



## Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST  
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

STEPHANIE C. KOPELOUSOS  
SECRETARY

September 14, 2009

This Memo Has Expired

**DCE MEMORANDUM NO: 18-09**  
***(FHWA APPROVED: 9/15/09)***

**TO: DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS**

**FROM:** David A. Sadler, Director, Office of Construction

**COPIES:** Bob Burleson, Chris Richter, David O'Hagan, District Drainage Engineers,  
Larry Ritchie

**SUBJECT: TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FLEXIBLE PIPE SELECTION  
AND SUBSTITUTION**

In July 2008, Class II HDPE pipe was included as a design option for the 100-year flood criteria. From that time forward, Class II HDPE pipe was included as a pipe option whenever appropriate clearance requirements were satisfied. Many plan sets currently going to bid were developed before Class II HDPE was allowed and therefore do not list HDPE pipe as an 100-year option.

Currently, some contractors are submitting VECs to switch to HDPE pipe during construction. Rather than initiating a structural clearance analysis under a VEC, when F 949 PVC pipe is allowed as an option on plans, Class II HDPE pipe could automatically also be allowed since the two pipes have identical structural clearance requirements. The only time HDPE would not be allowed when PVC is allowed is when the interim Class II HDPE pipe restrictions apply per the Drainage Manual. These restrictions are:

1. Use in the Florida Keys
2. Under the mainline travel lanes on limited access facilities
3. Under the pavement of 8-lane urban facilities
4. Under the pavement of roadways providing immediate access to coastal islands
5. Within the confines of a mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) wall
6. In locations where the failure of the pipe would jeopardize buildings adjacent to the Department's right-of-way.

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Under the pavement, in the above restrictions, includes pipe locations within the angle of repose of the soil under the proposed pavement, including planned future widening.

Thus, when a VECP is submitted to change to Class II HDPE, a technical analysis would not be needed if F 949 PVC is called out as an optional pipe type.

Additionally, on projects coming out for bid, F 949 PVC pipe can be used by policy as a surrogate for Class II HDPE pipe so that HDPE pipe is allowed any time PVC pipe is allowed in the contract plans. This would eliminate VECPs to change to HDPE pipe during Construction since bidders would be allowed to bid Class II HDPE pipe any time F 949 PVC is allowed. Over the next few years, this surrogacy policy would gradually become irrelevant as plans designed after the Summer of 2008 would reflect both PCV pipe and HDPE pipe when appropriate.

Since F 949 PVC is available only to 36" diameter, PVC would be unable to act as a surrogate, as discussed above, for sizes 42" – 60" HDPE pipe. Changes to these HDPE pipe sizes would continue to be handled through a VECP with an accompanying technical analysis.

***If a contractor proposes this change, this memorandum shall serve as a blanket approval to process a \$0.00 contact change. A copy of this memorandum should be attached to the Work order or supplemental agreement.***

If you should have any questions, please contact Larry Ritchie at 850-414-4168.

DS/rw



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STEPHANIE KOPELOUSOS  
SECRETARY

June 26, 2009

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** PAUL J. STEINMAN, STATE CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

**FROM:** David A. Sadler, Director, Office of Construction

**COPIES:** Wynette Williams, Administrative Assistant

**SUBJECT: DELEGATION OF SIGNATURE AUTHORITY**

This is to delegate signature authority for documents (excluding personnel actions) to you for when I am out of the office or on travel status from this date through July 1, 2010.

Ms. Williams is also delegated signature authority for administrative type actions.

Please insure that my office receives a copy of all correspondence signed by you for these dates.

DS/ww