-PRESSURE PIPELINES

PART - 1 GENERAL

A. Description

This section describes the requirements and procedures for leakage and infiltration testing of gravity sewer systems, in accordance with ANSI/ASTM C828, Low Pressure Air Test of Vitrified Clay Pipelines.

B. Related Work Specified Elsewhere

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|----|--|-------|
| 1. | Vetrified Clay Pipe: | 02710 |
| 2. | PVC Sewer Pipe: | 02715 |
| 3. | Hydrostatic Testing of Pressure Pipelines: | 15042 |

C. Testing

1. General: All tests shall be made in the presence of the District representative.
2. Leakage: Each section of sewer between two successive manholes shall be tested for leakage and the leakage test shall be made on all sections of sewer.
3. Infiltration: The infiltration test shall be made where excessive groundwater is encountered.
4. Retesting: Even though a section may have previously passed the leakage or infiltration test, each section of sewer shall be tested subsequent to the last backfill compacting operation if, in the opinion of the District representative, heavy compaction equipment or any of the operations of the contractor or others may have damaged or affected the structural integrity or watertightness of the pipe, structure, and appurtenances.
5. Other Utilities: Official District tests will not be made until after all the other utilities have been installed and their trench compaction verified.
6. Excessive Leakage or Infiltration: If the leakage or infiltration rate is greater than the amount specified, the pipe joints shall be repaired or, if necessary, the pipe shall be removed and relaid by the contractor.
7. Acceptance: The sewer will not be accepted until the leakage or infiltration rate, as determined by test, is less than the maximum allowable.
8. House Laterals: When house laterals are not to be connected until after the sewer main has been successfully tested.

9. Force Mains: Force mains shall be pressure tested per section 15042.

PART 2 - MATERIALS

The contractor shall furnish all equipment and materials required for testing.

PART 3 - EXECUTION

A. Air Test for VCP Gravity Sewers

1. Test Section: Each section of sewer between two successive manholes shall be tested by plugging all pipe outlets with suitable test plugs.
2. Addition of Air: Air shall be slowly added until the internal pressure is raised to 4.0 pounds per square inch gage (psig). The compressor used to add air to the pipe shall have a blowoff valve set at 5 psig to ensure that at no time the internal pressure in the pipe exceeds 5 psig.
3. Internal Pressure: The internal pressure of 4 psig shall be maintained for at least two minutes to allow the air temperature to stabilize, after which the air supply shall be disconnected and the pressure allowed to decrease to 3.5 psig.
4. Minimum Time for Allowable Pressure Drop: The time in seconds that is required for the internal air pressure to drop from 3.5 psig to 2.5 psig shall be measured and the results compared with the minimum permissible pressure holding times indicated in the following table.
5. Retest: If the pressure drop from 3.5 psig to 2.5 psig occurs in less time than specified, the pipe shall be repaired and, if necessary, replaced and relaid until the joints and pipe shall hold satisfactorily under this test.

NATIONAL CLAY PIPE INSTITUTE AIR TEST TABLES

MINIMUM HOLDING TIME IN SECONDS REQUIRED FOR PRESSURE TO DROP FROM 3 1/2 TO 2 1/2 PSIG

(FOR USE WHEN TESTING ONE DIAMETER ONLY)

Pipe Diameter (inches)	Length of Pipe Segment Tested (feet)													
	25	50	75	100	125	150	175	200	225	250	275	300	400	500
6	14	24	34	44	54	64	74	84	94	103	113	123	163	168
8	22	40	57	75	92	110	128	145	163	180	198	216	223	224
10	32	59	87	114	142	169	197	224	252	277	277	278	279	280
12	44	84	123	163	202	242	282	321	332	333	334	334	336	336

B. Air Test for PVC Gravity Sewers

1. Test Section: Each section of sewer between two successive manholes shall be tested by plugging all pipe outlets with suitable test plugs.
2. Addition of Air: Air shall be slowly added until the internal pressure is raised to 4.0 pounds per square inch gage (psig). The compressor used to add air to the pipe shall have a blowoff valve set at 5 psig to ensure that at no time the internal pressure in the pipe exceeds 5 psig.
3. Internal Pressure: The internal pressure of 4 psig shall be maintained for at least two minutes to allow the air temperature to stabilize, after which the air supply shall be disconnected and the pressure allowed to decrease to 3.5 psig.
4. Minimum Duration for Allowable Pressure Drop: The time in minutes that is required for the internal air pressure to drop from 3.5 psig to 3.0 psig shall be measured. The results shall not be less than the minimum permissible duration for air test pressure drop shown in Table I.

TABLE I

MINIMUM DURUATION FOR AIR TEST PRESSURE DROP	
Pipe Size (Inches)	Time (Minutes)
4	2-1/2
6	4
8	5
10	6-1/2
12	7-1/2
15	9-1/2

5. Retest: If the pressure drop from 3.5 psig to 3.0 psig occurs in less time than the above-tabulated or calculated values, the pipe shall be overhauled and, if necessary, replaced and relaid until the joints and pipe shall hold satisfactorily under this test.

C. Infiltration Test

1. Preparation of Test Section: The end of the sewer at the upper structure shall be closed to prevent the entrance of water, and pumping of groundwater shall be discontinued for at least three days, after which the section shall be tested for infiltration.
2. Allowable Infiltration Rate: The infiltration shall not exceed 0.025 gpm per inch of diameter per 1,000 feet of main line sewer being tested, not including the length of laterals entering that section.
3. Excessive Infiltration: Where infiltration in excess of the allowable amount is discovered before completion and acceptance of the sewer, the sewer shall be immediately uncovered and the amount of the infiltration reduced to a quality within the specified amount of infiltration, before the sewer is accepted.

4. Individual Leaks: Even if the infiltration is less than the allowable amount, any individual leaks that may be observed shall be stopped as ordered by the District representative.
5. Completion of Tests: All tests must be completed before the street or trench is resurfaced, unless otherwise directed by the District representative.

D. Deflection Test

1. General: All PVC main line pipe shall be tested for deflection, joint displacement, or other obstruction by passing a rigid mandrel through the pipe by hand, not less than 30 days after completion of the trench backfill, but prior to permanent resurfacing. The mandrel shall be a full circle, solid cylinder, or a cylinder, approved by the District as to design and manufacture. The circular cross section of the mandrel shall have a diameter of at least 95 percent of the specified average inside pipe diameter of the pipe, as follows:

Pipe Material	Nominal Size Inches	Minimum Mandrel Diameter Inches
PVC-ASTM D 3033	6	5.169
(SDR 35)	8	7.309
	10	9.137
	12	10.963

E. Manhole Test

1. General: Water tightness of manholes shall be tested in connection with tests of sanitary sewers, or at the time the manhole is completed and backfilled.
2. Plugs: All manhole inlets and outlets shall be plugged with approved stoppers or plugs.
3. Fill Level: The manhole shall be filled with water to 2-inches below the bottom of the tapered cone section, with a minimum depth of 4 feet and a maximum depth of 20 feet. The water shall stand in the manhole for a minimum of one hour to allow the manhole material to reach maximum absorption. Before the test is begun, the manhole shall be refilled to the original depth as needed.
4. Test Requirements: The drop in water surface shall be recorded after a period of from 15 minutes to one hour. The time of the test shall be determined by the District representative and may be varied to fit the various field conditions. The maximum allowable drop in the water surface shall be 1/2 inch for each 15-minute period of testing.
5. Visible Leaks: Even though the leakage is less than the specified amount, the contractor shall stop any leaks that may be observed, to the satisfaction of the District representative.

END OF SECTION