

DIN EN 1555-5



ICS 23.040.01; 91.140.40

Supersedes  
DIN EN 1555-5:2003-04

**Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels –  
Polyethylene (PE) –  
Part 5: Fitness for purpose of the system  
English translation of DIN EN 1555-5:2010-12**

Kunststoff-Rohrleitungssysteme für die Gasversorgung –  
Polyethylen (PE) –

Teil 5: Gebrauchstauglichkeit des Systems

Englische Übersetzung von DIN EN 1555-5:2010-12

Systèmes de canalisations en plastique pour la distribution de combustibles gazeux –  
Polyéthylène (PE) –

Partie 5: Aptitude à l'emploi du système

Traduction anglaise de DIN EN 1555-5:2010-12

Document comprises 17 pages

Translation by DIN-Sprachendienst.

In case of doubt, the German-language original shall be considered authoritative.



*A comma is used as the decimal marker.*

## **National foreword**

This standard has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 155 "Plastics piping systems and ducting systems" (Secretariat: NEN, Netherlands).

The responsible German body involved in its preparation was the *Normenausschuss Kunststoffe* (Plastics Standards Committee), Working Committee NA 054-05-08 AA *Kunststoff-Rohrleitungssysteme für die Gasversorgung*.

## **Amendments**

This standard differs from DIN EN 1555-5:2003-04 as follows:

- a) the standard has been editorially revised;
- b) normative references have been updated.

## **Previous editions**

DIN EN 1555-5: 2003-04

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English Version

## Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels - Polyethylene (PE) - Part 5: Fitness for purpose of the system

Systèmes de canalisations en plastique pour la distribution  
de combustibles gazeux - Polyéthylène (PE) - Partie 5:  
Aptitude à l'emploi du système

Kunststoff-Rohrleitungssysteme für die Gasversorgung -  
Polyethylen (PE) - Teil 5: Gebrauchstauglichkeit des  
Systems

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 30 July 2010.

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## Foreword

This document (EN 1555-5:2010) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 155 "Plastics piping systems and ducting systems", the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2011 and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2011.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN 1555-5:2002.

EN 1555 consists of the following parts:

- EN 1555-1, *Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Polyethylene (PE) — Part 1: General*;
- EN 1555-2, *Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Polyethylene (PE) — Part 2: Pipes*;
- EN 1555-3, *Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Polyethylene (PE) — Part 3: Fittings*;
- prEN 1555-4, *Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Polyethylene (PE) — Part 4: Valves*;
- EN 1555-5, *Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Polyethylene (PE) — Part 5: Fitness for purpose of the system (this standard)*;
- CEN/TS 1555-7, *Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Polyethylene (PE) — Part 7: Guidance for assessment of conformity*.

System Standards are supported by separate standards on test methods to which references are made throughout the System Standard.

The System Standards are consistent with general standards on functional requirements and on recommended practice for installation.

NOTE EN 12007-2:2000 [1] prepared by CEN/TC 234 "Gas infrastructure" deals with the recommended practice for installation of plastics pipes system in accordance with EN 1555 (all parts).

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

## **Introduction**

The System Standard, of which this is Part 5, specifies the requirements of a piping system and its components made from polyethylene (PE) and which is intended to be used for the supply of gaseous fuels.

Requirements and test methods for material and components are specified in EN 1555-1, EN 1555-2, EN 1555-3 and prEN 1555-4.

CEN /TS 1555-7 [2] gives guidance for assessment of conformity. Recommended practice for installation is given in EN 12007-2:2000 [1] prepared by CEN /TC 234.

This part of EN 1555 covers the characteristics of fitness for purpose of the system.

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## 1 Scope

This part of EN 1555 specifies requirements of fitness for purpose of the polyethylene (PE) piping system in the field of the supply of gaseous fuels.

It specifies the definitions of electrofusion, butt fusion and mechanical joints.

It specifies the method of preparation of test piece joints, and the tests to be carried out on these joints for assessing the fitness for purpose of the system under normal and extreme conditions.

It specifies the test parameters for the test methods referred to in this standard.

In conjunction with Parts 1 to 4 of EN 1555, it is applicable to PE pipes, fittings, valves, their joints and to joints with components of other materials intended to be used under the following conditions:

- a) a maximum operating pressure, MOP, up to and including 10 bar <sup>1)</sup>;
- b) an operating temperature of 20 °C as reference temperature.

