THERMOPLASTIC DUCT (PVC) CONSTRUCTION MANUAL



SHEET METAL AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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SHEET METAL AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC. 4201 Lafayette Center Drive Chantilly, VA 22021

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FOREWORD

In the years since World War II plastics have frequently become the material of choice for most highly corrosive environments. It started in piping hard-to-handle chemicals and soon transferred to uses involving corrosive and noxious fumes. Plastics' resistance to attack by a wide range of chemicals, along with their cost advantages, make materials like PVC, polypropylene and polyethylene important alternatives for industrial uses. Plastics bring to the air-handling industry durable materials that will outperform standard sheet metal and some specialty metals, where toxic or corrosive fumes must be handled in the process of making them environmentally safe.

The addition of many new plastic materials provide an ever-growing list of compounds to choose from. These synthetic materials have often been misunderstood by the sheet metal and air-handling industries. The difficult-to-pronounce names, the assembly techniques, the temperature and chemical resistance considerations all have contributed to confusion about which material best fits the application.

This manual is intended to assist in understanding these synthetic materials and how to better utilize their advantages. It should be stated that plastics are not the answer to all problems for tough-to-handle exhaust systems. They have many limitations in the areas of resistance to heat, organic solvent attack, ultraviolet degradation and fire safety. Each must be considered carefully when choosing one or more of these materials.

This manual pulls together basic information from manufacturers, fabricators and corrosion specialists to present a guide intended to avoid misapplications and increase the understanding of thermoplastic materials.

SMACNA is indebted to the limited number of people who gave their time in the preparation of this manual. Their willingness to share their knowledge and experience in plastics confirms their dedication to both an industry and a trade.

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Second Edition

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FOREWORDi	
PVC TASK FORCE i	v
NOTICE TO USERS	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS v	ii

CHAPTER 1 -- INTRODUCTION

1.1	PLASTIC MATERIALS	1.1
1.2	THERMOPLASTICS	1.1
1.3	THERMOSETS	1.1
1.4	PLASTIC DUCT USE	1.2
1.5	PURPOSE	1.2
1.6	CONTENTS	1.2

CHAPTER 2 -- MATERIAL SELECTION AND APPLICATIONS GUIDE

2.1	GI DI M	ENERAL APPLICATION AND ESCRIPTION OF THERMOPLASTIC ATERIALS 2.1
2.1 2.1 2.1 2.1 2.1	.1 .2 .3 .4	INTRODUCTION2.1APPLICATIONS2.1PROPERTIES2.1INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES2.1CHOOSING MATERIALS2.1
2.2	P١	/C POLYVINYL CHLORIDE 2.2
2.2 2.2 2.2	2.1 2.2 2.3	CELL CLASSIFICATION 2.2 CELL NUMBERS 2.2 METHODS OF
2.2	2.4	MANUFACTURING 2.5 EXTRUDED SHEET 2.5
2.2	2.5	PRESS LAMINATED SHEET 2.5 EXTRUDED ROUND DUCT 2.5
2.2	2.7	PVC WELDING ROD 2.6
2.2	9 Cl	PVC CHI ORINATED
	P	DLYVINYL CHLORIDE 2.6
2.4	PF	P POLYPROPYLENE 2.7
2.5	LE P((C	DPE LOW DENSITY DLYETHYLENE ONVENTIONAL)

2.5	.1 US	AGE 2.7
2.6	HDPE POLY	E HIGH DENSITY ETHYLENE (LINEAR)
2.7	UHMV (ULTF WEIG	N POLYETHYLENE RA HIGH MOLECULAR HT)
2.8	ABS - BUTA	- ACRYLONITRILE DIENE STYRENE 2.8
2.9	ACRY	'LICS 2.8
2.10	PVDF FLUO	POLYVINYLDIENE RIDE 2.10
2.11	TEFLO	ON® 2.9
2.12	ELAS	TOMERS 2.9
2.1 2.1 2.1	2.1 2.2 2.3	EPDM ETHYLENE PROPYLENE DIENE MONOMER
2.13	APPL FOR T MATE	ICABLE STANDARDS ITHERMOPLASTIC IRIAL & PRODUCTS 2.13
2.14	PHYS	ICAL PROPERTIES 2.10
2.15	CORF	OSION RESISTANCE 2.14
2.1 2.1 2.1 2.1 2.1 2.1 2.1 2.1	5.1 5.2 5.3 5.4 5.5 5.6 5.7 5.8	RATINGS2.14COMPATIBILITY2.14CORROSION METAL2.14CORROSION PLASTICS2.14CORROSION2.15MEASUREMENT2.15ORGANIC ATTACK2.15STRESS CRACKING2.15TEMPERATURE2.16

