

Best Practice for Rubber Bellows (Expansion Joints) Maintenance

Rubber bellows (see picture on the right) are typically installed in pipework systems to allow expansion and contraction. It is not unusual for the bellow to be treated as part of the pipeline and no inspection or preventative maintenance takes place.

There is no BS EN standard for bellows and typically they are specified by using the German DIN 4809 standard. To save on installation costs, low grade rubber bellows can be bought but this will lead to a lower service life and if a catastrophic failure occurs could lead to injury or serious business interruption



Example of a failed bellows in a LPHW system where hot water (85°C) at 1 bar was released suddenly across the plantroom floor.

Best Practice Considerations

- Where rubber bellows are installed, ensure good quality materials are specified to allow longer life.
- Rubber bellows do have a limited life span. They should be checked every 12 months and replaced every 5 years depending upon condition
- Consider the risks if the bellows do fail in service. Could people be injured? Will the failure cause major business interruption?

For More Information Contact – Ben Burgess (Sodexo) 07919 547402