NOTE 1 For other operating temperatures, derating coefficients should be used, see Annex A.

EN 1555 (all parts) covers a range of maximum operating pressures and gives requirements concerning colours and additives.

NOTE 2 It is the responsibility of the purchaser or specifier to make the appropriate selections from these aspects, taking into account their particular requirements and any relevant national regulations and installation practices or codes.

## 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.

EN 1555-1:2010, *Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Polyethylene (PE) — Part 1: General*

EN 1555-2:2010, *Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Polyethylene (PE) — Part 2: Pipes*

EN 1555-3, *Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Polyethylene (PE) — Part 3: Fittings*

prEN 1555-4, *Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Polyethylene (PE) — Part 4: Valves*

EN ISO 1167-1:2006, *Thermoplastics pipes, fittings and assemblies for the conveyance of fluids — Determination of the resistance to internal pressure — Part 1: General method (ISO 1167-1:2006)*

EN 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 1167-2:2006)*

EN ISO 1167-4, *Thermoplastics pipes, fittings and assemblies for the conveyance of fluids — Determination of the resistance to internal pressure — Part 4: Preparation of assemblies (ISO 1167-4:2007)*

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1) 1 bar = 0,1 MPa.

EN ISO 13477, *Thermoplastics pipes for the conveyance of fluids — Determination of resistance to rapid crack propagation (RCP) — Small-scale steady-state test (S4 test) (ISO 13477:2008)*

EN ISO 13478, *Thermoplastics pipes for the conveyance of fluids — Determination of resistance to rapid crack propagation (RCP) — Full scale test (FST) (ISO 13478:2007)*

ISO 10838-1<sup>2)</sup>, *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<sup>2)</sup>, *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<sup>2)</sup>, *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 11413:2008, *Plastics pipes and fittings — Preparation of test piece assemblies between a polyethylene (PE) pipe and an electrofusion fitting*

ISO 11414:2009, *Plastics pipes and fittings — Preparation of polyethylene (PE) pipe/pipe or pipe/fitting test piece assemblies by butt fusion*

ISO 13953, *Polyethylene (PE) pipes and fittings — Determination of the tensile strength and failure mode of test pieces from a butt-fused joint*

ISO 13954, *Plastics pipes and fittings — Peel decohesion test for polyethylene (PE) electrofusion assemblies of nominal outside diameter greater than or equal to 90 mm*

ISO 13955, *Plastics pipes and fittings — Crushing decohesion test for polyethylene (PE) electrofusion assemblies*

ISO/FDIS 13956, *Plastics pipes and fittings — Determination of cohesive strength — Evaluation of ductility of fusion joint interface by tear test*

### **3 Terms and definitions**

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions, symbols and abbreviations given in EN 1555-1:2010 and the following definition apply.

#### **3.1 mechanical joint**

joint made by assembling a PE pipe with a fitting that generally includes a compression part to provide for pressure integrity, leaktightness and resistance to end loads

**NOTE** A support sleeve inserted into the pipe bore should be used to provide a permanent support for the PE pipe to prevent creep in the pipe wall under radial compressive forces. The metallic part of this fitting can be assembled to a metallic pipe by screw threads, compression joints, welded or brazed flanges or by other means.

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2) These standards are under revision.



## 4 Fitness for purpose

### 4.1 Method of preparation of assemblies for testing

#### 4.1.1 General

The joints shall be made by using pipes conforming to EN 1555-2, fittings conforming to EN 1555-3 or valves conforming to prEN 1555-4.

Test pieces for pressure test shall be closed with pressure-tight, end-load-bearing end caps, plugs or flanges which shall be provided with connections for the entry of water and release of air.

The peelable layer of peelable layer pipe shall be removed in the area of the joint prior to jointing.

#### 4.1.2 Butt fusion joints

PE pipes, spigot end fittings and valves intended to be used for jointing by butt fusion shall be prepared and assembled in accordance with ISO 11414. The conditions for the preparation of the joints are given in 4.2.2.1 for the assessment of fitness for purpose under normal conditions and in 4.2.2.2 for the assessment of fitness for purpose under extreme conditions.

#### 4.1.3 Electrofusion jointing

PE pipes, fittings and valves intended to be used for jointing by electrofusion shall be prepared and assembled in accordance with ISO 11413. The conditions for the preparation of the joints are given in 4.2.3.1 for the assessment of fitness for purpose under normal conditions and in 4.2.3.2 for the assessment of fitness for purpose under extreme conditions.

