

Version
June 2026

English translation

Approval requirement 172

Prefab indoor pipes



creating
trust
**driving
progress**



Preface Kiwa

This, translated from Dutch, approval requirement (AR), is approved by the Board of Experts (BoE) GASTEC QA, in which relevant parties in the field of gas related products are represented. This Board of Experts supervises the certification activities and where necessary require the GASTEC QA approval requirement to be revised. All references to Board of Experts in this GASTEC QA approval requirement pertain to the above-mentioned Board of Experts.

This, translated from Dutch, AR will be used by Kiwa Nederland BV in conjunction with the GASTEC QA general requirements and the KIWA regulations for certification.

Kiwa has a method which is established in the certification procedure for the execution of:

- The investigation for provisioning and maintaining a GASTEC QA product certificate based on this AR.
- The periodic evaluations of the certified products for the purpose of maintaining a provided GASTEC QA product certificate based on this AR.

This AR, translated from Dutch, is used as supporting document. In case of doubt of interpretation of this AR, the Dutch version is leading.

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Content

Preface Kiwa	2
Content	3
1. Introduction	4
1.1. General	4
1.2. Scope	4
2. Definitions	5
3. Material and product requirements	6
3.1. Composition and use	6
3.2. Pipes	6
3.2.1. Protection pipe	6
3.2.2. Gas carrying pipe	6
3.2.3. Annealing process	6
3.3. Construction	6
3.3.1. Size combinations	6
3.3.2. Connections	7
3.3.3. Pipe ends	7
3.3.4. Inserts	7
3.3.5. Gasrestriction	7
4. Performance requirements and test methods	8
4.1. Test annealed part of the copper pipe	8
4.2. Test of the non-annealed end of the copper pipe	8
4.3. Test repeated bending of the copper pipe	8
4.4. Location measurement of transition areas annealed/ non-annealed pipe sections	8
4.5. Test on strength and density of the composite product	9
5. Marking and instructions	10
5.1. Marking	10
5.2. Instructions	10
6. Quality system requirements	11
7. Summary of evaluation	12
7.1. Evaluation matrix	12
8. List of referenced documents and source	13
8.1. Standards/ normative documents	13
8.2. Source of informative documents	13

1. Introduction

1.1. General

This GASTEC QA approval requirement (AR) in combination with the GASTEC QA general requirements, is applied by Kiwa as the basis for the issuing and maintaining the GASTEC QA product certificate for prefab indoor pipes.

With this product certificate, the certificate holder can demonstrate to his or her customers that an expert independent organization monitors the production process of the certificate holder, the quality of the product and the related quality assurance.

Next to the requirements established in this AR and the general requirements, Kiwa has additional requirements in the sense of general procedural requirements for certification, as laid down in the internal certification procedures.

This GASTEC QA approval requirement replaces the version of September 2019.

List of changes:

- This approval requirement has been adapted to the new layout of GASTEC QA approval requirements
- The approval requirement is fully textually reviewed
- Paragraph 3.2 has been given another name, materials is now pipes.
- The list of reference standards has been adjusted

The product requirements have not changed.

1.2. Scope

This approval requirement is applicable on prefabricated indoor pipes from copper pipes with a nominal connection size DN 15 up to and including 28, provided with a protection pipe of polyethene.

The placement of these indoor pipes is described in:

- NEN 1078: "Supply for gas with an operating pressure up to and including 500 mbar – Performance requirements – new estate"
- NPR 3378- 5: "Guidelines for gas installations – Section gas pipework – Part 5: Installation – guidelines for NEN 1078 en NEN 8078"

2. Definitions

In this approval requirement, the following definitions are applicable:

Board of Experts (BoE): The Board of Experts GASTEC QA.

Compression joint: connecting structure for copper pipes, whereby a compression or cutting ring made of metal is used for sealing the pipe.

Indoor pipe: gas pipe in a parcel that starts behind the end of the outlet of the gas meter or at an equivalent place and which ends in one or more connection points.

Maximum operating pressure (MOP): Maximum pressure that a component is capable of withstanding continuously in service under normal operating conditions.

Natural gas: Flammable gas or gas mixture for domestic and / or industrial use.

Nominal diameter: numerical value (DN) for the connection dimensions of components in pipeline systems.

Nominal pressure: numerical measure (PN) for pressure in pipe system components.

Protection pipe: conductor / protective pipe for service lines to bridge inaccessible and / or damp rooms.

See also the definitions mentioned in the GASTEC QA general requirements.

3. Material and product requirements

This chapter contains the material and product requirements that the raw materials, materials and products used shall meet.

3.1. Composition and use

The composition and dimensions of the prefab indoor pipes shall correspond with the by the manufacturer supplied detail drawings.

