

## MAINTENANCE TIPS

### Pipe Maintenance

Monthly inspections for signs of damage, along with thickness checks, of pipes and elbows is a good habit and ensures thin or damaged pipes/elbows are detected before it becomes a problem.

Frequent rotation of pipes and elbows will help in getting maximum life from the products.

Single wall pipes and elbows can be checked for thickness with a ultrasonic gauge without the need to disassemble. Twin wall pipe on the other hand requires each pipe to be removed and measured with vernier callipers.

Generally on a boom pump two of the elbows are classed as impact elbows and differ from other elbows. Check your manual for the correct location of those elbows.

#### **Criteria**

- Wall thickness testing should be conducted by ultrasonic test instruments or other suitable method.
- All testing must be carried out by competent persons.
- The test equipment should be calibrated regularly and maintained according to the manufacturer's requirements.
- Pipes must not be used if the wall thickness is less than that recommended by the pipe manufacturer for the maximum concrete pressure of the pump. The suppliers of pipes for concrete pumps should provide data on the minimum wall thickness for differing pump pressures.
- The minimum wall thickness of single wall pipe is dependent on the grade of pipe, the maximum working concrete pressure of the pump and diameter of the pipe.

#### **Testing person**

A person who carries out testing or inspection of any pipeline component should be competent and have received instruction in the method used, which may include the:

- use of supplied test instruments
- interpretation of test results against the testing criteria
- methods to be followed to achieve consistency of test results
- recognition of double thickness or faulty readings
- visual inspection of test and inspection results.

#### **Ultrasonic testing**

When using ultrasonic testers it is essential to have the test instrument calibrated for the material to be tested before carrying out any tests. This can be achieved by using a piece of pipe material of a known thickness to calibrate the instrument and by following the manufacturer's instructions. The test equipment should be maintained according to the manufacturer's requirements, which may include regular factory calibration and replacement of worn transducers.

#### **Test surface**

The areas to be tested on any pipe component should be:

- smooth with no imperfections
- free of weld spatter
- protected from rust
- free from thick paint
- free of concrete residue and dirt.

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Our experienced team at CPENZ are here to help. We run detailed training courses at your premise, on your pump tailored to your requirements. These can cover:

- Operating your pump
- Health & Safety when using your pump
- Trouble-shooting
- Maintenance
- Servicing.

[CLICK HERE](#) to let us know what type of training you're wanting or contact Kelly on 0276576444 or [kelly@cpenz.co.nz](mailto:kelly@cpenz.co.nz) for more information.