teppfa
the european plastic pipes and fittings association

Aliaxis, Alphacan, Tessenderlo, KWH, Pipelife, Rehau and Wavin are members of the Civils Application Group

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Civils Newsletter 01/2010

Civils Newsletter : Why?

In difficult economic times, communication is even more important to ensure that everybody stays focused, motivated and together. Although you may have heard of TEPPFA from time to time, you may not be aware of some of the relevant issues and interesting actions that are being handled by the Civils group.

Our group has a wide representative force from Pipelife, Rehau, Tessenderloo, KWH, Aliaxis and Wavin. Through this newsletter that will be sent to you three times a year, we shall explain how we are strengthening the market position for plastic pipe systems in our application area.

We shall for example, keep you up to date on the way our product standards are initiated, drafted and agreed. We shall also alert you to our promotional activities on the web or through a host of other media.
At TEPPFA, we are continuously endorsing the technical quality of our products and systems. This may involve the structural performance of plastic pipe systems. From time to time, we may have to commission Independent studies and testing.
Whatever your role in our industry, you need to know what we are doing in this field and how it will affect you.

And then there is question of European Legislation. Consider for a moment the EU prospect of Environmental Product Declarations or the associated matter of Life Cycle Analysis? The road to Brussels may reveal fortune or misfortune. How we mitigate the latter and promote the former is in your direct interest.

At the moment, green roots of recovery may well be only microscopic. However, we are convinced of the ceaseless innovation and tenacious conviction in our sector. We have a lot of interesting things to share with you and of course, we welcome your feedback.

Rolf Mellink
Chairman
Application Group Civils

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Storm Water Management – Controlling the Flow ...

Extremely focused was how Peter Verlaan described the first meeting of the CEN work group seeking to reach a standard for requirements and test methods for modular boxes for underground infiltration, attenuation and storage systems.

Peter Verlaan is convinced that an EN standard for these modular boxes systems is feasible within two years. As secretary of a dedicated infiltration Work Group (WG26) within the important EU Technical Committee (CEN TC155), his role will be vital for a successful outcome.
“These plastic modular boxes were developed in the early nineteen nineties.” He explains. “They mitigate flooding and land subsidence through harvesting rainwater and then releasing it gradually.”

Reputation

The Netherlands, France and UK pioneered these systems but their growing popularity in the rest of Europe has prompted calls for a standard to ensure quality of design, installation and possibly performance.

“Global warming with its intermittent periods of drench and drought require us to manage water resources more effectively. At the moment, these systems are perfect for the job.”

“However, we have to consider the worse case scenario. For example, in the future if cheap products were shown to be of poor quality design and manufacture, we would risk our reputation in the plastics industry.”
“We have also noted some confusion in the market. Customers are not always able to distinguish products from one another. Moreover, installers have opted for the wrong application area. With a good EN standard, we can make a start to avoid all of that.”

Testing

A universal testing procedure for performance is not yet envisaged. “Tests have already been developed by various countries and we will have to see where consensus leads us in this direction.”
Peter Verlaan is from the Application, Standardisation and Certification department of Wavin. He is member of a TEPPFA group dedicated to promoting this standard. Experts from Pipelife, Aliaxis, Polypipe and Tessenderlo are equally represented.

Plato once observed that 'opinion is a medium between ignorance and knowledge'. Success can also attract fictional comment and that is why Henk Meerman decided to focus on facts in putting the record about plastic sewer pipes.

His platform for a reality check is a series of FAQ's which are found on the TEPPFA'S website. "My colleagues and I decided to provide a technical and reasoned response," says Meerman. "And what was really interesting and satisfying was the clarity that we all shared in the formation of our answers - backed up by self explanatory illustrations."

The TEPPFA team took on 25 questions and answers that deal with aspects of performance, joint integrity, installation, costs, chemical resistance, longevity and environmental impact. Various myths are also dispelled such as such as the supposed dangers of water jetting and the hindrance of deflection.

One example was the question: "How does the hydraulic performance of plastic sewer pipes compare with other pipe materials?"

Answer: "Due to their lower roughness coefficient the full bore capacity of plastic sewer pipes can be 30% more than a concrete sewer pipe of the same diameter."

Every answer is supported by a technical explanation. "It is easy to get into a war of words," says Meerman. "We avoided that by telling it how it is."

Details are available for those who want to know more. His FAQ's can be found on: http://www.teppfa.com/FAQ-in-Civils.asp

In our April issue we take a good look at the SMP project and how its findings could prompt a switch to plastic pipes. We also report on the storm water project and what it will mean for the plastic pipe industry.

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