For joints with electrofusion saddle fittings, the electrofusion saddle fitting shall be fused to the pipe, while it is pneumatically pressurized to the allowable maximum operating pressure. The pipe shall be cut immediately after the manufacturer prescribed cooling time has elapsed.

NOTE These joints with electrofusion saddle fitting should be prepared taking into consideration national safety regulations.

For straight equal electrofusion socket fittings (couplers) test joints on selected diameters out of the product range shall be prepared with a gap of  $0,05d_n$  between the pipe end and the maximum theoretical depth of penetration of the fitting, where for diameters greater than 225 mm the adjoining pipes shall be arranged to provide the maximum angular deflection possible for the fitting, limited to  $1,5^\circ$ .

#### 4.1.4 Mechanical joints

For mechanical joints the assembly of the PE pipe and the fitting shall be prepared in accordance with ISO 10838-1, ISO 10838-2 or ISO 10838-3, as applicable.

### 4.2 Requirements for fitness for purpose

#### 4.2.1 General

When tested in accordance with the test methods as specified in Table 5 using the indicated parameters, fittings shall have mechanical characteristics conforming to the requirements given in Table 5, as applicable to the following types of joints:

- (A) electrofusion socket fittings;
- (B) electrofusion saddle fitting;

— (C) spigot end fitting, pipe.

#### 4.2.2 Fitness for purpose of butt fusion joints

##### 4.2.2.1 Under normal conditions (ambient temperature 23 °C)

For the assessment of fitness for purpose under normal conditions, butt fusion joints shall have the characteristic of tensile strength conforming to the requirement given in Table 5, using the parameters as specified in Annex B, Condition 1 of ISO 11414:2009 at an ambient temperature of  $(23 \pm 2)$  °C and the scheme listed in Table 1.

Table 1 — Scheme for butt-fused joints

Pipe/spigot end fitting/valve with spigot ends	Pipe	
	PE 80	PE 100
PE 80	X	X <sup>a</sup>
PE 100	X <sup>a</sup>	X
<sup>a</sup> Only when requested by the purchaser.		

NOTE The table should be interpreted as follows: as an example, for a pipe or a spigot end fitting or a valve with spigot end made from a PE 80 compound, a joint should be tested with a pipe made from PE 80 compound. When requested by the purchaser, for mixed compound joints, test pieces should be used incorporating PE 80 and PE 100 compounds.

The pipe manufacturer shall declare, according to 4.2.2.1, which pipes from his own product range manufactured from different compounds conforming to EN 1555-2 are compatible to each other for butt fusion.

The fitting or valve manufacturer shall declare, according to 4.2.2.1, the SDR range and MRS values of pipes conforming to EN 1555-2:2010 to which his fittings conforming to EN 1555-3 and/or his valves conforming to prEN 1555-4 can be fused by using the same procedures (e.g. times, temperatures, fusion pressures) to conform to this standard. If there is a need for deviation in fusion procedures the fitting or valve manufacturer shall state this clearly.

##### 4.2.2.2 Under extreme conditions

For butt fusion joints the characteristics to be examined for fitness for purpose under extreme conditions shall conform to Table 2.

Table 2 — Relation between the joints and fitness for purpose characteristics

Butt fusion joint	Associated characteristics
Both components of the joint: same MRS and same SDR Joint: minimum and maximum condition <sup>a</sup>	Hydrostatic strength (80 °C, 165 h)
Both components of the joint: same MRS and same SDR Joint: minimum and maximum condition <sup>a</sup>	Tensile strength for butt fusion joint
<sup>a</sup> As specified in Clause 7, item a), of ISO 11414:2009 concerning misalignment and the limit values of fusion parameters conforming to Condition 2 and 3 in Annex B of ISO 11414:2009.	

When tested in accordance with the test methods as specified in Table 5 using the indicated parameters, the joints shall have characteristics conforming to the requirements given in Table 5.

The fitting or valve manufacturer shall declare according to Table 2, as applicable, the fitness for purpose under extreme conditions of his fittings or valves.

The pipe manufacturer shall declare according to Table 2 the fitness for purpose under extreme conditions of his pipes (PE pipes, PE pipes with co-extruded layers, PE pipes with peelable layers).

