

Innovation in PVC Twin wall pipe – Competitiveness improvement

Brussels, 19 March 2007 - PVC4Pipes has studied the possible ways to improve PVC twin wall pipes and consider the opportunity of using at least one layer with molecular orientation as a major advance. It is however necessary to replace the traditional thermal welding of both layers by another technology in order to avoid the destruction of the oriented structure.

Different trials have been undertaken and show that it is possible to have a high quality welding between two layers of PVC using laser technology without noticeable destruction of the bi-oriented structure.

Performance improvement can be described in three steps:

- 1. Laser welding instead of conventional melt heat welding**
This method brings optimised lower melt temperatures and avoids over gelation making improved design possible and it could also help to reduce recipe costs
- 2. Orientation of the inner layer with laser welding**
This step brings impact performance improvement and the lower thickness of the oriented layer will also make material savings possible.
- 3. Orientation of both the inner and outer layer with laser welding**
By combining orientation of the outer layer as well as the inner layer will allow further design improvements as well as further material savings.

Further way forward

PVC4Pipes is committed to taking this innovation forward and will work with machinery manufacturers and pipe producers to stimulate joint developments and explain the details of this technological advance..

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