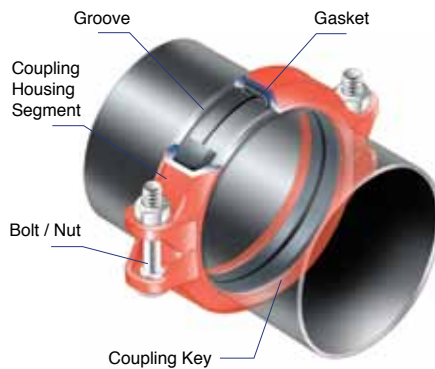


Rigid & Flexible Couplings

Grooved mechanical couplings (GMC) are available in both rigid and flexible models. A rigid coupling is used in applications where a rigid joint is desired, similar to that of a traditional flanged, welded, and or threaded connection. To be considered rigid, a coupling would allow less than one degree of deflection or angular movement.

Flexible couplings are designed to accommodate axial displacement, rotation and a minimum one degree of angular movement. Flexible couplings are used in applications that call for curved or deflected layouts and or when systems are exposed to outside forces beyond normal static conditions, such as seismic events or where vibration and or noise attenuation are a concern.

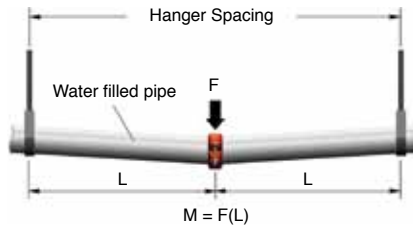


#7705 Flexible Coupling

Grooved couplings become less flexible as the pipe size increases. For sizes in excess of 18" (450 mm) couplings are very limited in their angular movement. Please refer to the following definition and test methods.

Definition Grooved couplings are subjected to internal pressures and exterior bending forces during service. ASTM F1476-07 defines a rigid coupling as a joint where there is essentially no available free angular or axial pipe movement and a flexible coupling as a joint wherein there is available limited angular and axial pipe movement.

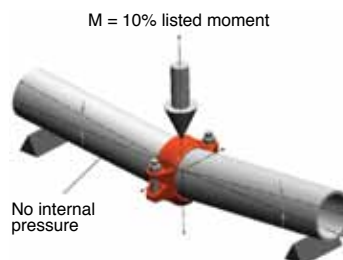
Bending Moment Test bending moments are calculated by the equation $M = F(L)$, where F is weight of water filled pipe (Lbs) and L is hanger spacing x 1/2 (feet). The table below shows test bending moments calculated using sch. 40 pipe with NFPA 13 hanger spacing.



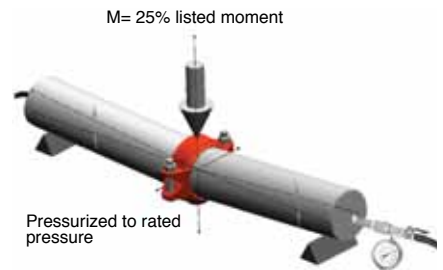
Test Bending Moment (ASTM F1476)

Nom. Size (inches)	Moment N-m	Moment Lb-Ft
1½	549	405
2	780	575
2½	1200	885
3	1645	1213
4	2471	1823
5	3551	2619
6	4803	3543
8	7663	5652
10	11379	8393
12	15558	11475
14	18609	13725
16	24299	17922

Flexibility Proof Test Flexibility proof testing is conducted by applying a small bending moment, 10% of the listed moment, to the test assembly with no internal pressure. A 4" model 7705 or 7707 flexible coupling deflects 3 – 4 degrees depending on the type of groove processed.



Rigidity Proof Test Rigidity proof testing is conducted by applying 25% of the listed moment to the test assembly which is internally pressurized to the rated pressure.



The rigid coupling shall pass the test when the angle has not changed more than angle θ . θ shall be calculated as follows: $\theta^\circ = 60'$ (minutes) – [2' (minutes) x (nominal pipe size in inches)]. In other words, when θ is less than 1 degree (60 minutes), the grooved mechanical coupling is verified as a rigid coupling and when θ is more than 1 degree (60 minutes), the GMC is regarded as a flexible coupling. The maximum angles θ for rigid couplings are shown in the table below:

Rigid Coupling - Max. Deflection

Nom. Size (inches)	θ , max (minutes)	θ , max. (degrees)
1½	57	0.95
2	56	0.93
2½	55	0.92
3	54	0.90
4	52	0.87
5	50	0.83
6	48	0.80
8	44	0.73
10	40	0.67
12	36	0.60
14	32	0.53
16	28	0.47

Bending Moment Proof Test The coupling shall resist a 100% listed bending moment while the assembly is internally pressurized to the rated pressure.

