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FLANGE CONDITION

For most applications a surface finish of between 3.2 μ m to 6.3 μ m RA (125 to 250 micro inch) is recommended.

For very thin gaskets of 0.4mm or below, a surface finish as fine as 1.6 μ m RA is acceptable. Use a surface comparator to check the flange finish.

Check that the flange faces are parallel or that the pipework is sufficiently flexible to allow the flanges to be pulled parallel and concentric without excessive bolt loads.

Always use a new gasket.

The gasket material should be as thin as possible. Out of flat or pitted flanges may require thicker gaskets to accommodate the imperfections. To ensure optimum performance a minimum thickness/width ratio of 1/5 (ideally 1/10) is required.

Do not use jointing compounds, grease or lubricants on materials as these compounds can affect the contact friction between the gasket and the flange. This can lead to creep and premature joint failure.