

PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL  
INTERPRETATION MANUAL



CODE: 2003 IRC

DATE:

CODE REF: P3003.3.6

12/15/2004

SUBJECT: Plastic Pipe Joints

**Question:** Is purple primer required to be used for solvent weld PVC pipe joints under the IRC?

IRC 2003

**RP2904.8.1.3 PVC plastic pipe.** A primer complying with ASTM F 656 shall be applied to all PVC solvent cemented joints. Solvent cement for PVC plastic pipe conforming to ASTM D 2564 shall be applied to all joint surfaces.

The 2003 IPC section **705.8.2** and **705.14.2** both state that the primer be “purple” in color. This color requirement is only to aid in the inspection process to verify that a primer has been used. It does not impact the joint quality should a primer that may be a different color other than purple be used. Additionally, the International Plumbing Commentary states “The purple color is intended to allow the installer and inspector to verify that the required primer has been applied.”

**Answer:** The 2003 IRC does not specify the color or that color primer must be used. Table P3002.1 states that the “Primers for solvent cemented PVC-DWV pipe and fittings” must conform to ASTM F 656. Therefore if the inspector can identify that the primer (purple or ....!) is being used and conforms to this standard it will be considered as an approved primer.

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