

Regulatory Citation(s):

78.83c. Intermediate and production casing.

(b) If the well is to be equipped with an intermediate casing, centralizers shall be used and the casing shall be cemented to the surface by the displacement method.

Question:

May an operator use stage cementing to permanently cement the intermediate casing to the surface?

Response:

Provided no packers or other devices are used between individual cement stages, stage cementing using a DV Tool or similar apparatus is appropriate in certain scenarios and does satisfy the requirement in 25 Pa. Code Section 78.83c that the intermediate string be permanently cemented to surface. In other words, to meet this requirement, the cement column in the annular space must be continuous. It is expected that stage cementing will be more commonplace for deeper casing strings, i.e., intermediate strings, that intercept one or more weaker formations incapable of supporting the hydrostatic pressure associated with a long column of cement slurry without breaking down.