



Instruction Manual for Steam Traps







GENERAL INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS FOR STEAM TRAPS.

Before Installation: 1.

- Clean the pipeline by blowing steam / compressed air.
- ΒĪ Use the right trap for the right job.

Trap Location:

- A] Install the trap below the drain point.
- ΒĪ Install the trap as close to the drain point as possible.
- Trap should be accessible for periodic inspection.
- Installation should be Horizontal preferably, vertical axis of the trap should be Perpendicular to the ground.

3. Trap Connection:

- A] Outlet connection from the vertical trap, to the return line should be made with union.
- Hand valves / Manual valves are recommended at inlet and outlet lines of traps.

Dirt Pockets:

- A] To extend a vertical pipe below the trap to form a pocket to arrest scale and pipe cuttings / weld slag's etc.
- B] Clean such devices periodically.

5. Strainers:

A] Install strainers wherever conditions are dirty, dusty etc and clean the strainers Periodically.

By Pass:

- Wherever used by pass valves should be above the level of trap to avoid loss of prime. A]
- All the valves associated with the trap should be located close together to facilitate valve manipulation.

7. **Elevated Trap:**

- Trap should not be elevated more than necessary.
- Βĺ If elevated the trap should have a water seal or use of an internal check valve.

8. Test Valve:

A] Use shut off valve at trap discharge to isolate trap discharge line while testing of trap.



9. Check valve:

- A] Use check valve on discharge line to prevent back flow from return line.
- Use check valve when the discharge line is elevated. B)
- C1 Use check valve in the inlet line to prevent loss of prime in case of a sudden pressure drop.
- D] Though it is preferred good engg Practice, it is not Mandatory with UKL Ball Float Trap because of its unique design.

10. Protection against Freezing:

- A] Discharge line should be as short as possible.
- B] Provide drain valve at the bottom of the trap.

11. Starting Steam Trap:

A] Turn the steam supply on, slowly, to make sure that the trap catches the prime.

12. **Testing schedule of Trap:**

- A] High-pressure traps [250psig and above] operation to be checked daily / weekly.
- B1 Medium pressure traps performance to be checked weekly / monthly.
- Low-pressure traps may be tested on a monthly / annual basis. Periodic maintenance during regular shut downs is always preferred rather than breakdown repairs.

13. Test Methods:

Following are the commonly used methods to ascertain the functioning of the traps.

- A1 Test valve method.
- B] Listening device using a Probe, Signal annunciater and Headphones.
- C1 Sight Glass.





WHILE INSTALLING TRAPS CAREFUL CONSIDERATION HAS TO BE GIVEN TO:

1] The Drain point.

The drain point should be so arranged that the condensate flows easily into the trap. This point needs to be properly appreciated.

Merely providing a drain hole, at the bottom of the pipeline, will not serve the purpose, as most of the condensate will be swept away by the velocity of steam. On the contrary a pocket needs to be created at the bottom of the pipeline into which the condensate collects and which is subsequently drained away.

2] Pipe sizing.

The Pipes leading to and from the traps should be of adequate and proper size. This is especially true in case of Thermodynamic traps.

Valves, bends, tees close to the traps tend to create unnecessary and in some cases excessive back pressure, which affects the performance of the traps.

Air Binding. 3]

When air gets pumped / locked into the trap, in the space meant for steam, the trap function ceases.

Unless the air thus trapped, is released, by making proper provision for venting it, the trap and by extension the plant may take a long time warming up and may never work at its full potential.

4] Steam Lock.

A condition similar to Air lock, except that the cause of non-functioning traps here, is steam instead of air, for e.g. Drying Cylinders. A Steam lock release [SLR] device helps in restoring the function of the trap. SLR is a Std Feature of UKL Ball Float Trap

Group Trapping / Individual Trapping. 5]

Many times it is observed that one trap is used for trapping steam / removing condensate from multiple units, for reasons of economy, which is wrong.

Each individual unit may have different consumption levels of steam, and consequently may generate different volumes of condensate at different pressures, which may tend to obstruct / prevent the proper draining of condensate of other units, leading to water logging and other performance related complications.

Therefore it is always highly recommended to use individual traps for individual units, and the outlets of all these individual units are connected to a common condensate collection, return main / drain point.





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