A prefab indoor pipe may be constructed out of the following parts:

- Copper pipe as gas carrying pipe according to GASTEC QA approval requirement 5.
- Polyethene pipe as protection pipe according to GASTEC QA approval requirement 8.
- Copper or bronze soldering fittings according to GASTEC QA approval requirement 6.
- Compression fittings according to GASTEC QA approval requirement 35.
- Support / inserts.

3.2. Pipes

3.2.1. *Protection pipe*

The protection pipe shall be made of polythene in the sizes DN 25, DN 32 or DN 40 in the class SDR 17.6.

3.2.2. *Gas carrying pipe*

The gas carrying pipe shall be made of annealed copper in the sizes DN 15 with wall thickness 1 mm, DN 22 with wall thickness 1,1 mm or DN 28 with wall thickness 1,2 mm in the quality half-hard.

3.2.3. *Annealing process*

The copper pipe as described above shall be, by means of a standardized process, annealed as such that both ends over a length 90^{+10}_0 mm still meet the requirement half-hard. The length of the transition zone annealed-not annealed shall not exceed 100 mm.

The copper at the inside of the pipe shall not oxidize during annealing. Oxidation occurred at the outside of the pipe shall be removed. After the annealing process, the copper shall meet the requirements in paragraph 4.1 and 4.2.

3.3. Construction

3.3.1. *Size combinations*

The inside diameter of the protection pipe shall be at least 6 mm greater than the outside diameter of the gas carrying indoor pipe. A prefabricated indoor pipe shall, based on this, be composed in one of the below size combinations:

- Gas pipe DN 15 with PE-protection pipe DN 25, SDR 17.6
- Gas pipe DN 22 with PE- protection pipe DN 32, SDR 17.6
- Gas pipe DN 28 with PE- protection pipe DN 40, SDR 17.6

3.3.2. *Connections*

In gas carrying copper pipes with a length up to 7.5 meter no connections are allowed.

In longer gas carrying copper pipes connections are allowed. The number of connections shall be reduced to a minimum by applying pipes with the maximal standard length of 7.5 meter. The connection shall consist out of a capillair hard soldering connection.

Hard soldering shall comply with ISO 17672, class CuP286. The to be applied flow agent cannot affect the material of the pipe or connection.

For the PE-protection pipe connections are not allowed.

3.3.3. *Pipe ends*

The pipe ends shall be, one side, be finished in one of the following ways:

- Cut smooth and square on the longitudinal axis. The pipe ends shall comply with the dimensions and admissible tolerances according to GASTEC QA approval requirement 5.
- With by means of a hard-soldering attached copper or bronze one-piece fitting (capillair x R thread). The copper or bronze fitting shall comply with GASTEC QA approval requirement 6.
- With by means of a compression fitting (compression x gas thread). The compression fitting shall comply with GASTEC QA approval requirement 35.

3.3.4. *Inserts*

The inner space between copper tube and end PE-protection pipe on both sides shall be provided with an insert, which suits as a fixed point for a mounting bracket.

3.3.5. *Gasrestriction*

Any leaked gas in the protection pipe shall be able to be detected in the room (s) where the inner pipe ends. On the other hand, the influx of liquids from outside into the protection pipe shall be prevented. An integral construction in combination with the requirement in section 3.3.4 is permitted.

4. Performance requirements and test methods

This chapter contains the performance requirements and associated test methods that the products shall meet. This chapter also specifies the limit values, if applicable.

4.1. Test annealed part of the copper pipe

The material properties of the semi-rigid copper pipe (paragraph 3.2.3) shall be tested after the annealing process with regard to tensile strength, elongation at break and diameter expanding according to GASTEC QA approval requirement 5, soft quality.

4.2. Test of the non-annealed end of the copper pipe

The material properties of the half-hard part of the copper pipe (section 3.2.3) shall be tested after annealing of the middle part with respect to tensile strength, elongation at break and diameter expanding according to GASTEC QA approval requirement 5, quality half-hard. It is permissible for sampling of the tensile tests, because of the minimum length of the tensile test samples, to leave a longer part of the tube ends annealed.

4.3. Test repeated bending of the copper pipe

The soft copper pipe section shall be able to be bent manually over the bending radii mentioned below and shall also continue to meet the GASTEC QA approval requirements 5. Smaller bending samples are permitted provided that the PE protection pipe does not buckle, and the copper pipe continues to comply with section 4.3. No kinking symptoms may occur during the test; the ovality of the tube shall not exceed 10% D.

R = 500 mm for pipe size DN 15

R = 600 mm for pipe size DN 22

R = 600 mm for pipe size DN 28

Perform the number of permitted bends, as specified by the manufacturer, plus 2 over 135° of the annealed copper pipe section. After testing, the material properties with regard to tensile strength, elongation at break and diameter expanding shall be tested according to GASTEC QA approval requirement 5, soft quality.

