



Standard Specification for Joints for Concrete Pipe, Manholes, and Precast Box Sections Using Preformed Flexible Joint Sealants¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C 990; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers joints for precast concrete pipe and box, and other sections using preformed flexible joint sealants for use in storm sewers and culverts which are not intended to operate under internal pressure, or are not subject to infiltration or exfiltration limits. Joint material used in horizontal applications is intended to prevent the flow of solids through the joint.

1.2 For precast concrete manhole sections and other vertical structures, which may be operated with internal or external pressure, infiltration or exfiltration limits may be specified. Joints in vertical structures covered by this specification are intended mainly to prevent the flow of solids or fluids through the joint.

1.3 This specification is to be used with pipe and structures conforming in all respects to Specifications C 14, C 76, C 478, C 506, C 507, C 655, C 789, C 850 and C 985, provided that if there is a conflict in permissible variations in dimensions, the requirements of this specification shall govern.

1.4 A complete metric companion to this Specification C 990 has been developed—C 990M; therefore, no metric equivalents are presented in this specification.

1.5 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

NOTE 1—This specification covers the material and performance of the joint and sealant only. Infiltration and exfiltration quantities for installed sections are dependent on factors other than the joints which must be covered by other specifications and suitable testing of the installed pipeline.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- C 14 Specification for Concrete Sewer, Storm Drain, and Culvert Pipe²
- C 76 Specification for Reinforced Concrete Culvert, Storm Drain, and Sewer Pipe²
- C 478 Specification for Precast Reinforced Concrete Manhole Sections²

- C 506 Specification for Reinforced Concrete Arch Culvert, Storm Drain, and Sewer Pipe²
- C 507 Specification for Reinforced Concrete Elliptical Culvert, Storm Drain, and Sewer Pipe²
- C 655 Specification for Reinforced Concrete D-Load Culvert, Storm Drain, and Sewer Pipe²
- C 765 Test Method for Low-Temperature Flexibility of Preformed Tape Sealants³
- C 766 Test Method for Adhesion After Impact of Preformed Tape Sealants³
- C 789 Specification for Precast Reinforced Concrete Box Sections for Culverts, Storm Drains, and Sewers²
- C 822 Definitions of Terms Relating to Concrete Pipe and Related Products²
- C 850 Specification for Precast Reinforced Concrete Box Sections for Culverts, Storm Drains, and Sewers with Less than 2 ft of Cover Subjected to Highway Loadings²
- C 969 Practice for Infiltration and Exfiltration Acceptance Testing of Installed Precast Concrete Pipe Sewer Lines²
- C 972 Test Method for Compression—Recovery of Tape Sealant³
- C 985 Specification for Nonreinforced Concrete Specified Strength Culvert, Storm Drain, and Sewer Pipe²
- D 4 Test Method for Bitumen Content⁴
- D 6 Test Method for Loss on Heating of Oil and Asphaltic Compounds⁴
- D 36 Test Method for Softening Point of Bitumen (Ring-and-Ball Apparatus)⁴
- D 71 Test Method for Relative Density of Solid Pitch and Asphalt (Displacement Method)⁴
- D 92 Test Method for Flash Fire Points by Cleveland Open Cup⁴
- D 113 Test Method for Ductility of Bituminous Materials⁵
- D 217 Test Method for Cone Penetration of Lubricating Grease⁶
- D 482 Test Method for Ash from Petroleum Products⁶
- 2.2 *AASHTO Standards:*⁷
 - T 47 Test for Loss of Heating of Oil and Asphaltic Compounds
 - T 48 Test for Flash and Fire Points by Cleveland Open Cup
 - T 51 Test for Ductility of Bituminous Material
 - T 111 Test for Inorganic Matter or Ash
 - T 229 Test for Specific Gravity of Asphalts and Tar Pitches Sufficiently Solid to be Handled in Fragments

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C-13 on Concrete Pipe and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C13.08 on Rubber Gaskets.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.05.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.07.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.04.

⁵ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.03.

⁶ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 05.01.

⁷ Available from American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, 444 N. Capitol, Washington, DC 20001.

2.3 Federal Specifications:⁸

SS-S 210A Federal Specifications, Sealing Compound, Preformed, Plastic, for Expansion Joints and Pipe Joints

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions—For definitions of terms relating to concrete pipe, see Definitions C 822.

4. Basis of Acceptance

4.1 The acceptability of the pipe joint and sealant shall be determined by the results of the physical tests prescribed in this specification, if and when required, and by inspection to determine whether the pipe joint and the sealant conform to this specification as to design and freedom from defects.

5. Materials and Manufacture for Sealants

5.1 Bitumen sealants shall be produced from blends of refined hydrocarbon resins and plasticizing compounds reinforced with inert mineral filler and shall contain no solvents. Butyl rubber sealants shall be produced from blends of butyl rubber and refined hydrocarbon resins and plasticizing compounds reinforced with inert mineral filler and shall contain no solvents.

