



Buffer Tube Blocking Procedure for AccuTube™ Cable

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1. General

1.1 The following procedure describes the buffer tube blocking procedure for OFS AccuTube™ cable. This procedure is used to prevent water blocking gel from flowing into the splice closure, or in the event that water enters the closure, to prevent water from entering the buffer tube.

2. Precautions

2.1 OFS optical fiber cables are designed to meet the rigors of conventional aerial, direct buried, and underground duct environments. However, care must be taken during installation to observe the cables minimum bend diameter and maximum rated cable load (MRCL).

2.2 Cable minimum bend diameters are typically expressed as a multiple of the cable outside diameter (OD) for both dynamic and static conditions. The dynamic condition represents a cable during installation that may be subjected to the MRCL. The static condition represents an installed cable that may be subjected to a long-term residual load. The minimum bend diameter of *AccuTube* cable for both dynamic and static conditions is 30 x OD.

2.3 Cable tensile load ratings are specified for both short-term and long-term conditions. The short-term condition represents a cable during installation. The long-term condition represents an installed cable that may be subjected to a permanent residual load for the life of the cable. For short term conditions, *AccuTube* cable has a MRCL of 1000 pounds (4400 N). For long term conditions, the maximum permissible load is 200 pounds (890 N). *PowerGuide® AccuTube* cables are custom designed for self-supporting aerial applications and may have different tensile load ratings. Please contact OFS Customer Support Hotline at 888-FIBER-HELP (888-342-3743) for specific information regarding *PowerGuide AccuTube* cables.

2.4 To assure that the MRCL is not exceeded during installation, breakaway pulling swivels and/or calibrated pulling devices are recommended for use during installation. Cable lubricants are also effective in minimizing cable installation loads by reducing the coefficient of friction. Contact OFS or a pulling lubricant manufacturer for guidance on the proper cable lubricant for your application.

3. Buffer Tube Blocking Procedure

3.1 Cut a 2 inch (50 mm) length of TYGON¹ R-3603 tubing (or equivalent) to slide over the end of the buffer tube. Use Saint-Gobain part number AAC00007 (1/8-inch ID, 1/4-inch OD) for fiber counts 300-432, or part number AAC00017 (1/4-inch ID, 3/8-inch OD) for fiber counts 444-864. The tubing should form a snug fit over the buffer tube.

¹ TYGON is a registered trademark of Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics. Further information regarding TYGON tubing can be found out www.tygon.com.

- 3.2 Carefully thread the *AccuRibbon* fibers into the TYGON tubing and position the tubing adjacent to the buffer tube.
- 3.3 Load B-Sealant into a syringe. Inject a 1-inch (25 mm) section of B-Sealant into the end of the TYGON tubing.
- 3.4 Slide the TYGON tubing about 3/4-inch (19 mm) over the end of the buffer tube to form the blocking plug (Figure 1).

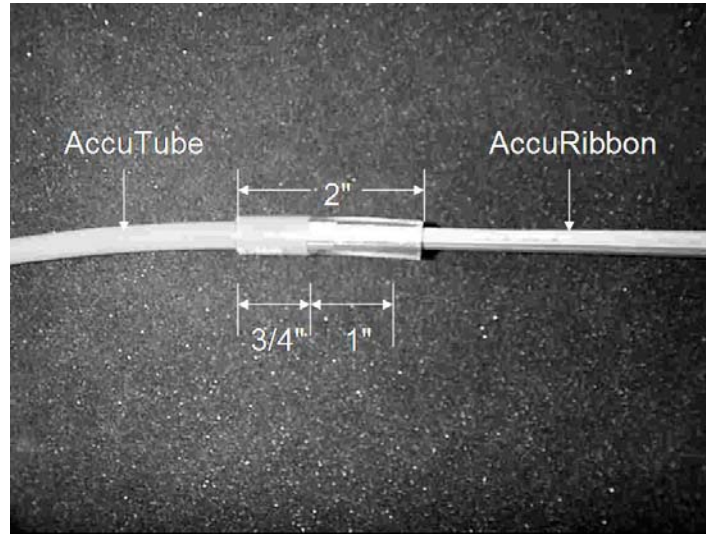


Figure 1 - AccuTube blocking plug,

- 3.5 For mid-sheath entry, the blocking plugs can be formed by injecting the B-Sealant directly into the buffer tubes. Inject a 1-inch (25 mm) section of B-Sealant into the end of the buffer tube (Figure 2).

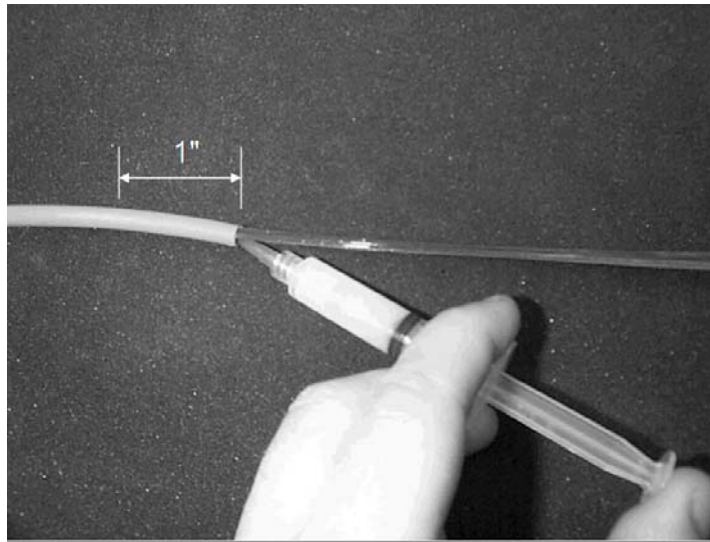


Figure 2: AccuTube blocking plug for mid-sheath entry.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact OFS Customer Support at 888-FIBER-HELP (888-342-3743).