

A guide to air testing on site

- If for some reason you cannot obtain a successful air test, please read the following guide, prior to requesting a site visit from Marshalls CPM.

- We find that using inflatable test stoppers like the ones in the picture is not only easier, they will give you a far superior and consistent seal than rigid bungs. We often find that sites will inform us they did have a good seal by using rigid bungs but as the pipeline progressed they did eventually lose the test. If you find this has happened, make sure there is still some pressure in the pipeline, then please check the bungs have sealed by spraying soapy water around the seal. Valves and caps have also been known to be faulty, including the hose from the manometer. Rubber does perish after time, so please check for splits etc.



- The actual testing requirement to date is that the manometer is filled with coloured liquid up to the 100mm level* and providing this does not drop more than 25mm in 5 minutes the pipe line is deemed to have passed an air test.

**The pipe line will have needed to have stabilised before a test is carried out. Warm air will be present initially because of the friction of the air through the pump, and ambient temperature. Using your mouth to blow air into the pipeline is not recommended - not just because of hygiene, but it is more time consuming than using a pump.*

- We strongly recommend that after every 3rd pipe laid the pipe line is subjected to an air test. It may seem a fruitless exercise to do this but to continue to complete the pipe line, then perform your test, only to find it fails, is a very costly and time wasting practise and to actually backfill the whole pipe line, knowing a successful air test had not been obtained is irresponsible and it makes it impossible for us to offer any assistance as we cannot comment on something we cannot see.
- We often receive calls stating that “we cannot get any air at all into the pipe line”. This is normally due to one of the following:

- 1) Wide/incorrect joint gap
- 2) Displaced seal
- 3) Broken or cracked pipe

A pipe with a small hole would still accept some air pressure, so no air at all usually suggests that there is a major issue with the pipeline.

- More often than not, a failed air test is due to the test not being carried out correctly or faulty test equipment. It really will save you time and money if you adhere to the above advice. Marshalls CPM will always use our own equipment when we arrive on site. We will always try to service a site visit within 24 hours and depending on the location, attend the same day, if logistics allow.

We hope this guide will assist you, should you encounter a problem on site

contact details

Marshalls CPM MELLs works 01179 812791
Marshalls CPM POLLINGTON works 01405 860591

N.B. We are always here to help but Marshalls CPM reserve the right to charge for wasteful and unnecessary site visits that have resulted from not following the procedures detailed in this leaflet