Installation and Operating Manual for ERV Expansion Joints

ELAFLEX expansion joints are provided ready for installation. The standard flanges can be turned into any desired position. Additional sealings usually are not necessary. For installation please observe the following:

1) *Prior to the installation of the expansion joint ensure that the mating flanges have satisfactory sealing surfaces. Check that the sealing surface of the rubber bellows is completely covered by the mating flange. Mating flanges with too large inner diameter or protruding pipe ends, grooves and tongues can destroy the sealing surface of the bellows (see hints for the pipework designer, page 476).*

   ***Attention**: When using slip-on flanges the outside diameter must be larger than the sealing surface of the expansion joint.*

2) ***Pay attention to the correct installation length**: The pulling of expansion joints into installation gaps which are too large will lengthen the rubber bellow and might lead to the collar being drawn out of the flange groove (see picture). During the subsequent tightening of the screws the collar of the bellows would be crushed asymmetrically.*

   ***Please note**: A considerable lengthening during installation decreases the allowable range of movement during operation. To shorten installation gaps, distance flanges are available.*

3) *If possible install the expansion joints in such way that the date of production is visible.*

4) *Screws should be inserted from the expansion joint side. If this is not feasible, it must be assured that the bellows may not touch the screws in all operating conditions.*

5) *We recommend to use bolts of ISO grade 8.8 or higher. The bolts have to be fastened crosswise in 3 uniform steps.*

   When using a torque wrench:

   1st step:
   Tighten bolts equally by hand
   (pay attention to parallel sealing surfaces!).

   2nd step:
   Fasten crosswise with torque 50 Nm.

   3rd step:
   Fasten crosswise

	approx. torque
up to DN 80	max. 80 Nm
up to DN 300	max. 100 Nm
up to DN 500	max. 130 Nm
DN 600	190 Nm
DN 700	250 Nm
DN 800	300 Nm
DN 900	310 Nm
DN 1000	340 Nm

   Do not use any sharp-edged tools which might damage the rubber bellow in case the tool slips.

6) *If no torque wrench can be used during installation, the screws may be tightened to an extent that between the metal flanges a distance 'y' of at least 1 mm remains (see picture).*

7) *The test pressure of a bellow or flange is 1.5 x PN. This value depends on which component is weaker.*

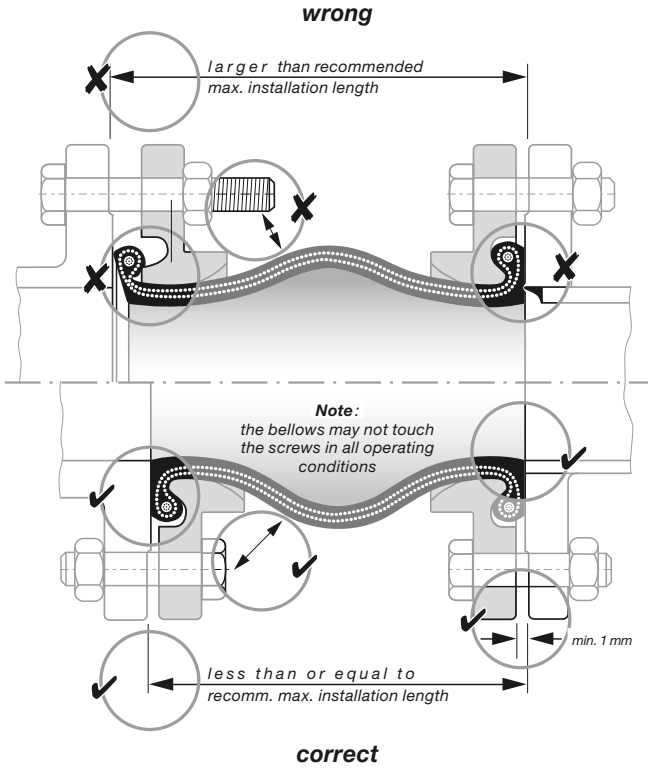
8) ***The rubber bellow of the expansion joint must not be painted!** Solvents can damage the rubber cover, furthermore the colour coat impedes a proper visual inspection.*

9) *When welding and cutting, the rubber bellow must be protected against heat by all means. For electric welding it must be insured that the electric current does not pass through the bellows.*

10) *Permanent radiation heat above 90°C must be avoided. If necessary flame protection covers should be used (see page 471).*

11) *Rubber expansion joints are subject to wear and must be included to routine inspection of the pipe system (visual inspection of the expansion joint regarding damages as well as inspection for hardening by pushing in with a thumb).*

12) *Expansion joints with pull rods (tied flanges) are supplied in neutral position, with pre-installed countered nuts. During installation the required permissable length has to be set/ determined by the pipeline fitter, nuts have to be countered. After installation, the pull rods shall be firmly connected with the flanges.*



We recommend ring wrenches instead of open-end wrench for higher job safety and less risk of accidents

Manual for the Pipework Designer

ERV rubber expansion joints are delivered ready for installation. The swivelling flanges can be fitted in any desired position and have stabilising rims to ease the assembly. Flanges with stabilising rim (collar) also help to maintain a safety gap between screw ends and the bellows throughout the whole range of movement and avoid injuries.

