

8.2.10 Oil Leakage and Pressure Testing

For all new installations and where oil leakage is suspected, the preferred means of checking is to use a pressure test. For pressure testing a foot pump, pressure gauge and Schrader valve for pipework connection will be required. When an oil leak is suspected the following procedure should be used:

1. Always make a visual inspection first and, if necessary, assess the situation for danger. Refer to the spillage and fire procedure in OFTEC Technical Book 1. If there is any major pollution implication follow the procedure in OFTEC Technical Book 1 and follow the 'Oil Care Code'.
2. If leakage is suspected but is not readily discernable, carry out a pressure test of the oil line or other equipment concerned. Never pressurise equipment above its manufacturer's specified limits.
3. To carry out a pressure test of a length of pipework firstly isolate it, and either disconnect one end or insert a fitting to enable the test equipment to be connected.
4. Especially with long lengths of pipework, any oil in the pipe should be removed if at all possible, in order to reduce loss of fuel to the minimum during testing.
- 5(a) For copper and steel domestic oil supply lines only:

Pressurise the pipework to about 1 bar and leave standing for 15 minutes. If loss of pressure is obvious, take action to expose and repair or to replace pipework. If loss of pressure is not obvious, repeat test and leave standing for 30 minutes.
- 5(b) For extended fill pipework:

Pressurise the pipework hydraulically to 7 bar or 1.5 times working pressure, whichever is the greater and leave standing for a minimum of 30 minutes.
- 5(c) For approved plastic underground supply pipes:

Refer to manufacturers' test instructions.
6. If during repair work joints are made in underground pipes, permanent access to these must be provided.