2.16 FLAMMABILITY 2.16

CHAPTER 3 -- STANDARDS OF CONSTRUCTION FOR PVC DUCT SYSTEMS

3.1 PURPOSE 3.1		
3.2 SCOPE 3.1		
3.3 DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS 3.1		
3.4 MATERIALS 3.2		
3.4.1 PLASTIC COMPOUNDS 3.2 3.4.2 RIGID SHEETS 3.2 3.4.3 EXTRUDED DUCT 3.2		
3.5 METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION GENERAL		
3.6 DUCT SIZES AND TOLERANCES 3.2		
3.6.1 WALL THICKNESS 3.2 3.6.2 ROUND DUCT 3.2 3.6.3 RECTANGULAR DUCT 3.3 3.6.4 FITTINGS 3.3 3.6.5 SQUARENESS OF ENDS 3.3		
3.7 REINFORCEMENT EXTERNAL 3.3		
3.7.1 LOCATION 3.3 3.7.2 REINFORCEMENT OF FITTINGS 3.3 3.7.3 RIGIDITY 3.3 3.7.4 TYPE 3.3 3.7.5 REINFORCING 3.3 3.7.6 ATTACHMENT 3.4		
3.8 REINFORCEMENT INTERNAL 3.4		
3.8.1 LOCATION 3.4 3.8.2 REINFORCEMENT MATERIALS 3.4 3.8.3 FLANGE SELECTION 3.4		
ROUND DUCT GENERAL NOTES 3.6		
RECTANGULAR DUCT GENERAL NOTES 3.16		
3.9 WELDING 3.26		
3.9.1 HOT GAS FILLER ROD WELDING 3.26 3.9.2 THERMAL BUTT		

WI 3.9.3 SC	ELDING DLVENT WELDING	3.26 3.26
3.10 JOIN	TS AND SEAMS	3.27
3.10.1 3.10.2 3.10.2.1 3.10.2.2	LONGITUDINAL SEAMS TRANSVERSE JOINTS BELL AND SPIGOT SLEEVE JOINTS	3.27 3.27 3.27 3.27
3.11 FITTIN BRAN	NG TRANSITIONS AND	3.27
3.11.1 3.11.2	ELBOWS, ROUND DUCT . ELBOWS, RECTANGULAR	3.27
3.11.3 3.11.4 3.11.5	TURNING VANES OFFSETS TRANSITIONS AND	3.28 3.28
3.11.6	REDUCERS BRANCHES ENTERING MAIN	3.28 3.28
3.12 FLAN	GES	3.28
3.12.1	FLANGE ATTACHMENTS	3.28
3.12.2 3.12.3	FACE OF FLANGES FLANGE BOLTING	3.29 3.29
3.13 GASK	ETS	3.29
3.14 FLEXI	BLE CONNECTIONS	3.29
3.14.1 3.14.2 3.14.3 3.14.4	LOCATIONS MATERIAL CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT	3.29 3.29 3.31 3.31
3.15 EXPA	NSION JOINTS	3.31
3.16 DUCT SUPP	HANGERS AND ORT	3.32
3.17 FUME	HOODS	3.32
3.18 DAMP	ERS	3.32
3.18.1 3.18.2	VOLUME DAMPERS BACK-DRAFT	3.32
3.18.3	DAMPERS	3.33 3.33
3.19 ACCE END C	SS OPENING AND CAPS	3.33

3.20 DRAINS 3.33		
3.21 VE LO	NTILATOR HEADS AND	
3.22 AU	XILIARY EQUIPMENT 3.33	
CHAPT PVC AI	ER 4 - GUIDE SPECIFICATION FOR R HANDLING SYSTEMS	
GENER DRAWII SEISMI	AL	
1.00 GE	ENERAL PROVISIONS 4.2	
1.01 1.02 1.03 1.04 1.05	WORK INCLUDED4.2WORK EXCLUDED4.3COORDINATION OF WORK4.3SUBMITTALS4.4EQUIPMENTIDENTIFICATION4.5REFERENCED DOCUMENTS4.5	
2.00 Alf	R DISTRIBUTION PVC DUCT 4.6	
2.01 2.02 2.03 2.04	MATERIAL	
2.05 2.06	REGULATING DAMPERS4.7FIRE DAMPERS4.7LOCATION OF FLEXIBLE4.7CONNECTIONS4.7	
2.07 2.08	LOCATION OF EXPANSION JOINTS 4.7 LOCATION OF DRAINS 4.8	
3.00 EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES 4.8		

3.01	FANS (SUPPLY, RETURN AND		
0.00	EXHAUST) 4.8		
3.02	AIR OR FUME SCRUBBER 4.8		
3.03	DUST COLLECTORS 4.9		
3.04	FILTERS 4.9		
3.05	HOODS, FUME 4.9		
3.06	LOUVERS AND VENTILATOR		
	HEADS 4.9		
3.07	MOTORS AND BASES 4.9		
3.08	SOUND ATTENUATORS 4.9		
3.09	BALANCING AND		
	ADJUSTING 4.10		
3.10	GUARANTEE 4.10		
CHAPT GUIDE	ER 5 CHEMICAL RESISTANCE		
0114 DT			
CHAPTER 6 GLOSSARY OF TERMS			
APPEN	DICES		
APPE ESTA REIN	NDIX A CRITERIA FOR THE BLISHMENT OF PVC DUCT FORCEMENT TABLES A.1		
Δ-	1 0 TEST METHODS FOR		

A-1.0	TEST METHODS FOR
	REINFORCEMENT TABLES A.1
A-1.1	ROUND DUCT UNDER
	NEGATIVE PRESSURE A.1
A-1.2	ROUND DUCT UNDER
	POSITIVE
	PRESSURE A.2
A-1.3	RECTANGULAR DUCT
	UNDER NEGATIVE
	PRESSURE A.3
A-1.4	RECTANGULAR DUCT
	UNDER POSITIVE
	PRESSURE A.4
A-1.5	OTHER CRITERIA A.4
APPEND	DIX B LISTED
REFERE	NGES B.1
	14

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION