

Glossary of Pipe Terms

A

- API** American Petroleum Institute – issues standards for oil & gas industry.
- ASTM** American Society for Testing Materials – issues standards for line pipe.
- A53A, A53B, A53F, A106** ASTM grades of carbon pipe.

B

- Bevel** Angle formed between the prepared edge of the end of the tube and a plane perpendicular to the surface. Standard line pipe bevel is 30 degrees.
- Billet** Round, solid bar of steel which is pierced to form a seamless tube or pipe.
- Black Pipe** Denotes lacquered OD finish (as opposed to bare or galvanized)
- Box** Internal (female) threaded end.
- Brinell** Hardness testing system which measures indentation of the subject using a standard weight, shaped joint.
- BTC** Buttress threaded and coupled
- Bundle** Number of pieces (same length) banded together for shipping. Height and width is usually 1-2" but number varies with OD
- Burst** Internal pressure at which a tube will yield – often tested hydrostatically

C

- Casing** Pipe used as a structural retainer for the walls of a drilled hole
- CAD** Computer aided design
- CAM** Computer aided manufacturing
- CNC** Computer numerically controlled – refers to machinery
- Cold Drawn** Pipe or tube which is pulled through a die to reduce diameter and wall. This process usually produces closer tolerances and higher strength.
- Chamfer** Beveled end, usually done as a preliminary operation to threading.
- Coupling** Short piece used to connect two lengths of pipe.
- CW** Continuous weld – a method of producing small diameter pipe – (1/2"-4")
- CFT** Hundred foot (sometimes used in pricing i.e., \$425.97/cft vs. \$4.2597/ft.)
- CWT** Hundred weight. (Often used in handling or trucking pricing i.e., \$0.30/cwt load out charge or \$1.65/cwt (freight) with a minimum such as 30,000#.)

6226 West 74th Street
Chicago, IL 60638
800-376-6000
FAX 708-563-1950
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D

DRL Double random length – line pipe with a 35+foot average length.

Drift Minimum ID clearance verified by pulling a mandrel of known size through a length of pipe.

E

EMI Electromagnetic inspection – a method of determining wall thickness and detecting imperfections in steel tubes.

ERW Electric resistance weld – most common form of manufacture for pipe in sizes from 2-3/8" – 22"OD.

EUE External upset ends – forging of ends on (API) tubing and drill pipe to provide additional thicknesses for strengthening connections.

F

FOB Free on Board – used to denote where pipe is to be provided to the buyer.

Flush Joint Connection with male and female threads cut directly into the pipe (as opposed to T&C). This provides the same ID and OD clearance as in the middle of the tube, once lengths are joined.

FLD Full length drift (as opposed to "end drift") – usually performed as part of used tubing or casing (OCTG) inspection.

H

Hardfacing Abrasion-resistant metal applied by welding (usually in strips) on the surface of softer material to increase wear properties.

Hoist or Lift Plug Pin threaded sub with hook, eye or rod on other end; used for picking up or laying down threaded pipe, casing or rods.

I

ID Inside diameter

J

Joint One length of pipe.

L

LS Limited service – pipe not meeting specification, usually rejected at mill.

LT Loaded trucks – used in price quotation to indicate seller pays for handling.

LTC Long threaded and coupled (OCTG casing connection)

M

Mid-Term Two or more joints welded to form a longer one.

N

Nipple Short length of pipe (<12") threaded on both ends.

Nominal Pipe size or wall thickness as specified (not actual). Sizes refer to approximate ID, even though OD is the fixed dimension.

NUE Non-upset end – OCTG tubing description (not as common as EUE)

O

OCTG Oil country tubular goods – pipe made to API specifications.

OD Outside Diameter

P

PEB Plain end beveled

PIN External (male) threaded end.

Protector Plastic, steel or composite cap to protect threads from handling damage)

PSI Pounds per square inch.

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R

Range (R1, R2, R3) . . . Lengths of OCTG (see Technical Data link) – dimensional

Rockwell Hardness . . . Relative resistance of a metal to indentation by a diamond cone, as expressed in hardness-scale units (A, B, C or G)

S

SAW Submerged-arc weld – a method of producing very large OD pipe.

Schedule Numbers assigned to different wall thicknesses of pipe (i.e., schedule 40)

SEA Special end area – inspection to check for defects at either end of a steel tube which is also being inspected electronically.

Shoe Sub sometimes run on bottom of casing with special metallurgy or design to help pipe to bottom through tight or bridged spots in drill hole.

Skelp Coiled strips of plate steel used to produce welded seam pipe.

Seamless Pipe with no weld in the circumference.

Spec Specification

SRL Single random length – line pipe with 17.5' minimum average length.

STC Short thread and coupling (OCTG casing connection)

STD. Standard – reference to wall thickness of line pipe (=sch. 40 for 1/8 – 10")

Stencil Identification painted on pipe. Specification, size, wall, grade, test pressure, method of manufacture and mill are usually indicated.

Sub A short coupling with different types and/or sizes of ends.

T

T&C Threaded and coupled. Male (pin) threads are cut into the pipe and a coupling provides female threads for both lengths being joined.

T&D Tested and drifted – one method of verifying integrity of used tubing and casing (OCTG). "Test" refers to hydrostatic: ends are sealed and water pumped inside to a predetermined pressure. See drift definition above.

Tensile Strength Rating of steel's resistance to being pulled apart.

Tolerance Specified allowance (plus or minus) of the given dimension of a finished product due to inaccuracies in manufacturing: usually quite small (thousands of an inch or very small percentage) and often part of a standard such as ASTM or API.

Tool Joint Threaded tube, usually thicker and harder, welded onto pipe to provide joint strength and durability exceeding that of flush joint or T&C connections.

V

Victaulic Joint Grooves in the ends of pipe accommodate a coupling.

X

XHY Extra heavy pipe – about 50% thicker than standard (= sch 80 for 1/8 – 8")

XXHY Double extra heavy – twice as thick as XHY for 1/2" – 6".

Y

Yield Strength Tensile stress required to produce permanent elongation of a steel tube.

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