



**American Water Works
Association**

The Authoritative Resource for Safe Drinking WaterSM

ANSI/AWWA C218-02
(Revision of ANSI/AWWA C218-99)

AWWA Standard

Coating the Exterior of Aboveground Steel Water Pipelines and Fittings



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Foreword

This foreword is for information only and is not a part of AWWA C218.

I. Introduction.

I.A. *Background.* Preventing the corrosion of aboveground steel water pipe subjected to atmospheric weathering has become an increasing concern over the years. The increasing incidence of atmospheric corrosive conditions, such as acid rain, has prompted water suppliers to evaluate the paint and coating systems used to protect aboveground steel water pipe.

Although not all aboveground steel water pipe is subjected to the same atmospheric corrosive conditions, a review of the paint and coating systems currently available to the industry has become necessary. The purchasers must have the option of selecting a system that best suits their needs. These needs may be based on current surface preparation; the types of volatile organic compound (VOC) allowances permitted by regulatory agencies; and regulatory requirements for lead abatement. The paint and coating systems in this standard are designed to assist the user in producing specifications to meet these needs.

I.B. *History.* In November 1986, the AWWA Standards Council authorized AWWA's Steel Pipe Committee to develop a new standard for coatings to be used on aboveground steel water pipe exposed to the atmosphere. The first edition of this standard was published as ANSI/AWWA C218-91, Standard for Coating the Exterior of Aboveground Steel Water Pipelines and Fittings, with an effective date of Nov. 1, 1991. The second edition of this standard was approved by the AWWA Board of Directors on June 17, 1995. The third edition of the standard was approved on Jan. 24, 1999. This fourth edition was approved by the AWWA Board of Directors on June 16, 2002.

I.C. *Acceptance.* This standard has no applicable information for this section.

II. Special Issues.

II.A. *Advisory Information on Product Use.* This standard defines the performance and quality of external pipe coatings and coating systems designed to protect and prevent atmospheric corrosion. This standard applies to the exterior coating of aboveground steel water pipelines and the associated fittings installed aboveground, outdoors, or inside an associated pump station, valve chamber, or other water facilities. The coating systems cited in this standard are not all-inclusive but are those

most commonly used with an accepted performance record. Before selecting and specifying any of these coating systems, the purchaser should determine their suitability for the intended service.

II.A.1. General. This standard presents several alternative coating systems currently in use in the water industry, often serving dual functions of corrosion protection and aesthetics. Another function of coating systems may be to color code the pipe to identify the type of service.

To comply with federal, state, provincial, and local environmental regulations, most coating manufacturers are reformulating their coatings to comply with the current regulations. Some of the coatings discussed in this standard have been used successfully as solvent-base coatings for the last 20 to 30 years but are now available as water-based coatings. Others have been reformulated to reduce the amount of solvents, resulting in coatings with much lower VOCs. In some cases, high solids coatings have been developed in which the solids content exceeds 80 percent and may reach 100 percent. Primers are being reformulated to remove heavy metals and toxic inhibitors.

In many instances, these changes have altered the application, curing, adhesion, and inhibiting characteristics of coating systems. The manufacturer should be consulted for the technical data and material safety data sheets, which provide the prospective user with the information necessary to select the coating system that best satisfies the purchaser's requirements.

Materials. Code of Federal Regulations 29,* Labor—Part 1910, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations establish restrictive limits on the constructor regarding inhaling or absorbing lead- and chromate-bearing pigments and solvents through the skin. This regulation refers to shop applications, and it can significantly increase the cost of shop coating applications.

Whenever coating materials are referenced to federal, military, or other standards, the reference identifies a generic type of coating material or system.

Selecting coating systems. Several generic coating systems (see Table 1) are included in this standard, because no single coating or coating system is appropriate for all service applications. Often it is impractical for an occasional coatings user to make sufficient laboratory tests to verify and compare the relative performance

*Available from the US Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC 20402.

characteristics of various coating systems to a given set of performance criteria. Consequently, it is necessary for the purchaser to consider the atmospheric and environmental conditions of service to which the coating or coating system will be exposed. Refer to Sec. 6 and Table 3, SSPC* Painting Manual Vol. 2, *Systems and Specifications*, Eighth edition (2000), Chap. 1, for definitions of atmospheric and environmental conditions of service.

The coatings listed in this standard have been used extensively and have provided excellent corrosion protection and weathering endurance. In recent years, the development of new polymers, pigments, and solvents has contributed to the rapid advancement of materials technology for painting and coating of steel structures. These advancements, coupled with regulatory agency concerns about air pollution by VOCs, have led to the development of many new paint formulations. Although not listed in this standard, many of these new products provide performance equal to or better than the systems presented in this standard.

III. Use of This Standard. AWWA has no responsibility for the suitability or compatibility of the provisions of this standard to any intended application by any user. Accordingly, each user of this standard is responsible for determining that the standard's provisions are suitable for and compatible with the user's intended application.

III.A. Purchaser Options and Alternatives. The following items should be included in the purchaser's specifications:

1. Standard used, that is, ANSI/AWWA C218, Standard for Coating the Exterior of Aboveground Steel Water Pipelines and Fittings, of latest revision.
2. Any exceptions to the standard that may be required.
3. Diameter, length, and location of the pipeline.
4. Affidavit of compliance, if required (Sec. 6.3).
5. Coating system to be supplied (Sec. 4.2).
6. Color, if special color is specified (Sec. 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4, 4.2.5, 4.2.6, 4.2.8, 4.2.9, and 4.2.10).
7. Verification of film thickness of the coating or coating system (Sec. 4.3.2.4).
8. Surface preparation (Sec. 4.4).
9. Requirements for visual comparative standards for blast cleaning (Sec. 4.4.2.1).

*SSPC: The Society for Protective Coatings, 40 24th St., Sixth Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.