



Mechanical jointing fittings for use with crosslinked polyethylene (PE-X) for pressure applications

**Part 5: Plastics pipes and fittings—
Crosslinked polyethylene (PE-X) pipe
systems for the conveyance of gaseous
fuels—Metric series—Specifications—
Fittings for mechanical jointing
(including PE-X/metal transitions)
(ISO 14531-3:2006, MOD)**



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- Certification Interests (Australia)
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 - Engineers Australia
 - Master Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers New Zealand
 - National Plumbing Regulators Forum
 - New Zealand Water and Waste Association
 - Plastics Industry Pipe Association of Australia
 - Plastics New Zealand
 - Plumbing Products Industry Group
 - Water Services Association of Australia
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Australian Standard®

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee PL-006, Polyolefin Pipe Systems to supersede in part, AS 2537—1994, *Mechanical jointing fittings for use with crosslinked polyethylene (PE-X) pipe for hot and cold water applications*.

This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (December 2018). The changes required by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected.

- A1 | Amendment No. 1 to this Standard was prepared by the Australian members of Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee PL-006, Polyolefin Pipe Systems. As a consequence of Amendment No. 1, which was published as an Australian-only Amendment, the designation of this Standard has been changed from AS/NZS 2537.5:2011 to AS 2537.5:2011.

This Standard is an adoption with national modifications and has been reproduced from ISO 14531-3:2006, *Plastics pipes and fittings—Crosslinked polyethylene (PE-X) pipe systems for the conveyance of gaseous fuels—Metric series—Specifications*, Part 3: *Fittings for mechanical jointing (including PE-X/metal transitions)*. The modifications and additional requirements are set out in Appendix ZZ. Appendix ZA has been included to specify requirements on means of demonstrating compliance with this Standard.

The objective of this Standard is to specify the general aspects of mechanical jointing fittings made for use with crosslinked polyethylene pipes in gaseous fuel applications.

In this Standard, there is a partial pressure limitation for liquefied petroleum gas (LP Gas). The aim of this limitation is to prevent the formation of aliphatic hydrocarbon liquids under normal service conditions and subsequent deleterious effects on the long term performance of the pipe. At a partial pressure of 300 kPa absolute, the dewpoint for a typical propane LP Gas is below 0°C. The designer of a cross-linked polyethylene reticulation system should be aware that if service temperatures lower than this are likely to occur or if LP Gas containing significant quantities of butane gases are to be reticulated, the partial pressure limitation must be revised to avoid condensation of hydrocarbon liquids.

Other parts of AS/NZS 2537 are:

AS/NZS

- 2537.1 Part 1: Plastics piping systems for hot and cold water installations—Crosslinked polyethylene (PE-X)—General (ISO 15875-1, MOD)
- 2537.2 Part 2: Plastics piping systems for hot and cold water installations—Crosslinked polyethylene (PE-X)—Fittings (ISO 15875-3:2003, MOD)
- 2537.3 Part 3: Plastics piping systems for hot and cold water installations—Crosslinked polyethylene (PE-X)—Fitness for purpose of the system (ISO 15875-5:2003, MOD)
- 2537.4 Part 4: Plastics piping systems for hot and cold water installations—Crosslinked polyethylene (PE-X)—Guidance for the assessment of conformity (ISO/TS 15875-7:2003, MOD)

As this Standard is reproduced from an International Standard, the following applies:

- (a) Its number does not appear on each page of text and its identity is shown only on the cover and title page.
- (b) In the source text ‘this part of ISO 14531’ should read ‘this part of AS/(NZS) 2537’.
- (c) A full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

Statements expressed in normative terms in footnotes to tables are deemed to be requirements of this Standard.

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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

Mechanical jointing fittings for use with crosslinked polyethylene (PE-X) pipe for pressure applications**Part 5:**

Plastics pipes and fittings—Crosslinked polyethylene (PE-X) pipe systems for the conveyance of gaseous fuels—Metric series—Specifications—Fittings for mechanical jointing (including PE-X/metal transitions) (ISO 14531-3:2006, MOD)

1 Scope

This part of ISO 14531 specifies the physical properties and mechanical-performance requirements for full-end-load-resistant mechanical fittings for use in the connection of crosslinked polyethylene (PE-X) pipes conforming to ISO 14531-1 and in the construction of transition assemblies for joining PE-X pipes to metal pipes having plain spigot, screw thread, compression socket and flange terminations. In addition, it lays down dimensional requirements and specifies some general material properties (including chemical resistance) together with a classification scheme for PE-X fitting materials produced in the form of pipe.