Correct Mating Flanges (Figures A–G)

*Gaskets are not required if the sealing surface of the pipework mating flanges are designed as shown on the right hand side. Gaskets should only be used in order to prevent damage to the rubber sealing surface, for example if the mating flanges show sharp inner edges or irregularities e. g. welding beads. If the internal diameter of the mating flanges is too large (sealing surface of the expansion joint not fully covered), install a gasket **and** an additional disc (fig. E).*

Pressure Resistance

The maximum operating pressure and test pressure not only depend on the burst pressure of the rubber bellow but can also be affected by operating temperature and design pressure/nominal pressure of the used flanges. For full details please see catalogue page 404. The burst pressure (at room temperature) is at least 3–4 times the nominal pressure (PN). Pressure test certificates can be issued upon request.

Vacuum Resistance

The maximum vacuum depends on size, operating temperature, length of installation and the installation of vacuum support rings (page 468). Please see type specific data sheets for details. The vacuum resistance can be slightly increased even without vacuum support rings if the installation length is shortened (e. g. by 20 mm). The vacuum resistance decreases if a longer installation length is chosen, or the expansion joint is lengthened during operation.

Weather and Heat Resistance

The outer rubber (cover) is resistant against weathering and protects the reinforcements against ageing, abrasion and corrosion. For the permitted temperature range please see type specific data sheets. For permanently warm operating conditions including external radiation heat please see page 404.
ERV types with an outer rubber of CR or CSM are (within limits) oil proof and flame resistant. An additional flame protection can be achieved by using our flame protection cover conforming to ISO 15540 standard (certificate 'DNV·GL') – see catalogue pages 471 and 472.

Pressure Loss

The internal design of the ERV bellows allows a high flow with little turbulence. Therefore the pressure loss is usually negligible, even when dealing with high flowrates.

Maximum Flow Velocity

Flow velocity should not exceed 7 m/s. For flammable fluids, the maximum flow velocity should be further reduced depending on the electrical conductivity of the fluid. For non conductive and flammable fluids such as toluene a value of 2 m/s should not be exceeded.

Noise Reduction

Due to their construction, ERV rubber expansion expansion joints are well suited to absorb vibrations and noise. An ERV installed within a piping system achieves a partial decoupling of vibration and noise transmission. The degree of this effect is dependent on the layout of the piping system and the assembly situation of the expansion joint. The pipework and the installed expansion joint may be seen as spring-mass system; its natural frequency is determined by the spring rigidity as well as by the oscillating mass. In comparison to the piping system, the mass of an ERV has a neglectable influence on the natural frequency of the piping system.

Installation Length / Installation Gap

For the allowable range of movement please see type specific data sheets. If possible, the length of the installation gap is designed to be equal to the recommended installation length, or slightly shorter. The low inherent resistance of ERV makes fitting into smaller gaps easy.
For larger installation gaps or lateral offset, not more than 50 % of the maximum area of movement should be used up in order to leave a reserve for operation. If the bellows is lengthened during operation, a jolted (compressed) installation is recommended. The position of installation must be accessible for visual inspection. When installing the unit, installation hints (catalogue page 479) must be observed.

Anchor Load / Tie Rods (Limiters)

The inherent resistance of an ERV is small and can be disregarded for anchor force calculation. But when pressurised, the bellows expands and generates an axial force. Therefore, especially for larger expansion joints, fixed points (anchors) should be provided. Since the ERV construction absorbs part of these reaction forces, anchor points may be designed correspondingly weaker. If anchor points cannot be provided, or if the stability of the piping system or other fittings is insufficient, reaction forces have to limited by tie rods – available types see catalogue catalogue page 464.

Important Note: Allowable Range of Movement

*The range of movement listed in the tables on reverse side of our ERV catalogue pages are to be understood as only axial **or** lateral **or** angular range of movement.*
*For **combined** movements (e. g. axial and lateral) the percentual value is only allowed to add up to a **maximum of 100%**. In case an over all sum of > 100% is needed please ask our sales.*
Example: (table on page 408) ERV-R BL 130 DN 150 – e. g. max. axial movement of 50% and max. lateral movement of 50%:
*Allowed axial range of movement **L** min. = 115 mm (BL minus 50% of the difference between BL and Lmin), **L** max. = 140 mm (BL plus 50% of the difference between BL an Lmax) and allowed lateral range of movment l = +/- 15 mm (50% of l).*