5.2 Blends of material used in the manufacture of flexible joint sealants shall be approved by the purchaser and meet the composition and physical requirements prescribed in Section 6. The joint sealant shall not depend on oxidizing, evaporating, or chemical action for its adhesive or cohesive strength and shall be supplied in extruded rope form of suitable cross section and size to fill the joint annular space when the sections are joined. For a given joint size, the sealing material, as furnished, shall be such so as to encircle the outside circumference of the spigot or tongue of the joint or the inside circumference of the bell or groove and shall not be stretched when seated in the joint. Sealant material may be furnished in the required length or multiples thereof. Sealant material shall be extruded or molded to the following specified tolerances:

	Tolerance
Length, %	+5, -0
Cross sectional area, %	+5, -5
Volume (in. ³ /linear ft), %	+5, -5

6. Physical Requirements for Sealants

6.1 Bitumen Sealants:

6.1.1 Bitumen sealants shall comply with the following composition and physical requirements. Testing shall be in accordance with the methods prescribed in Section 9.

Bitumen (hydrocarbon blends), % by weight	50 % min
Ash-Inert Mineral Matter, % by weight	30 % min
Volatile Matter, % by weight	3 % max
Specific Gravity at 77°F	1.20 min 1.35 max
Ductility at 77°F, cm	5.0 min
Flash Point, C.O.C.	600°F
Fire Point, C.O.C.	625°F
Softening Point	320°F
Penetration at 77°F, 150 gm, 5 s	50 min 120 max
Chemical Resistance	No deterioration, no cracking, no swelling

6.1.2 Chemical resistance shall be determined by 30-day separate immersion in 5 % solutions at ambient room temperature of HCl (hydrochloric acid), H₂SO₄ (sulfuric acid), NaOH (sodium hydroxide), KOH (potassium hydroxide), H₂S (saturated hydrogen sulfide solution).

6.2 Butyl Rubber Sealant:

6.2.1 Butyl rubber sealants (elastomeric polymer shall be butyl rubber only) shall comply with the following composition and physical requirements. Testing shall be in accordance with the methods prescribed in Section 9.

Butyl Rubber (hydrocarbon blends), % by weight	50 % min
Ash-Inert Mineral Matter, % by weight	30 % min
Volatile Matter, % by weight	2 % max
Specific Gravity at 77°F	1.15 min 1.50 max
Ductility at 77°F, cm	5.0 min
Flash Point, C.O.C.	350°F min
Fire Point, C.O.C.	375°F min
Rebound Test at 77°F	5 % to 15 %
at 32°F	30 % to 60 %
Compression Test at 77°F, lbf/in. ³	100 max
at 32°F, lbf/in. ³	200 max
Low Temperature Flexibility at -10°F	180° bend no cracking nor loss of adhesion
Elevated Temperature Flow 14 days at 158°F	No sag, nor change in extruded shape
Adhesion After Impact	No greater loss than 50 % of adhesion
Cone Penetration at 77°F, dmm	50 to 100
at 32°F, dmm	40 min
Chemical Resistance	No deterioration, no cracking, no swelling

6.2.2 Chemical resistance shall be determined by 30-day separate immersion in 5 % solutions at ambient room temperature of HCl (hydrochloric acid), H₂SO₄ (sulfuric acid), NaOH (sodium hydroxide), KOH (potassium hydroxide), H₂S (saturated hydrogen sulfide solution).

7. Design of Joints

7.1 The pipe manufacturer shall furnish the purchaser with the detailed design of the joint. The sealant manufacturer shall furnish a complete list of joint sizes showing the minimum size of material to be used with each size joint, along with complete instructions on recommended installation procedures.

7.1.1 The joint design shall consist of a bell or groove on one end of the section and a spigot or tongue on the adjacent end of the joining section.

7.1.2 All surfaces of the joint upon or against which the sealant may bear shall be free of spalls, cracks or fractures, and imperfections that would adversely affect the function of the joint.

7.1.3 The joints of the sections shall be of such design that they will withstand the forces caused by the compression of the sealant when joined, without cracking or fracturing when tested, in accordance with Section 10.

7.1.4 For horizontal installations, the angle of taper on the conic surfaces of the inside of the bell or groove and the outer surface of the spigot or tongue where the sealant seats shall be not more than 10° measured from the pipe axis. Alternate tapers may be used if proven adequate by the plant tests specified in Section 10 and approved by the purchaser.

7.1.5 The annular space measured perpendicular to the sealant bearing surfaces of the assembled and centered joint shall not exceed 1/2 in. at any point or the maximum

⁸ Available from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

specified by the sealant manufacturer, whichever is the lesser. The joint design shall provide for the deflection of a section by opening one side of the outside perimeter of the joint 1/2 in. wider than the assembled position. Where greater deflections are required than provided by the joint design, beveled joints or elbows may be provided.