4.4. Location measurement of transition areas annealed/ non-annealed pipe sections

Three test rings (a, b and c) with a width of 20 mm shall be taken from both ends of the tube. The places where the rings shall be taken from are:

- Test ring a: the first 20 mm of both pipe ends
- Test ring b: the part between 70 and 90 mm from the original beginning of both pipe ends
- Test ring c: the part between 200 and 220 mm from the original beginning of both pipe ends

The test rings shall be pressed 35% of the external diameter on a pressure bench at a speed of 10 mm / min. The measured value of the test rings, in N / mm, shall meet the following requirements:

- a_1 shall be considerably higher than c_1
- a_2 shall be considerably higher than c_2
- a_1 or a_2 may be a maximum of $0.5 (a_1 + a_2) \times 1.05$
- a_1 or a_2 may be a minimum of $0.5 (a_1 + a_2) \times 0.95$
- b_1 can be $a_1 \times 1.05$ at most
- b_1 can be at least $a_1 \times 0.95$
- b_2 can be $a_2 \times 1.05$ at most
- b_2 can be at least $a_2 \times 0.95$

4.5. Test on strength and density of the composite product

Composite gas-conducting copper inner pipes shall be able to withstand an internal air pressure of $1^{+0,5}_{-0}$ bar for a minimum of 15 minutes. The construction shall not show any leaks.

All measurements shall be carried out at 23 ± 5 °C. Pressures shall be measured using a precision manometer according to EN 837-2. Testing shall be carried out in triplicate. Control is carried out by immersion in water.

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5. Marking and instructions

5.1. Marking

- GASTEC QA, GASTEC QA logo or punchmark
- Name or trademark manufacturer
- Nominal size pipe diameters
- Standard length
- Smallest admissible bending radius
- Nominal pressure
- Production period.

5.2. Instructions

The supplier shall provide user instructions in the Dutch language and in the language of the country in which the product will be used. The documentation shall contain instructions regarding the method of bending and the number of allowed bends and wall and floor transits. Also, it shall contain instructions on fixing to floors or walls and the tests for strength and leak tightness.

6. Quality system requirements

The requirements for the quality system are described in the GASTEC QA general requirements. An important part of this are the requirements for drawing up a risk analysis (e.g., an FMEA) of the product design and the production process in accordance with chapters 3.1.1.1 and 3.1.2.1. This risk analysis shall be available for inspection by Kiwa.

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7. Summary of evaluation

This chapter contains a summary of the evaluation to be carried out during:

- The initial product assessment;
- The periodic product verification;

7.1. Evaluation matrix

Description of requirement	Clause	Investigation within the scope of		
		Initial product assessment	Product verification	
			Inspection	Frequency
Product requirements	3			
Composition and use	3.1	X	X	Each year
Pipes	3.2			
Protection pipe	3.2.1	X	X	Each year
Gas carrying pipe	3.2.2	X	X	Each year
Annealing process	3.2.3	X	X	Each year
Construction	3.3			
Size combinations	3.3.1	X	X	Each year
Connections	3.3.2	X	X	Each year
Pipe ends	3.3.3	X	X	Each year
Inserts	3.3.4	X	X	Each year
Gas restrictions	3.3.5	X	X	Each year
Performance requirements	4			
Test annealed part of the copper pipe	4.1	X		
Test of the non-annealed end of the copper pipe	4.2	X		
Test repeated bending of the copper pipe	4.3	X	X	Each year
Location measurement of transition areas annealed / non-annealed pipe sections	4.4	X		
Test on strength and density of the composite product	4.5	X	X	Each year
Marking and instructions	5			
Marking	5.1	X	X	Each year
Instructions	5.2	X		

8. List of referenced documents and source

8.1. Standards/ normative documents

Number	Title	Version *
GASTEC QA approval requirement 5	Copper tubes	
GASTEC QA approval requirement 6	Plumbing fittings with ends for capillary soldering and/or thread connections	
GASTEC QA approval requirement 8	Polyethylene pipes for carrying gaseous fuels	
GASTEC QA approval requirement 35	Compression fittings for joining copper pipes	
EN 837-2	Pressure gauges - Part 2: Selection and installation recommendations for pressure gauges	1997
ISO 17672	Brazing - Filler metals	2024

*) If no date of issuance is specified in this column, the current version of the document applies.

8.2. Source of informative documents

Number	Title	Version *
NEN 1078	Supply for gas with an operating pressure up to and including 500 mbar - Performance requirements - New estate	2024
NPR 3378-5	Guidelines for gas installations – Section gas pipework – Part 5: 2021 Installation – Guidelines for NEN 1078 and NEN 8078	
General requirements GASTEC QA		

*) If no date of issuance is specified in this column, the current version of the document applies.