

Claims

1. A method of cleaning the inside of pipework, the method comprising the steps of
selecting a section of the pipework to be cleaned,
determining a hold point of the pipework,
5 inserting a cleaning apparatus into an entry point of the pipework section,
the apparatus coupled to a fluid supply and equipped to blow the fluid in a direction
along the pipework section from the first or last hold point to the entry point,
the apparatus further including image recording means to obtain a visual record of
the inside of the pipework,
10 insertion of the apparatus into the pipework continuing until the apparatus reaches
the hold point,
securing a collector over the entry point to collect debris blown from the pipework,
activating the compressed air supply,
moving the apparatus from the hold point to the entry point, so blowing debris
15 towards and into the collector,
deactivating the fluid supply,
removing the collector containing the collected debris from the entry point,
removing the apparatus from the pipework,
reviewing images of the cleaned pipework and, where satisfactory, certifying the
20 pipework section.
2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus selected includes a light
source to improve the images obtained.
3. A method according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the apparatus selected includes
25 a light source to improve the images obtained.
4. A method according to any preceding Claim, wherein the fluid is at a pressure of
from 5 – 12 barg.
5. A method according to Claim 4, wherein the fluid is at a pressure of from 5 – 10
barg.
- 30 6. A method according to Claim 4, wherein the fluid is at a pressure of 7 barg.
7. A method according to any preceding Claim, wherein the fluid is selected from one
or more of compressed air, nitrogen gas, water, cleaning solutions.
8. A method according to Claim 7, wherein a cleaning solution contains surfactants or
preservatives.

9. A method according to any preceding Claim, wherein prior to commencing construction of the pipework, a diagram is drawn showing the location of hold points within the pipework as the pipework is constructed.
- 5 10. A method according to Claim 9, wherein the diagram is linked to images and other data associated with the pipework section.
11. A method according to Claim 9 or Claim 10, wherein as the apparatus moves en route from the entry point to the hold point, checks are made to determine features which might restrict passage of the apparatus.
- 10 12. A method according to Claims 9 or Claim 10, wherein quick response (QR) codes and/or Bar codes are then attached to an element of the pipework.
13. A method according to any preceding Claim, wherein pre-installed valves in pipework are inspected and cleaned prior to pipework cleaning.
14. A method according to any preceding Claim, wherein where the pipework includes a main header, and branches therefrom, the header is cleaned prior to a branch.
- 15 15. A method according to Claim 14, wherein debris within the branches is pushed into the main header before cleaning the header.
16. A method according to any preceding Claim, wherein an anti-corrosion treatment is administered by the apparatus where required to an area of pipework.