



**P3**  
PAC PROGRAM<sup>®</sup>  
PRESS

**JANUARY 2004**

NASSCO, Inc.

# PACP Condition Grading

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[www.nassco.org](http://www.nassco.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/ REMINDERS:

- We are now distributing an information sheet which contains all Certified Software Vendors product description instead of distributing their individual brochures when available. This is to give each Vendor equal face time with all who are taking the course. So if you are a certified vendor, please submit your information ASAP. Dimensions 4.5" high x 3.5" wide
- Just a reminder that 1.7 Continuing Education Unit's are available through Michigan State University for completion of the PACP<sup>®</sup> Course. Please fax your CEU Registration form to 410-486-6838. It can be found in the Manual Updates Section of the website: [www.nassco.org](http://www.nassco.org) or if you have taken the class recently, it should be in the front pocket of your manual.

During the development of the Pipeline Assessment and Certification Program<sup>®</sup> (PACP<sup>®</sup>), NASSCO recognized that in addition to defining various types of observations and defects, we also needed to assign a level of importance or grade to the defects. Once the defects are assigned grades, the grades can be used to convey which lines warrant more scrutiny. All PACP<sup>®</sup> defects are divided into structural defects (cracks, broken) and maintenance defects (grease, roots). The defects are then assigned a PACP<sup>®</sup> grade of from 1 to 5 based on a judgment of how severe the defect is, with 5 as the most severe. For example, Circumferential Crack (CC) would be a Grade 1

defect while a Collapse (X) would be a Grade 5 defect. It is important to point out that the grades are determined based on the PACP<sup>®</sup> Condition Grade Matrix, and are not assigned individually by the User. The User only has to determine the correct PACP<sup>®</sup> defect code, and the correct defect grade is determined automatically by referring to the Matrix. This relieves the User from having to judge the severity of the defect and eliminates more opportunity for ambiguity. Pipe segment ratings are developed for Structural defects, O&M defects and Overall defects (Structural and O&M combined). The pipe segment ratings are calculated based on two questions. What are the

two most severe defect grades found on the segment? And, how many defects of that grade does the segment contain? If the highest defect grade is 3, then this quickly indicates that that pipe segment does not contain any grade 4 or grade 5 defects. The PACP<sup>®</sup> Condition Grading is an excellent tool for establishing **Level of Service** for the wastewater collection system. Once the TV inspection is complete and the condition grading assigned, the utility can quickly see the distribution of defects. If a utility decides their level of service is to not allow defects higher than Grade 3, they can use the PACP<sup>®</sup> Condition Grading to identify substandard segments and develop a cost and schedule for eliminating them.

## Upcoming PACP<sup>®</sup> Meeting to be held at UCT 2004 in Houston, TX

There will be a PACP<sup>®</sup> meeting held in room 307C at the George R. Brown Convention Center, in Houston, TX from 1 PM to 3 PM on Wednesday, January 14, 2004. The meeting will be open to all Trainers, Certified Software Vendors and potential Software Vendors. It

is also open to the PACP<sup>®</sup> Operating Committee and the PACP<sup>®</sup> Oversight Committee. The agenda will be informal to allow maximum time for input from the interested parties. We will present an update on PACP<sup>®</sup> performance through December 2003 and a break-

down of Trainer activity as well as a review of the status of Software Certifications. We will be looking for constructive suggestions for improving PACP<sup>®</sup> as well as suggestions for the recertification of trainers. We look forward to seeing you there!