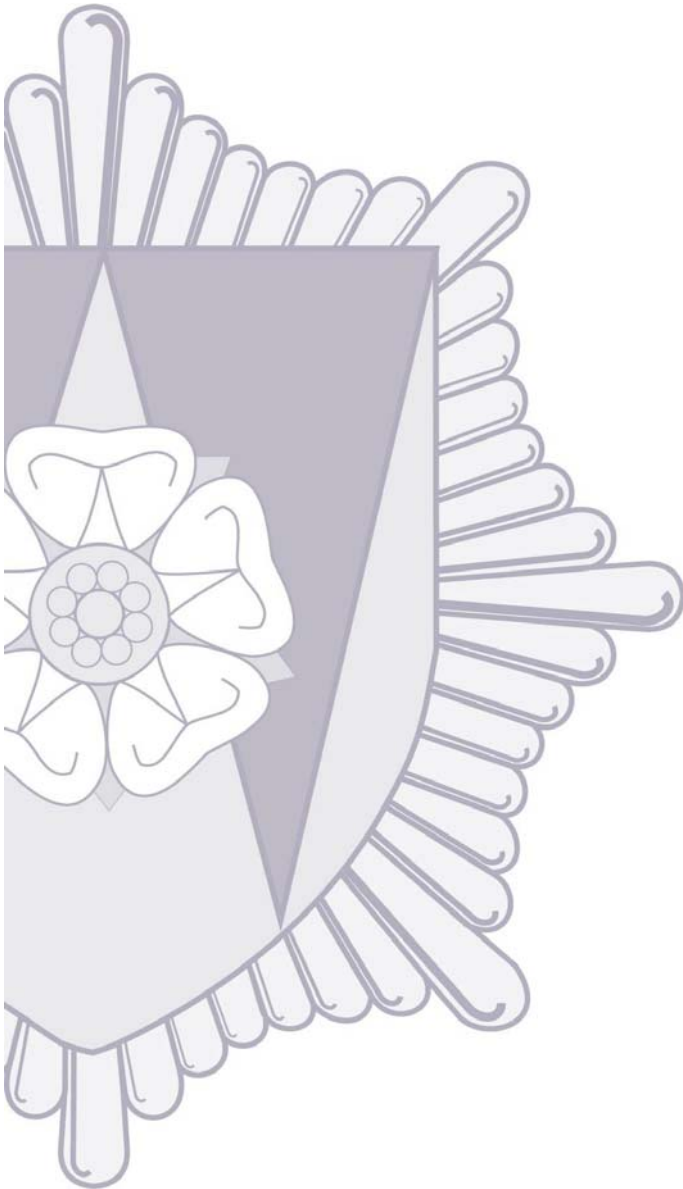


# West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service

Fire Safety - Information Note FS-INF022

(Previously Supplementary Information Note No 9)

Petrol Filling Stations – Steel Pipe Work Jointing Compounds



Date Reviewed:

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Next Review:

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Ref

FS-INF022

[www.westyorkshire.gov.uk](http://www.westyorkshire.gov.uk)

***PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING***

## West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service – Information Note FS-INF022

On a number of occasions fitters have been found to be using "Heldite" to seal (steel) pipework joints that will obviously be buried when the work is complete.

The most recent incident was at a site in Keighley where the fitter was jointing a black iron diesel suction line with "Heldite".

Whilst it is appreciated that the pipework was being installed specifically for diesel use, it is expected that the installation standards applied to petrol should equally be applied to diesel wherever possible.

In this respect any underground system originally installed for diesel purposes can be later converted to Petrol provided it fully complies with the petrol standards and a note to that effect is annotated in the file by the Petroleum Officer approving the work.

In the case referred to above where black iron was used, the pipework will not be suitable for future petrol use and the drawings should be marked accordingly by the Petroleum Officer concerned.

For general information, the use and safety data for "Litharge" and "Heldite" are briefly detailed below.

### **Litharge and Glycerine**

Litharge and Glycerine is a two part jointing compound used on the threaded parts of pipework prior to screwing together to form a permanent connection.

To use, place in a suitable container the required amount of Litharge powder and add to the glycerine, mix to form a thick paste, which is then brushed onto the thread.

Handling & Protection Measures:

#### A Glycerine

Contains no harmful additives and presents no risks to health.

#### B Litharge (Lead Monoxide)

Is a yellow coloured powder that contains Inorganic Lead compounds that may be absorbed into the body by inhalation or ingestion.

Should always be used in a well ventilated area, and when handling gloves should be worn.

Always store away from food and food containers.

When using Litharge **DO NOT** eat, drink or smoke.

Good hygiene and housekeeping precautions must be observed at all times.

#### First Aid

Skin -Wash off with water and detergent.

Eyes -Irrigate with copious amounts of water.

Inhalation/Ingestion - If material or fumes produced in a fire have been inhaled or ingested seek medical advice.

#### Spillage

Absorb with damp sand or earth and dispose of in accordance with the controls of Environmental Protection Act 1990 or local regulations for disposal of toxic waste.

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### **"Heldite" Jointing Compound**

"Heldite" Jointing Compound is a black viscose liquid supplied in 250ml tins, incorporating a small brush attached to the underside of the screw cap.

To be applied to the male and female threaded parts of the pipework prior to screwing together, to form an impervious seal. "Heldite" is to be used where the possibility of disconnection of the pipework for any reason may occur in the future; i.e. non permanent joints.

#### Handling and Protection Measures

The use and application of "Heldite" Jointing Compound does not give rise to any health hazards, however, in the event of misuse or accident the following procedure should be followed:-

#### Fire

"Heldite" is highly flammable, therefore caution should be taken to keep container closed when not in use. No Smoking when handling. Do not expose to naked flame or ignition source. Extinguish with foam, water or dry powder.

#### First Aid

Avoid inhalation of fumes, best used in well ventilated area.

Eyes -If contact with eyes, irrigate with water, if irritation persists seek medical attention.

Skin -If contact with skin, cleanse with proprietary hand cleanser.

#### Spillage

Absorb with sand or earth, dispose of as chemical waste, wash spill area with water.

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