TECH TALK # 56



HYDRANT PITS



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HYDRANT PITS

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APPLICATION & CONSTRUCTION



↑CARTER 4X4 PIT VALVE ↑

Hydrant Pits are generally used to house and protect the underground Hydrant Valve at airports.

They can also be used for a low point drain or high point vent assembly

They must comply with certain standards set out by some oil companies.

The dimensions of the hydrant pit are determined by the dimensions of the hydrant pit valve.

The top face of the hydrant valve should be maximum 105mm below the rim of the pit to ensure the couplers can connect to the valve This is all explained in detail in the manual.

Air BP specifies the maximum pit depth to be 740mm and the minimum clearance between the bottom of the lid and the top of the valve to be 25mm.



The 24" pit is fabricated in 2 different heights. The model with the 6" bellows is higher than the model with 4" bellows to allow space for the 6" to 4" reducer required to mount the valve.

Originally hydrant valves were all 6" and therefore riser flanges were also 6". Some companies are keeping to the old standards and specify 6" riser pipes while others have moved on to 4" risers to accommodate the current style 4" hydrant valves.

This is why Liquip has both sizes available.

24" pits are generally used to house the hydrant valves and 18" pit are generally used as the low point drain or high point vent housing

The "Polypit" body is made of high density UV stabilised non conducting polyethylene with a working temperature range from -20° C to $+200^{\circ}$ C Inner and Outer Lid and Rim are fabricated in Aluminium grade AA601.

Pit body has a sloped bottom to ensure any liquid inside the pit is collected on one side. This enables quicker detection of any small leaks and also easier cleaning of any liquid caught in the pit.

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Pit body has integral bellows to accommodate the riser pipe. The bellows provide seamless alignment of the pit body and riser pipe.

A clamp is provided with the pit to fasten the bellow to the riser pipe

Sealing between bellows and riser flange is by means of o-ring. (Riser flange must have o-ring recess)

The seamless construction allow the pit body (24") to retain 45 litres of liquid before the liquid level reaches the bellows. This would be the first possible leak point.

The design of the bellow allows for variable depths of the riser flange face from the pit rim. (up to 50mm). Surplus can be trimmed off.

HLA100 LIGHTWEIGHT ALUMINIUM LID

The HLA100 is the lightest Pit lid known to us which can still withstand the excessive forces and weights exerted by commercial aircraft as set out in some specifications

It has an automatic self latching feature with single latch mechanism. Anti-Slip top

The HLA100 is designed to be interchangeable with the previous model composite pit lids, HLC100 & HLC120

It is not interchangeable with the old style aluminium lids.

HLA100 fits both the 18" pit and the 24" pit as the 24" pit has an "outer lid". The outer lid on 24" pits can also easily be removed when a larger access area is required for maintenance purposes.



AVAILABLE MODELS

| PART NO | DESCRIPTION |
|---------|--|
| HPA200 | 24" Polypit, Lightweight Aluminium Lid, 4" Bellows |
| HPA250 | 24" Polypit, Lightweight Aluminium Lid, 6" Bellows |
| HPA100 | 18" Polypit, Lightweight Aluminium Lid, 4" Bellows |
| HPA150 | 18" Polypit, Lightweight Aluminium Lid, 6" Bellows |

HPA Pits without bellows are available to special order. Mainly used by Shell .

ACCESSORIES

| HLC200-11 | Bonding Kit Required to Provide electrical continuity between riser pipe/valve and Pit Lid |
|-----------|---|
| HLC200-12 | Riser Flange Kit, 4", with fasteners, O-ring & Gaskets |
| HLC250-12 | Riser Flange Kit, 6", with fasteners, O-ring & Gaskets |

The riser flanges are based on ANSI 300lb RF flanges and are specially machined by Liquip to suit the bellows and the hydrant valves.

Drill pattern is ANSI 150lb or ANSI 300LB, to suit drilling on hydrant valve.

Holes are drilled and tapped blind holes.

Riser flange has o-ring groove to provide sealing with bellows.