This part of ISO 14531, when used in conjunction with the other parts of ISO 14531, provides the basis for the design, manufacture and installation of PE-X piping systems (PE-X pipes, PE-X fusion fittings and mechanical fittings) for the supply of category D and category E hydrocarbon-based fuels (see ISO 13623) at

- a) maximum operating pressures (MOPs) up to and including 16 bar ¹⁾ and
- b) a maximum operating temperature of +60 °C and
- c) a minimum operating temperature of
 - 1) –50 °C
 - 2) –35 °C
 - 3) –20 °C.

Conformity to this part of ISO 14531-3 of mechanical fittings produced in accordance with ISO 10838-1, ISO 10838-2 or ISO 10838-3 may be claimed subject to the satisfactory conclusion of the tests listed in 5.6 and an end-use restriction on operating temperatures to the temperature range –20 °C to +40 °C.

NOTE It is recognized that mechanical fittings conforming to ISO 10838-1, ISO 10838-2 or ISO 10838-3 are limited to a maximum operating temperature of 40 °C. Provision is made in ISO 14531-4 for the use on a restricted-temperature basis of ISO 10838 fittings conforming to 5.6 in conjunction with PE-X pipes conforming to ISO 14531-1. The fitting manufacturer's technical file should also be consulted for relevant supporting information.

For installation purposes, this part of ISO 14531 provides for the jointing of mechanical fittings to PE-X pipes within the temperature range –5 °C to +40 °C.

1) 1 bar = 10⁵ N/m² = 100 kPa.

2 Normative references

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

ISO 7-1, *Pipe threads where pressure-tight joints are made on the threads — Part 1: Dimensions, tolerances and designation*

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 1167-2, *Thermoplastics pipes, fittings and assemblies for the conveyance of fluids — Determination of the resistance to internal pressure — Part 2: Preparation of pipe test pieces*

ISO 1167-3, *Thermoplastics pipes, fittings and assemblies for the conveyance of fluids — Determination of the resistance to internal pressure — Part 3: Preparation of components*

ISO 3127, *Thermoplastics pipes — Determination of resistance to external blows — Round-the-clock method*

ISO 3458, *Assembled joints between fittings and polyethylene (PE) pressure pipes — Test of leakproofness under internal pressure*

ISO 4437, *Buried polyethylene (PE) pipes for the supply of gaseous fuels — Metric series — Specifications*

ISO 6447, *Rubber seals — Joint rings used for gas supply pipes and fittings — Specification for material*

ISO 8085-3:2001, *Polyethylene fittings for use with polyethylene pipes for the supply of gaseous fuels — Metric series — Specifications — Part 3: Electrofusion fittings*

ISO 9080, *Plastics piping and ducting systems — Determination of the long-term hydrostatic strength of thermoplastics materials in pipe form by extrapolation*

ISO 10838-1:2000, *Mechanical fittings for polyethylene piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Part 1: Metal fittings for pipes of nominal outside diameter less than or equal to 63 mm*

ISO 10838-2:2000, *Mechanical fittings for polyethylene piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Part 2: Metal fittings for pipes of nominal outside diameter greater than 63 mm*

ISO 10838-3:2001, *Mechanical fittings for polyethylene piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Part 3: Thermoplastics fittings for pipes of nominal outside diameter less than or equal to 63 mm*

ISO 12162, *Thermoplastics materials for pipes and fittings for pressure applications — Classification and designation — Overall service (design) coefficient*

ISO 13623, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — Pipeline transportation systems*

ISO 13951, *Plastics piping systems — Test method for the resistance of polyolefin pipe/pipe or pipe/fitting assemblies to tensile loading*

ISO 13957, *Plastics pipes and fittings — Polyethylene (PE) tapping tees — Test method for impact resistance*

ISO 14531-1, *Plastics pipes and fittings — Crosslinked polyethylene (PE-X) pipe systems for the conveyance of gaseous fuels — Metric series — Specifications — Part 1: Pipes*

ISO 14531-2, *Plastics pipes and fittings — Crosslinked polyethylene (PE-X) pipe systems for the conveyance of gaseous fuels — Metric series — Specifications — Part 2: Fittings for heat-fusion jointing*

ISO 14531-4:2006, *Plastics pipes and fittings — Crosslinked polyethylene (PE-X) pipe systems for the conveyance of gaseous fuels — Metric series — Specifications — Part 4: System design and installation guidelines*

ISO 16010, *Elastomeric seals — Material requirements for seals used in pipes and fittings carrying gaseous fuels and hydrocarbon fluids*

ISO 19899, *Plastics piping systems — Polyolefin pipes and mechanical fitting assemblies — Test method for the resistance to end load (AREL test)*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

mechanical fitting

fitting within a pipeline system that relies, fully or in part, upon the mechanical loading of component parts to effect a pipeline seal that provides pressure integrity, leaktightness and resistance to end loads

3.2

end-load resistance

resistance to end load transmitted via the connecting pipe and generated by internal pressure, pipeline external interference and thermally induced pipe stresses in any combination

NOTE Full-end-load resistance is the condition in which the joint is stronger than the connecting pipe when exposed to all applied end loads.

