Getting the most out of your BFM® fitting

BFM® fittings will help improve safety, hygiene, efficiency and reliability in dry bulk processing factories. For optimum performance, please consider the following guidelines when planning your installation.

CHOOSE THE CORRECT MATERIAL

Seeflex 040E, a polyether-based polyurethane, is the standard connector material of choice for most applications. However, for some special installations, alternative materials may be needed, eg:

- Close proximity of a weighing scale - Seeflex 020E
- Use with aggressive chemicals - Teflex
- Over pressure applications - Camlon
- Potentially explosive applications - Kevlar Cover
- Breathability required - LM3 or LM4 (depending on application/temperature)
- Static applications - Seeflex 040AS
- Light sensitive applications - Black-out Cover

Refer to the 'Product Comparison Chart' for a summary of all products and their most appropriate applications, or contact BFM® fitting to discuss further.

NON-BREATHABLE CONNECTORS


SEEFLEX 020E


SEEFLEX 040E


SEEFLEX 040AS


CAMLON

BREATHABLE CONNECTORS & COVERS


TEFLEX


LM3


LM4


FM1 BREATHER


KEVLAR COVER


BLACKOUT COVER

CHOOSE THE CORRECT DIAMETER

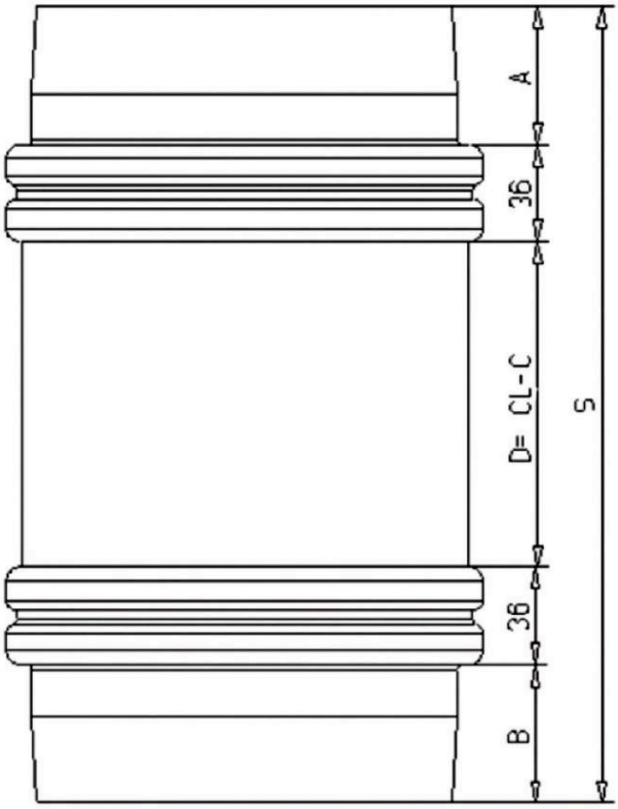
Avoid creating a bottleneck situation with your flexible connector but rather use a larger diameter compared to the pipe diameter above and below the connector. This will keep contact between the product flowing through and the connector wall to a minimum and therefore minimize abrasion and soiling of the BFM® connector.

Getting the most out of your BFM® fitting...contd.

CHOOSE THE OPTIMAL INSTALLATION GAP AND LENGTH OF CONNECTOR:

To keep cost low and ensure prompt availability, try to stick to standard lengths. Our 'standard' connector range is identified in our pricebook as bold items.

The BFM® spigots can easily be adapted to fit the existing pipework and to allow the use of standard connector lengths.



A: Length of the upper spigot tail; variable, standard length 52 mm. May be shortened down to 10 mm.

B: Length of the lower spigot tail; variable, standard length 52 mm. May be shortened down to 10 mm.

D: Distance between both spigot ends = installation gap.

CL: Length of the flexible, transparent part of the connector. Standard lengths e.g. 100, 150 and 200 mm.

C: Length to be added to ensure sufficient flexibility of the connector (min. 10 mm; if the spigots are installed off-set or if large movements are to be expected, possibly more).

S: Total distance between both pipe ends that need to be connected.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK THAT THE SEAM IS VERTICAL WHEN INSTALLING CONNECTOR - IF IT IS TWISTED, IT WILL EFFECT THE LIFE OF THE CONNECTOR.

