



Technical Information

Maintenance work of fabric expansion joints

RAL-GZ 719

TI-012

Rev. 2 – 10/11

page 1 of 2

Fabric expansion joints do not require any particular maintenance within their life-cycle after a professional installation and an operation in compliance with the designated operating parameters (see TI-015-item 2).

Regular inspections by the manufacturer are recommended, especially in preparation of outages. The functionality of the expansion joint can be ensured by the following mentioned check-ups and, if applicable, measures:

1. Inspection of the expansion joint

- General condition
- Internal and external deposits
- Internal and external fluid accumulation
- Mechanical damages
- Missing or loose fixation elements
- Leaking medium or condensate
- Periphery (e.g. adjacent plant components, duct parts and neighbouring insulation)
- Adherence to the specified operation conditions
- Temperature measuring if necessary

2. Documentation

A record of the inspection – preferably with picture documentation – reveals the condition of the expansion joint. Possible changes can be discovered. Appropriate actions can be initiated.

3. Consultation of the manufacturer

Any changes of fabric expansion joints may influence their functional reliability. In case of doubt the supplier should be contacted.

4. Precautionary measures

- Internal and external dust deposits should be professionally removed.
- In case of surface changes the supplier should be consulted.
- Retightening of fixation elements.

5. Necessary measures

- Remove debris which affects functionality

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page 2 of 2

- Remove mechanical damages
- Replace missing fixation elements
- Retighten loose fixation elements
- Reduce leakage as far as possible
- Report changed operating or installation conditions to the supplier

6. Forbidden measures

- High-pressure, steam cleaning, abrasive blasting
- Painting, coating, etc.
- Cleaning of fabric expansion joints with liquid
- Reinstallation of expansion joints without permission of the supplier

Attention: Warranty may be lost in case of non-observance.

7. Precautions for the expansion joint

Fabric expansion joints need to be protected during maintenance work on adjacent plant components:

- Expansion joints must generally be protected with appropriate covers (e.g. fire blankets, steel sheets) against damage during welding, cutting, grinding or insulation work. Remove these covers prior to commissioning.
- Expansion joints have to be covered during painting or coating works.
- Expansion joints are not allowed to be impacted by cleaning agents during cleaning operations.

8. Personal protection measures

During work at expansion joints the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn (safety gloves, dust masks, protective glasses, gas masks etc.) depending on the particular operation site and its risk potential.

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