Troubleshooting guide

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Troubleshooting guide



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SYMPTOMS - HOPPER OVERFLOWS

Pump not primed

Excessive amount of air or gas in liquid

Inlet of suction pipe insufficiently submerged

Blocked suction line

Suction valve closed

Inlet pipe diameter too small or length of inlet pipe too long

Speed too slow or wrong direction of rotation

Coupling or drive belts not transmitting power

Total head of system higher than design

Specific gravity of liquid different from design

Entrained air in pump, pump hopper requires baffles

Badly installed pipe line or gaskets partly blocking pipe

Foreign matter in impeller

SYMPTOMS - OVERHEATING OR SEIZURE OF PUMP

Pump not primed

Insufficient margin between suction pressure and vapour pressure

Operation at very low capacity

Drive misalignment

Lack of lubrication

Improper installation of bearings

Rotating part rubbing on stationary part

Impeller out of balance, resulting in vibration

Excessive thrust caused by a mechanical failure inside the pump

Excessive amount of lubricant in bearing housing causing high bearing temp

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SYMPTOMS - SHORT BEARING LIFE

Drive misalignment

Shaft bent

Rotating part rubbing on stationary part

Bearings worn

Impeller out of balance, resulting in vibration

Shaft running off-centre because of worn bearings or misalignment

Lack of lubrication

Excessive amount of lubricant in bearing housing causing high bearing temp

Improper installation of bearings

Dirt getting into bearings

Rusting of bearings due to water getting into housing

SYMPTOMS - VIBRATION AND NOISE FROM PUMP

Pump or suction pipe not completely filled with liquid

Suction lift too high

Insufficient margin between suction pressure and vapour pressure

Foot valve too small

Foot valve partially clogged

Inlet of suction pipe insufficiently submerged

Operation at very low capacity

Badly installed pipe line or gaskets partly blocking pipe

Drive misalignment

Rotating part rubbing on stationary part

Shaft running off-centre because of worn bearings or misalignment

Foreign matter in impeller

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SYMPTOMS - PACKING HAS SHORT LIFE

Misalignment

Shaft bent

Shaft or shaft sleeves worn or scored at the packing

Packing improperly installed

Shaft running off-centre because of worn bearings or misalignment

Gland sealing water flow inadequate due to worn shaft seal components

Gland sealing water pressure inadequate

Dirt or grit in sealing liquid, leading to scoring shaft sleeve

Expeller worn or blocked

Excessive clearance at bottom of stuffing box, forcing packing into pump

Misalignment				
Shaft bent				
Shaft or shaft sleeves worn or scored at the packing				
Packing wrong size				
Packing improperly installed				
Incorrect type of packing for operating conditions				
Shaft running off-centre because of worn bearings or misalignment				
Gland sealing water pressure too high causing packing extrusion				
Dirt or grit in sealing liquid, leading to scoring shaft sleeve				
Expeller worn or blocked				
Excessive clearance at bottom of stuffing box, forcing packing into pump				

SYMDTOMS - LEAKAGE EDOM STUEFING BOX

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SYMPTOMS - EXCESSIVE MOTOR POWER REQUIRED

Speed too high

Wrong direction of rotation

Total head of system higher than design

Total head of system lower than design

Specific gravity of liquid different from design

Viscosity of liquid differs from that for which designed

Misalignment

Shaft bent

Rotating part rubbing on stationary part

Packing improperly installed

Gland too tight, resulting in no flow of liquid to lubricate packing

SYMPTOMS - PUMP LOSES PRIME			
Pump or suction pipe not completely filled with liquid			
Suction lift too high			
Excessive amount of air or gas in liquid			
Air pocket in suction line			
Air leaks into suction line			
Air leaks into pump through stuffing box			
Inlet of suction pipe insufficiently submerged			
Blocked suction line			
Foreign matter in impeller			
Inlet pipe diameter too small or length of inlet pipe too long			
Entrained air in pump. Pump hopper requires baffles			
Badly installed pipe line or gaskets partly blocking pipe			

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SYMPTOMS - INSUFFICIENT PRESSURE