NOTE: The installation gap always needs to be somewhat shorter than the connector length. As a general rule, mount the spigots at a distance of approx. 10 mm less than the connector length. Example: Installation gap for a 200 mm long connector should be 190 mm max. A connector installed too tight will be hard to be fitted in and out of the spigot; the seal may not be 100% dust tight anymore and service life will be compromised.

INSTALLATION GAP TOO SHORT

OPTIMAL INSTALLATION GAP

INSTALLATION GAP TOO WIDE

Getting the most out of your BFM® fitting...contd.

INSTALLATION GAP FOR GYRATORY EQUIPMENT:

To allow sufficient room for moving equipment, it may be necessary to choose an even smaller installation gap in relation to the connector length.

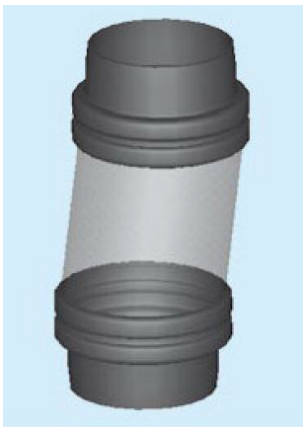
Keep in mind, however, that excessive creasing will cause premature wear on the connector material. How much creasing any BFM® connector can tolerate, depends e.g. on:

- the diameter and length of the connector
- the type and intensity of movement
- surrounding temperature / temperature of the product
- pressure / vacuum inside the system
- chemical stress on the material due to the nature of the product being processed

Due to the enourmous diversity of processing equipment and individual manufacturing situations in themarket, it is unwise to give exact installation advice at this point. Contact BFM® to discuss installation gap for gyratory equipment.

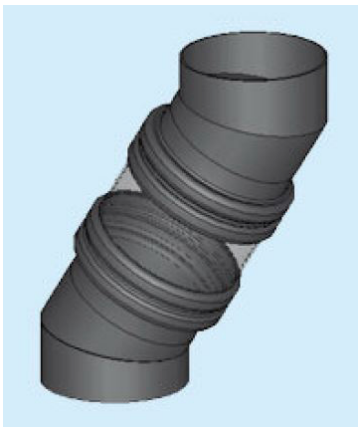
AVOID OFF-SET INSTALLATIONS:

Any off-set installation will cause increased abrasion by product constantly running along the connector wall. Also, more pronounced off-set situations will cause the connector to crease which in turn will result in premature wear. Consider relocating your duct work to enable an in-line installation of the BFM® fitting (see image below in the middle). If this is not possible, try to weld on the spigots at an angle to avoid folds in the connector material (see image below to the right).



OFF-SET INSTALLATION

BFM SPIGOTS INSTALLED AT AN ANGLE



IN-LINE INSTALLATION AFTER MODIFICATION TO THE LOWER PIPE END

Getting the most out of your BFM® fitting...contd.

NOTES ON THE DAILY ROUTINE OF HANDLING BFM® CONNECTORS:

Once the spigots are installed, take precautions that the connector is set in place correctly by the responsible members of staff to ensure a reliable seal and long durability:

- Regularly check spigot ends for sharp edges and have these removed immediately to avoid injury to the hands of the operator and damage to the connector material.
- Make sure the outside of the sealing rings of the connector as well as the inside of the rings in the metal spigot are clean before installation. Remove any product or cleaning agent residue to avoid this being trapped inside the seal.
- Let the metal band snap into the spigot with both silicone rings pushing into the equally formed metal rings of the spigot. Only then is the connector guaranteed dust tight. If it does not snap fully into place at the first attempt, try breaking the seal in other positions until it snaps into place all the way around (typically needed when installing large diameter connectors).

INCORRECT: ONLY ONE OF THE RINGS IS INSIDE THE SPIGOT

CORRECT

- Do not twist the connector when installing it as this will cause premature wear. Consider making a mark on the upper and lower spigot with which you can line up the vertical seam of the connector every time it is set in place (particularly helpful with longer connectors).
- Installing Tool-Release connectors: It is important to keep fingers clear of the seal as it will snap into place with force. Never fit a Tool-Release sleeve into a standard spigot as it will be impossible to remove.