

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

NEFTEKAMSK OILFIELD EQUIPMENT FACTORY

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To the Vice President of
"Butler Tech"
A. Yu. Sukhorukov

The "Butler Tech" company has implemented the technology and equipment for assembling of pipes into double pipe joints (two pipes joined together mechanically) in the (plant) OOO "NZNO" and in addition the assembly of pipe in field conditions by OAO "ANK "Bashneft" using the Sure Lock mechanical pipe joint technology beginning in 1995.

During the period of operation of equipment from 1995 to 01.09.2009 over 5700 km of pipeline was assembled using the Butler technology.

In the process of manufacturing of pipe sections, the mechanical joint is tested for endurance by pressure 25% higher than the operating pressure of pipes of this nominal size. The tests are performed at transitions from one nominal size to the other using certified equipment. Static and fluctuating tension testing and bending tests were performed. The joints have withstood (passed) the tests without losses of leak tightness up to the beginning of plastic deformation of the pipe metal.

This assembly technology ensures: an increased speed of pipeline construction of up to 1.5 to 4 km per day, a degree of pipe joint safety measured at 150% of the yield point of the pipe, elimination of temperature exposure in the joint area, a reduction of construction costs, the joining of pipes with any anticorrosive coatings without destruction thereof, the feasibility of using light-gauge pipes, the elimination of x-ray testing, the elimination of the need to purchase consumables for welding work, environmental cleanliness and safety of construction, feasibility of construction in any weather conditions, the need for smaller numbers of personnel, an improvement of work conditions and the usability of the system in both plant and field conditions.

The pipelines have been installed and used in OAO "ANK "Bashneft" for about 15 years and during this time there were no failures due to the fault of Sure Lock mechanical pipe joint.

Sincerely yours, Chief
Engineer

V. Z. Gaskarov