3.3

design temperature

θ

temperature used to determine the minimum required strength $MRS_{\theta, t}$

NOTE See ISO 14531-4.

3.4

design pressure

DP_F

pressure upon which design calculations are based

NOTE 1 See ISO 14531-4.

NOTE 2 For fittings, the design pressure is designated DP_F , whereas for pipes it is designated DP_P .

4 Materials

4.1 General

The materials from which the fitting components are manufactured shall have properties consistent with the production of a mechanical fitting with a pressure and end-load resistance equal to or better than that of the connecting PE-X pipes over the intended design life.

Materials (e.g. plastics, rubbers and metals) utilized in the manufacture of fittings conforming to this standard shall be supplied in accordance with a relevant ISO standard. For rubber ring seals, the applicable standard shall be ISO 6447; for PE and PE-X materials the standard shall be ISO 14531-2.

Alternative standards may be utilized in cases where suitable ISO standards do not exist. In such cases, fitness for purpose shall be established.

All metal parts susceptible to corrosion shall be adequately protected. When dissimilar metallic materials are used which may be in contact with moisture, steps shall be taken to avoid the possibility of galvanic corrosion.

The manufacturer of the fittings shall maintain the availability of a technical file (generally confidential) with all relevant data to prove the conformity of fittings to this part of ISO 14531. Any change in the materials used that is likely to affect product quality and performance shall require a re-assessment of material performance against the requirements of this part of ISO 14531.

4.2 Strength

The susceptibility of materials to crack failure in locations of high stress concentration, e.g. at threads, shall be examined. Materials shown to be vulnerable to brittle fracture throughout the specified operating temperature range(s) as given in Clause 1 shall be discarded as failing to conform to this part of ISO 14531.

Thermoplastic materials (reinforced and un-reinforced) incorporated in fitting components subjected to long-term, time-dependent tensile stresses shall be evaluated in the form of pipe in accordance with ISO 9080, and the MRS determined for classification in accordance with ISO 12162. Materials that are shown by the test to be likely to exhibit premature failure at the intended maximum operating temperature within the fitting design life shall be rejected as unsuitable for use.

Unclassified materials may be introduced provided fitting assemblies containing such unclassified material elements are subjected to long-term hydrostatic-strength tests to demonstrate that the MRS of the connecting PE-X pipe(s) is not impaired in such cases.

4.3 Chemical resistance

The selection of component materials shall take into account the effect of gas stream chemicals associated with the transport of category D and category E gaseous fuels, as classified by ISO 13623, on the material properties of components contained within the fitting assembly.

The demonstration of adequate chemical resistance shall be made by subjecting a joint assembly to the test listed in Table 1 and by the provision for consideration by the pipeline operator of relevant environmental stress cracking failure data from tests using chemical compounds encountered in, or external to, gas piping systems.

NOTE Materials should have a demonstrated resistance to environmental stress cracking when exposed, under stress, to chemical compounds encountered in, or external to, gas piping systems since liquids such as antifreeze agents, odorants and hydrocarbons are known to have a deleterious effect on some plastics, particularly under service conditions.

Table 1 — Chemical resistance

Characteristic	Units	Requirement	Test parameters	Test method
Resistance to gas constituents	h	No failure when tested to 1 000 h	Temperature: 80 °C Pipe hoop stress: 2 MPa	ISO 1167-1 Test piece in accordance with ISO 1167-2 Type A end caps Annex A

4.4 Lubricants

Lubricants and/or greases may be used to assist in joint assembly or for corrosion protection subject to the following measures being taken:

- a) The fitting manufacturer shall provide evidence that the lubricant and/or grease does not have a deleterious effect on the performance of the component parts of the fitting likely to be in contact with the connecting PE-X pipe.
- b) The fitting assemblies used for testing conformity with the requirements of this part of ISO 14531 shall have the lubrication in place.
- c) Surfaces intended for fusion jointing shall be free of lubrication.

