ABSTRACT

The variable bore packer for a ram-type blowout preventer includes a body of resilient packing material with upper and lower plates embedded in the upper and lower surfaces of the body and upper and lower sets of insert segments disposed adjacent the upper and lower plates. The plates have arcuate radial corners at their terminal ends for preventing extrusion. Each of the insert segments includes a pair of insert plates forming an arcuate opening to receive an appropriate sized tubular member and dimensioned to expand and move rearwardly in the resilient packing material upon engagement with a larger diameter tubular member. A polyester rope is embedded in the resilient packing material adjacent the insert segments so as to bond with the resilient packing material. The rope prevents extrusion of the resilient packing material through the gaps between the insert segments and the exterior of the tubular member and also provides reinforcement of the resilient packing material upon the expansion of the resilient packing materials to accommodate larger diameter tubular members.

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