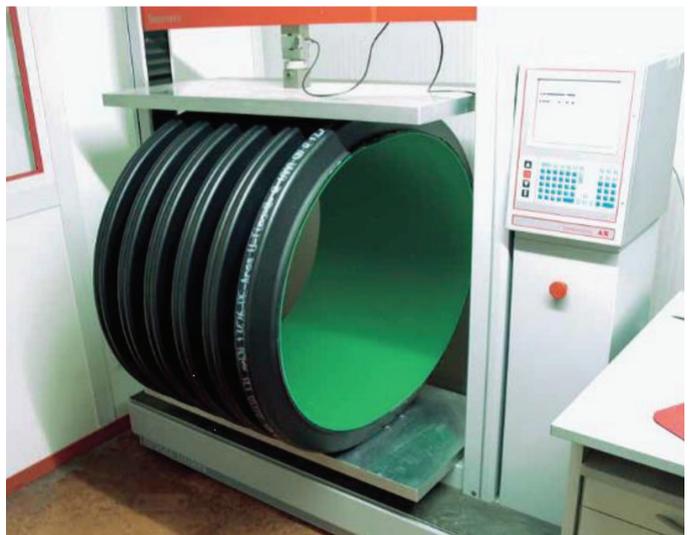


CULVERT PIPE SN RATINGS



It seems not all SN ratings are created equal. Here is a sample of SN8 twin wall corrugated pipe that comes from China. This pipe carries a SN rating of 8 and was easily crushed by hand. This indicates the inferior quality of the pipe not the strength of a person's hand.

This pipe is a competitor of EUROFLO® SN4 rated culvert which cannot be manipulated by hand as this one was.

So, how does this happen? And who determines the SN rating a pipe gets?

What is New Zealand's testing regime and certification protocols for imported culvert pipe? And do we have any policing on this? Specifiers often state a SN rating for certain projects, but, with this in mind, are we just ticking boxes? And who is then responsible if a culvert pipe fails because it is not fit for purpose?

Most contractors agree that EUROFLO® is a lot stronger and wouldn't touch the SN8 Chinese pipe.

A lot of people look to the SN rating as an indication of strength as it the most easily understood, measurable way of comparing culvert pipe. It is a strength test in a perfect environment which doesn't fully reflect the conditions in which culvert pipe are normally installed.

There are other factors that influence how a culvert performs strength-wise. This has to be true as how can a SN4 pipe be a lot better than a SN8 pipe once installed?

It is our belief that New Zealand needs a new testing and certification regime for culvert pipe to ensure we are not just ticking boxes but installing pipe that is fit for purpose. Let's get ahead of this before it becomes a problem that needs fixing.