7.1.6 The sealant shall be the sole element depended upon to make the joint flexible and meet the test requirements set forth in Section 10. The sealant may be composed of one or more pieces and shall be applied as a continuous ring in installation.

7.2 *Alternative Joint Designs:*

7.2.1 If permitted by the purchaser, manufacturers may submit to the purchaser, detailed designs for joints other than those described in 7.1.

7.2.2 Design submissions shall include joint dimensions, tolerances, proposed plant tests, and such other information as required by the purchaser to evaluate the joint design for field performance.

7.2.3 Joints of alternative designs shall meet all test requirements of this specification unless waived by the purchaser. Alternative joint designs shall be acceptable provided the designs are approved by the purchaser prior to manufacture and provided the test pipe joints comply with the tests as described in Section 10.

8. Permissible Variations in Dimensions

8.1 The planes formed by the ends of nonbeveled pipe sections shall not vary from the perpendicular to the longitudinal axis by more than 3/16 in. for internal horizontal spans of 30 in. and smaller; or by more than 1/4 in. for internal horizontal spans of 33 to 54 in. inclusive; or by more than 3/8 in. for internal horizontal spans of 60 in. and larger.

9. Test Methods for Sealants

9.1 The composition and physical properties of bitumen or butyl sealants shall be determined in accordance with the following test methods:

9.1.1 *Bitumen or Butyl Rubber (hydrocarbon blends)*—Test Method D 4.

9.1.2 *Ash-Inert Mineral Matter*—AASHTO T 111.

9.1.3 *Volatile Matter*—Test Method D 6 or AASHTO T 47.

9.1.4 *Specific Gravity*—Test Method D 71 or AASHTO T 229.

9.1.5 *Ductility*—Test Method D 113 or AASHTO T 51.

9.1.6 *Softening Point*—Test Method D 36.

9.1.7 *Penetration*—Test Method D 217.

9.1.8 *Flash Point and Fire Point*—Test Method D 92. The cup shall be heated by an electric heater or oven.

9.1.9 *Low Temperature Flexibility*—Test Method C 765; use 10-in. length of 1-in. diameter or equivalent preformed sealant, 12-in. panel.

9.1.10 *Elevated Temperature Flow and Adhesion After Impact*—Test Method C 766; use 10-in. length of 1-in. diameter or equivalent preformed sealant, 12-in. panel.

9.1.11 *Chemical Resistance*—Federal Specification SS-S-210A.

9.1.12 *Compression Test*—Test Method C 972.

9.2 The sealant manufacturer shall, if required, furnish certified copies of test reports specified under this specification.

10. Performance Requirements for Joints

10.1 The sections shall be tested hydrostatically in vertical alignment and a sufficient number of sections shall be assembled in straight alignment to develop a pressure of at least 10 psi for 10 min at the test joint. Alternate test methods are acceptable as long as the designated internal hydrostatic pressure is achieved at the joint. No mortar or concrete coatings, fillings or packing shall be placed prior to water tightness tests. There shall be no visible leakage. Moisture or beads of water appearing on the joint will not be considered as leakage.

10.2 The hydrostatic test is intended only for use as a quality control test, and not as a simulated service test. The 10 psi pressure criterion for sections should not be considered an indication of the hydrostatic pressure capability of the joint and sealant under installed conditions. Field tests for completed portions of concrete pipe and structures are not covered by this specification, but should be included in the specifications for installation.

11. Storage

11.1 The sealant shall be stored in as cool and as clean a place as practicable, preferably at a temperature between 50 and 70°F.

12. Inspection

12.1 The quality of the materials and the joint and sealant shall be subject to inspection and approval by the purchaser.

13. Rejection

13.1 Pipe joints and sealants shall be subject to rejection upon failure to conform to any of the requirements of this specification.

13.2 Sealants shall be subject to rejection whenever they show surface checking, weathering, or other deterioration prior to installation in the work.

13.3 Joints that are damaged because of carelessness or continuing failure to prevent recurrent imperfections in manufacturing or damage during handling will be subject to rejection.

14. Repairs

14.1 Spalled areas, manufacturing imperfections, or damage during handling of a pipe or box or other section that may adversely affect the joint, may be repaired. The repairs will be acceptable if, in the opinion of the purchaser, the repairs are sound, properly finished and cured, provided the length of a single area to be repaired does not exceed 10 % of the total perimeter length, and the length of several areas to be repaired does not exceed 20 % of the total perimeter length. The finished repair shall conform to the requirements of 7.1.2. At the option of the purchaser, the pipe joint that has been repaired shall be subjected to the designated hydrostatic test in 10.1 and shall be accepted if it passes the hydrostatic test requirements.

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