

Gravity pipelines shall be tested in accordance with BS EN 1610. Air or clean water testing may be used as directed by the Engineer. The test pressure is described in BS EN 1610.

- B. The Contractor shall give adequate notice to the Engineer of the time and place at which all tests are to be held. Tests shall be made in the presence of the Engineer. Clean water shall be used for the hydraulic test and promptly removed upon completion of the test, as required by the Engineer.
- C. The length of tests section shall be maximum 500 m or as directed by the Engineer. The pipe length to be tested may be blanked off using blank iron or steel flange previously drilled and tapped for test equipment connection and strutted as necessary against end thrust. The blank flange may be attached to the pipeline by a flange adaptor or similar, but thrust resistance must be provided for the test.
- D. Testing shall not be carried out against closed valves. All charging should be carried out from the lowest point of the under test section and all testing equipment should be located at this point.
- E. The pressure gauge should also be located at the lowest point or adjustment must be made for the level of the pressure gauge relative to the pipes location.
- F. Prior to testing care should be taken to ensure that all anchor blocks have attained adequate maturity and that any solvent welded joints included in the pipe system have developed full strength. Correct support and anchorage of any above ground sections of the pipeline is also necessary. Underground pipelines should be back-filled taking particular care to consolidate around lengths which may have been deflected to negotiate curves.
- G. All joints should be left exposed until testing is completed. The main pipe should be charged slowly from the lowest point with any air cock in the open position. Air cocks should then be closed in sequence from the lowest point, only when water visibly free from aeration is being discharged through them. Satisfactory charge, the main should be allowed to stand overnight to allow any residual air to rise out. Re-venting is then necessary and any water deficiency should be made up.
- H. Pressure testing can then begin by pumping slowly as per the relevant technical specifications.