4.5 Reprocessable (re-work) material

PE-X shall not be reprocessed and used in the manufacture of fittings intended to conform to this part of ISO 14531.

Non-crosslinked base material for PE-X components, produced in the course of manufacturing fittings conforming to this part of ISO 14531, may be reprocessed if derived from the same non-crosslinked material grade already employed in the relevant production. Products containing reprocessed material shall conform to the requirements of this part of ISO 14531.

The extent of any use of reprocessable PE 80 and PE 100 material shall be in accordance with ISO 4437 and ISO 8085 (see e.g. ISO 8085-3:2001, Subclause 5.3).

The manufacture of components from other thermoplastic materials shall utilize virgin material compounds unless an acceptable manufacturing history is available that demonstrates a capability of manufacturing components produced from reprocessable materials.

For metallic materials, refer to relevant ISO standards.

5 Fittings

5.1 Design

Mechanical fittings, including any integral heat-fusion joints, shall be designed for the connection of PE-X pipes conforming to ISO 14531-1 to create full-end-load, pressure-resistant pipe/fitting assemblies conforming to the requirements of this part of ISO 14531. Transition assemblies connecting PE-X pipes to metal pipes (e.g. steel or iron) shall also meet the requirements of this part of ISO 14531.

Terminating and integral heat-fusion joints made of PE or PE-X materials shall conform to ISO 14531-2.

The effect of pipe outside diameter and wall thickness tolerances specified in ISO 14531-1 shall be taken into account.

The provision of end-load resistance shall not rely on the influence of internal pressure.

The fitting design pressure DP_F at a design temperature θ of 20 °C shall be declared by the fitting manufacturer in accordance with Table 2 and recorded in the manufacturer's technical file. The declaration of design pressure shall take into account stress concentration effects generated by the fitting and joint assembly geometries and shall be supported by the provision of appropriate experimental data (see 5.5) or design calculations. The effect on the design pressure at 20 °C of variations in operating temperature from 0 °C to +60 °C shall be established and recorded in the technical file.

NOTE The pipeline operator is required by ISO 14531-4 to ensure that $MOP \leq DP_F$.

Table 2 — Fitting design pressure DP_F ($\theta = 20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$)

Fitting type	DP_F bar
Type 1	2,0
Type 2	5,0
Type 3	10,0
Type 4	16,0

The fitting shall be designed to be leaktight throughout the pressure range extending from 25 mbar up to $1,5DP_F$ (see Table 3) and the temperature range(s) defined in Clause 1, in any combination.

Fitting design shall take into account the expectation on site of a minimum pipe/fitting component temperature of $-5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and a maximum of $+40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ prior to joint construction. Preheating of components which are at temperatures less than $-5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ is permissible and, if applicable, both the equipment for this, and guidance on its use, shall be supplied by the fitting manufacturer.

Internal stiffeners incorporated in the design of the fitting shall comply with the following:

- a) They shall be rigid with a continuous circular geometry in the *in situ* state and shall provide support over the entire area of pipe compression.

NOTE Stiffeners with convolutions should be assessed for pipe support on the basis of projected area.

- b) They shall contain a means of readily indicating their location at their design position within the pipe and shall not be susceptible to longitudinal displacement after assembly.
- c) Only one type of stiffener shall be used for each pipe diameter and pipe standard dimension ratio (SDR).

NOTE This is necessary to prevent several stiffeners being supplied for each pipe size in order to accommodate variations in connecting-pipe tolerances. In this way, the possibility of selecting an incorrect stiffener is avoided.

The fitting shall be capable of field assembly. Special mechanical assembly tools, if required, shall be supplied by the manufacturer. Assembly tooling shall be designed to avoid causing any visible deformation or weakening of the components being joined which could have an adverse effect on the performance of the joint assembly.

Transition fittings intended for connection to steel pipe by welding shall be designed to facilitate the conduct of the welding operation without detriment to the overall performance of the jointed assembly.

The design of fittings shall take into account the possible use above ground as well as below ground. Factors to consider shall include the effect of natural weathering and external corrosion.

Bore geometry arrangements shall ensure that the pressure drop across the fitting is kept to a minimum and that provision is made in the design of straight couplings greater than 125 mm diameter for the unrestricted passage of pipe pigging tools.

Joint assembly forces shall not induce twisting deformation of the connecting PE-X pipe(s).

Threading on metal terminations shall conform to ISO 7-1.

5.2 Appearance

When viewed without magnification, fitting components shall not show any signs of surface defects or inclusions that would prevent conformity of the fitting with this part of ISO 14531.