#### 4.2.3 Fitness for purpose for electrofusion joints

##### 4.2.3.1 Under normal conditions (ambient temperature 23 °C)

For the assessment of fitness for purpose under normal conditions, electrofusion joints shall have the characteristic of decohesive resistance or cohesive strength, as applicable, conforming to the requirement given in Table 5, using the assembly condition 1 as specified in Annex C of ISO 11413:2008 at an ambient temperature of  $(23 \pm 2)$  °C and the scheme listed in Table 3.

Table 3 — Scheme for electrofused joints

Electrofusion fitting/valve with electrofusion socket	Pipe	
	PE 80 SDR maximum	PE 100 SDR minimum
PE 80	X	X
PE 100	X	X

NOTE The table should be interpreted as follows: as an example, for an electrofusion fitting or a valve with electrofusion socket made from a PE 80 compound, a joint should be tested with a pipe made from PE 80 compound and the SDR maximum as declared by the manufacturer, and another joint should be tested with a pipe made from PE 100 compound and the SDR minimum as declared by the manufacturer.

The fitting or valve manufacturer shall declare, according to 4.2.3.1, the SDR range and MRS values of pipes conforming to EN 1555-2:2010 to which his fittings conforming to EN 1555-3 and/or his valves conforming to prEN 1555-4 can be fused by using the same procedures (e.g. times, temperatures, fusion pressures) to conform to this standard. If there is a need for deviation in fusion procedures, the fitting or valve manufacturer shall state this clearly.

##### 4.2.3.2 Under extreme conditions

For electrofusion joints the characteristics to be examined for fitness for purpose under extreme conditions shall conform to Table 4.

When tested in accordance with the test methods as specified in Table 5 using the indicated parameters, the joints shall have characteristics conforming to the requirements given in Table 5.

Table 4 — Relation between the joints and fitness for purpose characteristics

Electrofusion joint including socket fitting <sup>a</sup> (A)	Electrofusion joint including saddle fitting <sup>a</sup> (B)	Associated characteristics
Pipe: MRS maximum <sup>b</sup> SDR minimum <sup>b</sup> Joint: conditions 2 and 3 <sup>c</sup>		Decohesive resistance
	Pipe: MRS maximum <sup>b</sup> SDR minimum <sup>b</sup> Joint: conditions 2 and 3 <sup>c</sup>	Cohesive strength
<p>a If accepted by the purchaser, the minimum and maximum energy conditions 2 and 3 may be replaced by a nominal energy at a given ambient temperature <math>T_a</math> defined by the fitting manufacturer (see 3.4 of ISO 11413:2008).</p> <p>b As declared by the fitting manufacturer according to 4.2.3.1.</p> <p>c As specified in Annex C of ISO 11413:2008 with <math>T_{min}</math> and <math>T_{max}</math> as stated in the fitting manufacturer's technical specification.</p>		

The fitting or valve manufacturer shall declare according to Table 4, column(s) A, or B, as applicable, the fitness for purpose under extreme conditions of his fittings or valves with the type of pipe being specified.

#### 4.2.4 Fitness for purpose for mechanical joints

For fitness for purpose of mechanical joints the performances of the joints shall conform to ISO 10838-1, ISO 10838-2 or ISO 10838-3, as applicable.

#### 4.3 Conditioning

The test pieces shall be conditioned at  $(23 \pm 2)$  °C before testing, unless otherwise specified by the applicable test method as specified in Table 5,

#### 4.4 Requirements

The requirements for characteristics of fitness for purpose are given in Table 5.

