

PE Stub Flange Assemblies

Contractor Guidance Following Uisce Éireann Quality Alert ID-C-QA-04

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IMPORTANT: This note explains the practical position created by the current Uisce Éireann Quality Alert and the action contractors should take before proposing or installing conventional PE stub flange assemblies. It should be read together with the attached Uisce Éireann Quality Alert ID-C-QA-04, Revision 1.0.

1. Current position

Uisce Éireann issued Quality Alert ID-C-QA-04, effective 8 September 2026, introducing new requirements for PE stub flange assembly systems. **The Alert requires the complete assembly - PE stub flange, backing ring, gasket and bolt set - to be sourced from a single manufacturer and requires third-party certification for the complete assembly demonstrating EN 12201 Part 3 compliance and assessment to EN 12201 Part 5.**

On the information currently available to us, we have not identified a conventional PE stub flange assembly from any manufacturer or supplier that can demonstrate compliance with all of these requirements exactly as written. This is not simply a matter of obtaining another product certificate; there are unresolved technical and certification issues within the compliance route itself.

2. Main issues affecting compliance

EN 12201-5 / ISO 17885 route

The Alert requires the complete flange assembly to be assessed to EN 12201-5. EN 12201-5 refers mechanical-joint preparation and performance to ISO 17885, while ISO 17885 excludes loose flanges from its scope. This leaves the exact conformity route for a conventional bolted PE flange assembly unclear.

Third-party certification of the complete assembly

The Alert requires a certificate from a third-party certification body, with BSI Kitemark or equivalent given as the example. Manufacturers commonly hold approvals for the PE fitting itself, but equivalent certification for the complete combination of stub end, steel backing ring, gasket and bolts has not been identified.

SDR11 / SDR17 and pressure classification

The Alert requires a 16 bar working pressure and 24 bar test pressure, but does not explain how this is to be applied to SDR17 systems or whether SDR11 and SDR17 require separate certification.

Common PE sizes are not fully covered

The Alert lists DE90, DE125, DE180, DE250 and DE315. Common sizes including OD110, OD160, OD200, OD225 and OD280 are not shown, leaving the intended DN mapping, flange drilling and thickness requirements unclear.

EN 1092-1 and ISO 9624 requirements

The Alert combines ISO 9624 requirements for PE backing-flange arrangements with selected EN 1092-1 steel flange dimensions. A PE backing ring must physically suit the PE stub geometry, so the exact extent to which EN 1092-1 is intended to apply requires clarification.

Single-manufacturer requirement

The Alert requires the stub flange, backing ring, gasket and bolt set to be sourced from a single manufacturer. It does not define whether every component must physically be manufactured by one company, or whether one system manufacturer may specify and take responsibility for specialist components.

Certification scope

The Alert does not state how many sizes or SDRs must be tested, whether one tested size can cover a product family, or what component changes trigger retesting or recertification.

Practical effect: Until Uisce Éireann clarifies or agrees an achievable compliance route, conventional PE stub flange assemblies cannot presently be demonstrated as compliant with the Quality Alert on the basis of the evidence normally available from manufacturers and suppliers.

3. What contractors should do

For any project requiring a conventional PE stub end and loose backing-ring assembly, the contractor should not assume that an existing supplier product automatically satisfies the Quality Alert.

- Identify the exact proposed assembly in advance, including the PE stub end manufacturer, backing-ring manufacturer/specification, gasket and bolt set.
- Submit the proposed assembly to the relevant Uisce Éireann project / technical authority and request a formal derogation or project-specific acceptance before ordering or installation.
- Make the derogation request specific to the supplier and product combination being proposed. Approval of one supplier's arrangement should not be assumed to cover another supplier or a different component combination.
- Include the manufacturer's normal product certification, datasheets and available component standards with the derogation request.
- Make the request as early as possible during design/procurement to avoid programme delays.

Suggested wording for project submissions: "A derogation / project-specific acceptance is requested for the proposed PE stub flange assembly pending resolution of the compliance route introduced by Uisce Éireann Quality Alert ID-C-QA-04. The proposed manufacturer and complete component combination are identified in the attached submission."

4. Ongoing work

We are continuing to engage with manufacturers, testing organisations and Uisce Éireann regarding a technically defensible route that may resolve the issues above. Possible alternative flange systems are also being investigated. These are not being presented as an approved solution at this stage, so contractors should continue to seek project-specific derogation where conventional stub flange assemblies are proposed.

When circulating this guidance, attach: Uisce Éireann Quality Alert ID-C-QA-04, Revision 1.0 - Polyethylene (PE) Stub Flange Assembly Systems, effective 08.09.2026.