Bottom of flange has drilled and tapped hole for bonding kit. (Pit rim also has drilled and tapped hole for other end of bonding wire)

HLC200-12



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WEIGHT COMPARISONS

| Conventional Steel Pit with Lid, 18" | ± 115 kgs |
|--|----------------------|
| Conventional Steel Pit with Lid, 24" | ± 158 kgs |
| Conventional Aluminium Lid | $\pm 25 \text{ kgs}$ |
| Liquip Lightweight Aluminium Lid, HLA100 | ± 13 kgs |
| Total Weight of HPA200 (24" Pit, 4" Bellows) | ± 755 kgs |
| Total Weight of HPA250 (24" Pit, 6" Bellows) | ± 85.0 kgs |
| Total Weight of HPA100 (18" Pit, 4" Bellows) | \pm 32 kgs |
| Total Weight of HPA150 (18" Pit, 6" Bellows) | \pm 32 kgs |
| | |

ADVANTAGES

- Pit body much lighter in weight than competitors pits. The pit body be easily lowered into the pit by 2 people with little risk of injury associated with handling of heavy equipment.
- Pit lid much lighter in weight than competitors pit lids with no compromise on strength. Little risk of back injury of operators when lifting the lid.
- Non-corroding materials, No extra load on Cathodic Protection system.
- Superior sealing arrangement
- Sloped Bottom to allow easier removal of any liquid caught in the pit and also allows quicker detection of any small leaks as liquid build up is all on one side..
- Competitive prices compared to conventional steel pits.
- Integral bellows is seamless and will hold 45 litre (on 24" pit) of liquid before possibility of leaks.

COMPETITORS

Carter Ground Fuelling

- Fibreglass body, Cast aluminium lid
- Allows for side pipe entry as well as bottom pipe entry
- Hinged Lid (Frequent cause of leaks)
- Many models available

Dabico

- Makes a fibreglass pit
- Bottom entry and Side entry available
- Hinged Lid

Warner Lewis

Avery Hardoll

Also makes a lightweight aluminium lid. Pit Body is carbon steel. Pit has inner body welded direct to riser pipe and seal bellows near top of pit. Not a very successful design according to some users.

Competitor's Disadvantages

- Hinged lid not acceptable in some places. Difficult to seal and can limit range of movement of hydrant cart and hose when open because of height.
- Side entry is mainly specified in US to reduce depth of hydrant lines in ground. Side entry increases depth of pit if pit is to hold a certain amount of liquid before first possible leak point. Overall size if pit with side entry is much larger than bottom entry

STANDARDS

There is no worldwide standard for aviation pits. Each Oil company has there own standard and in some airports the standards are determined by Joint User groups.

USA has their own standard to which all US airports must comply. A new requirement will be introduced later in 2004 stating the amount of fluid the pit box must hold before the first possible leak point.

Air BP UK has written their own specifications

Examples of Air BP requirements:

- Suitable to contain hydrant valve or low point drain or high point vent valve
- Prevent any spillage of product from the pit entering the ground
- Prevent ground water or rain from entering the pit
- Allow for relative movement between the hydrant riser pipe and the concrete apron
- Isolate hydrant riser from loading on pit box
- Avoid contamination of product within the riser or pit valve through ingress of dirt, water or other means.
- Permit aircraft and vehicle traffic to pass directly over the pit cover.
- Riser flange must be 6" ANSI 300 RF. Holes should be drilled and tapped right through

USER REFERENCE LIST

LOCATIONS:

| • | Sydney |
|---|--------------------|
| • | Melbourne |
| • | Perth |
| • | Darwin |
| • | Townsville |
| • | Brisbane |
| • | Coolangatta |
| • | Cairns |
| • | Proserpine |
| • | Hamilton Island |
| • | Alice Springs |
| • | Various RAAF Bases |
| • | Port Moresby PNG |
| • | Cook Islands |
| • | Fiji |
| • | Tonga |
| | Vanuatu |
| | Kuwait |
| | Western Samoa |
| | Auckland |
| | Wellington |
| • | Christchurch |

There are several hundreds of varying types of Liquip hydrant pits in use around the world, fitted since early 1990's

DIAGRAMS





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LIQUIP

HLA100 ALUMINIUM HYDRANT COVER





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