

# \* SAFETY WARNING \*

## UNLOADING GUIDELINES – POLYETHYLENE PIPE

*PLEASE TRANSMIT TO ALL PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR UNLOADING PIPE*

### **Precautions for Unloading Bulk Packs, Silo Packs, Reels and Stalk Pipe**

1. The truck must be parked on level ground. All personnel should stay clear of suspended loads.
2. Remove only the straps on the layer of stalk pipe or coils being unloaded. **Loads should be secured by the equipment being used to unload prior to any straps being loosened or removed.**
3. ***People not involved in the unloading of the trailer should remain completely clear of the unloading area. Do not allow personnel on the opposite side of the trailer.***
4. Polyethylene is extremely slippery when wet, icy or as the temperature changes; use caution at all times.
5. If using a forklift, the forks should enter the load slowly, and care should be taken not to damage the pipe or to push pipe off the opposite side with the fork tips. The chance of damage can be reduced if the steel forks are covered by protective material.
6. Do not roll or drop pipe off trucks. This is dangerous to the unloading personnel and may damage pipe.
7. The use of backhoes, endloaders, or other material handling equipment to push the load off the trailer is hazardous to unloading personnel and may damage the pipe, and therefore should, not be allowed.

### **Bulk Packs (Full Bundles of Stalk Pipe)**

1. Bulk packs should be unloaded using fork trucks, cranes equipped with nylon slings, or cranes equipped with spreader bars with nylon slings. The equipment should have capacity rating sufficient to safely handle the load.
2. Bulk packs may be stacked and individually strapped to the truck. In such a case, the bulk packs should be unloaded one at a time from the top, taking care to remove **only** the straps of the pack being unloaded. **Loads should be secured by the equipment being used to unload prior to any straps being loosened or removed. All personnel not involved in the unloading of the trailer should remain clear of the area. Do not allow personnel on opposite side of trailer being unloaded.**
3. When using fork trucks, the bulk packs should be entered at their midpoint. For load stability, the forks should be as far apart as possible.
4. Bands used on the bulk pack wood frames should not be removed until the bulk packs have been transported to the storage area and secured in a stable and safe manner.

### **Silo Packs/Reels (Coils)**

1. It is suggested that silo packs be unloaded from the side of the trailer with a fork truck with a capacity rating sufficient to handle the load.
2. The forks should be of suitable length to safely support the silo pack during unloading and transportation to the storage area.
3. To prevent damage, position the forks to enter the pallet between the top and bottom deck boards.
4. **Banding that secures the individual coils to the silo should not be removed until the pallet has been unloaded from the trailer, transported to the storage area, and secured in a stable and safe manner.**
5. The use of backhoes, endloaders, or other material handling equipment to push the load off the trailer is hazardous to unloading personnel and may damage the pipe, and therefore should, not be allowed.

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## UNLOADING GUIDELINES – POLYETHYLENE PIPE

### Stalk Pipe (Partial Bundles)

1. Check the load to assure that all chocks (wedges) are in place, and secured, on both ends of the boards. If not, nail a chock or other suitable wedge into position.
2. At no time or under any circumstances should the chocks or boards be removed before unloading. The chocks prevent pipe from rolling after removing the bands.
3. Only after verifying all chocks are in place should the truck driver remove the nylon straps securing the load to the truck trailer. Remove only the straps on layers being unloaded. If pipe is being unloaded in less than full rows, the bands should be cut and removed only from the row being unloaded. If pipe is being unloaded in full rows, do not cut the bands until the row is lowered to the ground.
4. **Loads should be secured by the equipment being used to unload prior to any straps being loosened or removed. All personnel not involved in the unloading of the trailer should remain clear of the area. Do not allow personnel on opposite side of trailer being unloaded.**
5. Pipe should be unloaded with fork trucks or cranes using nylon slings.
6. Bands should be cut with a long handled bolt cutter or similar tool. Do not cut the bands by gouging with an axle, chisel, etc. Do not stand on pipe while cutting bands; the pipe may roll.

### Precautions for Unloading Free Standing Coils and Reels

1. **Loads should be secured by the equipment being used to unload prior to any straps being loosened or removed. All personnel not involved in the unloading of the trailer should remain clear of the area. Do not allow personnel on opposite side of trailer being unloaded. All personnel should stay clear of suspended loads.**
2. Never crawl or walk on pipe or trailer when loading or unloading coils. Coils could shift causing serious injury.
3. Never roll or push pipe off trailer. This is very dangerous and could damage pipe.

### Free Standing Coils and Reels

1. Make sure truck is parked on level ground.
2. It is suggested that a forklift or crane with a capacity rating sufficient to handle the load be used with protective fork cover or nylon slings of proper load rating.
3. Chains should not be used to unload pipe unless special precautions are used to prevent damage to pipe. Chains should be properly rated for the weight being lifted.
4. Most trailers have a natural downward slope from the front of the trailer to the end of the trailer. It is suggested to begin unloading from the front of the trailer to the back to allow the strapped coils to stay in place. Do not remove straps until coils are secured by unloading device.
5. Make sure no personnel are near the trailer before moving forklift or crane into position.
6. If using a forklift to unload coils, raise the carriage until the forks will prevent loaded pipe from moving when the straps are removed. If using an overhead type crane with slings, secure the slings to the coils in a way that prevents coils from moving when straps are removed. Chock (wedge) set of coils before they are unstrapped. The driver should remove only the straps from the coil being unloaded, then move to a safe area before unloading. After coils are off the truck, place the coils on level ground and chock them to prevent moving before removing forks or slings. After removing the coils, repeat the process throughout the load **removing straps from only one set of coils at a time.**

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