Excessive amount of air or gas in liquid

Speed too slow

Total head of system higher than design

Viscosity of liquid differs from that for which designed

Entrained air in pump. Pump hopper requires baffles

Badly installed pipe line or gaskets partly blocking pipe

Impeller damaged or worn

Casing gasket defective, permitting internal leakage

Foreign matter in impeller

SYMPTOMS - REDUCED DISCHARGE DELIVERY

Pump or suction pipe not completely filled with liquid

Suction lift too high

Insufficient margin between suction pressure and vapour pressure

Excessive amount of air or gas in liquid

Air pocket in suction line

Air leaks into suction line

Air leaks into pump through stuffing box

Foot valve too small

Foot valve partially clogged

Inlet of suction pipe insufficiently submerged

Blocked suction line

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SYMPTOMS -REDUCED DISCHARGE DELIVERY (CONT)

Inlet pipe diameter too small or length of inlet pipe too long

Speed too slow - slippage of vee belts

Speed too slow - incorrect size pulleys

Speed too slow - incorrect "pole" of electric motor

Speed too high

Wrong direction of rotation

Total head of system higher than design

Viscosity of liquid differs from that for which designed

Entrained air in pump. Pump hopper requires baffles

Badly installed pipe line or gaskets partly blocking pipe

Foreign matter in impeller

SYMPTOMS - FAILURE TO DISCHARGE

Pump not primed

Pump or suction pipe not completely filled with liquid

Suction lift too high

Insufficient margin between suction pressure and vapour pressure

Air pocket in suction line

Inlet of suction pipe insufficiently submerged

Blocked suction line

Inlet pipe diameter too small or length of inlet pipe too long

Speed too slow

Total head of system higher than design

Impeller damaged or worn

Foreign matter in impeller

Pump troubleshooting - Glands

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PROBLEM	CAUSE	SOLUTION
 Short packing life Short sleeve life Slurry exits gland 	 Slurry wears packing Slurry wears shaft sleeve Packing over heating and burning due to low gland sealing water pressure 	 Increase gland feed water pressure Increase gland feed water flow-rate Loosen gland to increase flow Stop, cool down, repack and then restart with correct gland feed water pressure and flow
Flow from gland too low, in worst case steam exits from gland	 Pressure too high causing packing extrusion and flow restriction Gland too tight Packing too soft for high pressure 	 Stop, cool down, repack and then restart with correct, gland feed water pressure and flow Loosen gland Review packing type Use packing retainer ring Reduce gland feed water pressure
 Gland feed water flows around outside of packing rings 	 Packing rings wrong size or fit-up wrong 	Repack gland with correct packingReview order of assembly
 Too much flow from gland 	Shaft sleeve wornWrong size of packingWorn packing	Disassemble and refurbish gland with new parts

CAUTION

- · On no account should the gland be loosened to such an extent that it disengages from the stuffing box
- Putting more things into a stuffing box when problems occur will only be a short term fix. Extra packing will exacerbate any general wear and eventually lead to excessive leakage.
- Corrosion by saline gland feed water may be minimised by the use of appropriate alloys. The leakage of saline gland feed water from the
 gland must be trapped and conveyed to waste to avoid corrosion of the pump base and other components.

STEPS FOR THE CORRECT FITTING OF PACKINGS INTO THE STUFFING BOX

- 1. Packing is normally available in pre-cut and formed rings, or alternatively the user can cut rings from a roll.
- 2. It is critical that each packing ring is cut to the correct length.
- 3. The packing cut should be at an angle of 45°, ie, a scarf joint.
- 4. The packing should fill the annulus. A length of key steel or similar should be used to push the packing into the stuffing box. Care should be taken to start fitting the packing on the joint side and then work around the ring to the opposite side. This should prevent stretching the ring, which could lead to overlap at the cut.
- 5. The packing should push in easily. If not, check the section dimensions. If incorrect the packing should be replaced. Do not roll formed rings.
- 6. Each packing should be tamped into position before fitting the next packing. Optimum arrangements for multiple rings of packing are shown below.
- 7. When all packing rings have now been fitted, assemble the gland and nip the bolts to flatten packing rings evenly. Do not tighten fully.
- 8. Run the pump. If excessive leakage occurs, tighten the bolts slightly and leave for at least an hour. Repeat if excessive leakage continues. Note that a good steady even drip or constant stream is desirable to cool and lubricate the gland

