October 2023

Unconventional Solutions, Inc.
Partnering with Your Industry to Repair - Protect - Upgrade

Leading Edge

Pipe and Pipeline Color Code Standards Explained

Working in the vicinity of pipes or directly on pipelines can be dangerous. For the safety of all involved, safety and regulatory organizations have designated color code standards for pipes and pipelines. A few of these organizations include:

- American Public Works Administration (APWA, USA)
- American National Standards Institute (ANSI, USA)
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA, USA)

The colors used in the coding systems promote consistency, clarity, and safety across industries by providing a standardized method for pipeline identification.

Pipe color code standards use specific colors to identify the substance(s) contained within the pipeline and the related safety hazards. A pipeline color code chart serves as a reference tool for personnel working with pipelines, helping them identify and understand the nature of the pipelines they encounter.

There are numerous competing standards; however, for the discussion covered in this article, we will primarily focus on the APWA standard for buried utilities.

Importance of Pipe Color Coding

Color coding pipelines serve two important purposes:

1. **Identification:** Pipeline color coding provides a visual means to identify and distinguish different types of pipelines, their content, or their purpose. By using distinct colors, personnel can quickly and easily recognize the type of pipeline they are dealing with, reducing the chances of confusion or mistakes.

2. **Safety:** Color coding enhances safety by conveying crucial information about the nature of the pipeline. It helps personnel and emergency responders identify potential hazards and take appropriate precautions. For example, color coding can indicate the presence of flammable, toxic, or corrosive substances, alerting individuals to handle those pipelines carefully and follow the necessary safety precautions.

Pipeline Color Code Charts

Pipeline color code charts are often based on recognized standards or guidelines, such as the APWA, ANSI/ASME A13.1, and BS 1710 standards. These charts are also known as pipeline color code standards or reference charts. The charts serve as a visual guide that provides information on the recommended colors for identifying different pipeline types based on their contents, purpose, or hazards. Additionally, text or symbols are included to indicate the meaning or significance of each color.

COLOR OR STRIPE COLOR	SOLID WALL PIPING APPLICATION
Red	Electric power lines, cable, conduit and lighting cables
Orange	Telecommunication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit
Yellow	Fuel gas (methane or propane), oil, petroleum, steam or gaseous materials
Green	Sewers and drain lines
Blue	Potable water
Violet (Purple)	Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines

Proper Pipe Marking & Labeling

Labeling pipes in an industrial facility or field setting can seem daunting, but with the proper information, the task is simple. Pipe marking is crucial to staying ANSI, OSHA, and BSI compliant, so it's essential to get it right!

Applying and maintaining pipe markings and labels are critical to staying compliant; it's advisable to consult your region's applicable standards or regulations to ensure compliance with the correct pipeline color coding requirements.

To conclude, specific industries or regions may have variations or additional codes beyond the standard guidelines. However, by following a pipe color coding system, workers can avoid potentially dangerous situations, such as accidentally connecting pipes carrying different fluids or gases. This visual communication method promotes safety, efficiency, and compliance within various industries that deal with pipeline systems.

USI Dates to Remember

October 2-4
AMPP Eastern Conference – Georgia (Savannah, GA)

October 10
Great Lakes AMPP on Prestressed Concrete Pipe in Cathodic Protection Areas (Ann Arbor, MI)

A company that supplies atmospheric and specialty gases to a wide range of industries, including aerospace, chemical, oil, gas, refining, and other areas of general industry, was experiencing heavy corrosion on a compressed air pipe. The company was looking for an economical and quick solution that adheres to strict EPA regulations due to the pipe's position over a river.

The Substrate
Steel

Products Used:
Viscotaq EZ Wrap
Denso Glass Outerwrap
Resichem 555 Resinox

The Solution
First, 200 feet of pipe was hand scraped and abraded to remove flaking paint. The pipe was wrapped with **Viscotaq EZ Wrap**, **a paintable 70 mil tape** that provides immediate adhesion, is a-polar, rejects water, and requires no cure time. **The pipe was then painted in the company's signature color.**

Read more: https://www.usigroups.com/case-studies/compressed-air-pipe/

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT

Denso®

Denso Viscotaq EZ Wrap

Denso Viscotaq EZ Wrap is a **Paintable tape** that provides immediate adhesion, is a-polar, rejects water, and requires no cure time. This product contains a **"Paintable topcoat backing"**

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS:
- Waterproofing of gravity-fed pipes, manholes, seams, penetrations, and cracks
- CUI applications
- End seal for pipe casing
- Tank chimes
- Buried pipelines with minimal surface preparation
- Waterproofing for bell & spigot joints and more

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