Table 5 — Characteristics for fitness for purpose of the system

Characteristic	Requirements	Test parameters		Test method
		Parameter	Value	
Hydrostatic strength (80 °C, 165 h) (C)	No failure during the test period <sup>a</sup>	End caps Orientation Conditioning time  Number of test pieces <sup>b</sup> Type of test Circumferential (hoop) stress for: PE 80 PE 100  Test period Test temperature	EN ISO 1167-1:2006, Type A Free Shall conform to EN ISO 1167-1 3 Water-in water  4,5 MPa 5,4 MPa 165 h 80 °C	EN ISO 1167-1 together with EN ISO 1167-2, or EN ISO 1167-4, as applicable
Decohesive resistance (A)	Length of initiation rupture $\leq L/3$ in brittle failure <sup>c</sup>	Test temperature Number of test pieces <sup>b</sup>	23 °C Shall conform to ISO 13954	ISO 13954
		Test temperature Number of test pieces <sup>b</sup>	23 °C Shall conform to ISO 13955	ISO 13955
Evaluation of ductility of fusion joint interface (B)	$L_d \leq 50\%$ and $A_d \leq 25\%$ , brittle failure	Test temperature Number of test pieces <sup>b</sup>	23 °C Shall conform to ISO/FDIS 13956	ISO/FDIS 13956
Tensile strength for butt fusion (C)	Test to failure: ductile: pass brittle: fail	Test temperature Number of test pieces <sup>b</sup>	23 °C Shall conform to ISO 13953	ISO 13953
<sup>a</sup> Only brittle failures shall be taken into account. If a ductile failure occurs before 165 h, the test is permitted to be repeated at a lower stress. The stress and the associated minimum test period shall be selected from Table 6 or from a line based on the stress/time points given in Table 6. <sup>b</sup> The numbers of test pieces given indicate the numbers required to establish a value for the characteristic described in the table. The numbers of test pieces required for factory production control and process control should be listed in the manufacturer's quality plan. For guidance, see CEN/TS 1555-7 [2]. <sup>c</sup> $L$ is the nominal length of the fusion zone of the electrofusion socket fitting.				

#### 4.5 Retest in case of failure at 80 °C

A fracture in a brittle mode in less than 165 h shall constitute a failure, however if a sample in the 165 h test fails in a ductile mode in less than 165 h, a retest shall be performed at a selected lower stress in order to achieve the minimum required time for the selected stress obtained from the line through the recommended stress/time points given in Table 6.

Table 6 — Circumferential (hoop) stress at 80 °C and associated minimum test period

PE 80		PE 100	
Stress MPa	Minimum test time h	Stress MPa	Minimum test time h
4,5	165	5,4	165
4,4	233	5,3	256
4,3	331	5,2	399
4,2	474	5,1	629
4,1	685	5,0	1 000
4,0	1 000	—	—

## 5 Design coefficient

The minimum value of the design coefficient,  $C$ , for pipes, fittings and valves for the supply of gaseous fuels shall be 2, or higher values according to national legislation.

To this value other coefficients may be applied taking into account different aspects such as:

- a) operating temperature range;
- b) specific material aspects, for instance Rapid Crack Propagation (RCP);

NOTE 1 For information about RCP resistance at temperature less than 0 °C, see Annex B.

- c) storage and laying conditions.

NOTE 2 For information about derating coefficients for other operating temperatures, see Annex A.

## Annex A (informative)

### Derating coefficients for operating temperatures

Derating factor ( $D_F$ ) is a coefficient used in the calculation of the maximum operating pressure (MOP), which takes into account the influence of operating temperature.

Table A.1 gives derating coefficients for various operating temperatures.

Table A.1 — Temperature derating coefficients

Temperature	Derating coefficient ( $D_F$ )
20 °C	1,0
30 °C	1,1
40 °C	1,3

For other temperatures between each step, linear interpolation is permitted.

The calculation of MOP for a given operating temperature is based on the following equation:

$$\text{MOP} = \frac{20 \times \text{MRS}}{(\text{SDR} - 1) \times C \times D_F},$$

in which the value of the design coefficient,  $C$ , shall not be less than 2 in accordance with Clause 5.

**Annex B**  
(normative)

**Rapid crack propagation (RCP) resistance of pipe at temperature less than 0 °C**

Piping system intended for the distribution of gas at temperature less than 0 °C, e.g. liquid petroleum gas (LPG) systems and in use downstream of pressure reduction stations, shall be subjected to additional rapid crack propagation (RCP) evaluation in accordance with EN ISO 13477 or EN ISO 13478, to determine the critical pressure  $p_c$  at the minimum expected operating temperature; see EN 1555-1.

NOTE More information may be found in EN 12007-2:2000 [1].

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## Bibliography

- [1] EN 12007-2:2000, *Gas supply systems — Gas pipelines for maximum operating pressure up to and including 16 bar — Part 2: Specific functional recommendations for polyethylene (MOP up to and including 10 bar)*
- [2] CEN/TS 1555-7, *Plastics piping systems for the supply of gaseous fuels — Polyethylene (PE) — Part 7: Guidance for assessment of conformity*

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