

Use of Flexible Hose Venting Arrangements and Restraints

During a recent pigging operation a flexible hose venting system was used in order to vent the 1200mm pig trap. Although there was no incident related to this equipment, the opportunity has been taken to issue some general guidance when using such devices.

When using such arrangements, always ensure that the specification is fit for purpose, the device including the flexible hose is appropriately pressure rated and has been inspected and tested prior to use.

The location of such a device should take into account the hazardous area, stability and access/egress of both people and plant. Measures should be put in place to ensure the stability of the arrangement as the flow of gas during venting operations has the potential to cause the hose to whip and the device to topple and could result in serious personal injury.



Temporary vent stack and hose



Damage to concrete plinth

Recently, an incident occurred at an Onshore Terminal in the UK operated by another operator. In this incident, temporary small bore vent pipework failed and because it was not adequately restrained struck the technician during the venting activities. This resulted in the technician receiving a broken leg.

The recommendation following this incident is to ensure that all pipework is properly designed and is fixed/lashed to restrain any such forces. In this case the failed joint was a galvanised screwed fitting, which would not normally be used by National Grid – but this incident serves as a reminder to assess the risks of such activities prior to starting work.

Circulation: All National Grid Gas staff, National Grid Training Centres, and as applicable – National Grid Group, Unregulated Businesses, Contractors, Suppliers, etc.