



Memorandum

Date:	August 6, 2018
To:	Municipal Building Officials
From:	Joseph V. Cassidy, P.E., State Building Inspector
Subject:	2015 IPC Section 705.11.2 (IRC P3003.9.2) PVC Solvent Cementing

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance to building officials regarding the exception added in the 2015 edition of IPC and IRC, which eliminates the requirement for use of primer for PVC piping under certain conditions. **This exception only applies to non-pressure DWV systems, NOT pressurized, direct venting, or any other applications.**

The base requirement in section IPC 705.11.2 (IRC P3003.9.2) remains the same as in the past, requiring the use of purple primer along with solvent cement applied in accordance with ASTM D 2855. This is the process that we are used to seeing and has been in use for years.

The following exception was added in the 2015 IPC and IRC to this section:

Exception: *A primer is not required where both of the following conditions apply:*

- 1. The solvent cement used is third-party certified as conforming to ASTM D 2564.*
- 2. The solvent cement is used only for joining PVC drain, waste and vent pipe and fittings in nonpressure applications in sizes up to and including 4 inches (102 mm) in diameter.*

All materials must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Our review of three manufacturer's installation instructions for PVC piping – Charlotte, Crestline and North American Pipe – found that all three required the use of primer and solvent cement applied in accordance with ASTM D 2855.

What you should keep in mind when confronted with the “I don't need to use primer any more” claim in the field are these three questions:

- 1.) Who is the pipe manufacturer, and what do their instruction say?
- 2.) Is the “non-primer” solvent cement certified to ASTM D 2564 by a third party?
- 3.) Is the application a non-pressurized DWV system containing 4” or smaller pipe?

If the answer to any of these is no, or, I don't know, then primer is required.