



**BERGEN
PIPE SUPPORTS**



شركة مصنع الطاقة الكامنة ذ.م.م.
KINETIC ENERGY FACTORY CO. W.L.L.

KINETIC ENERGY FACTORY CO. W.L.L.

Section N, Block 9, Lot No 10, Road No 267
Support Industries Area 3
31951 Jubail
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

☎ +966 (13) 341 8899
☎ +966 (13) 341 7799
✉ sales@keksa.com

Bergen Pipe Supports India
Bergen Pipe Supports (India) Private Ltd.
No. 720, Belerica Road
Sector 22, Sri City DTZ
Varadaiahpalem Taluk (Mandal)
Chittoor District - 517541
Andhra Pradesh,
India

☎ +91 8576 305666
☎ quotationdesk@pipesupports.com
✉ technical@pipesupports.com

KINETIC ENERGY FACTORY CO. W.L.L.

Office 31, Building 602, Road 2018
Block 320, Exhibition Avenue
Hooraa, Manama
Kingdom of Bahrain

☎ +973 172 30389
✉ sales@keksa.com

Bergen Pipe Supports USA
Bergen Pipe Supports, Inc.
225 Merrimac Street
Woburn, MA 01801
USA

☎ +1 (0)781 935 9550
☎ +1 (0)781 938 0026
✉ bpw@pipesupports.com



www.KEKSA.com



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Like all pieces of equipment, pipe supports for process, power and petrochemical industries need careful handling and maintenance if they are to do their job properly for the life of the plant.

Carefully specified, designed and built to perform a critical role in the successful working of plants, the supports accommodate and control the considerable movement of pipes which can be experienced under different operating conditions. If the supports don't do their job, then the movement may become unrestrained, or locked, and considerable damage can occur to people, piping, capital equipment and the efficient working of the plant.

The demands of Health & Safety legislation, across the world, and the issue of personal liability for injuries, caused through preventable circumstances, together place preventative maintenance at the top of the list for evidence of good management systems and practice.

Recent visits to a number of sites have found examples of supports in such terrible disrepair that they cannot possibly perform the task for which they were designed. While these are at the extreme end of the spectrum, many less obvious, but still important, issues can be spotted by the trained eye, ensuring repair and resolution before the problems become critical.

Visual Inspection

Regular visual inspection is vital, with the assessment of the supports being the key indicator of the satisfactory performance of the piping itself. Many of the problems can be seen, even from a distance. For better results, we recommend inspection at both hot and cold condition. We look for:

- Constant and variable supports with incorrect settings
- Corroded, worn and movement restricted supports
- Damaged, bent or incorrectly angled rods
- Bent and damaged pipe clamps
- Locked mechanical snubbers
- Leaking hydraulic snubbers
- Overloaded or damaged connections
- Incorrectly designed, specified or installed supports
- Buildup of debris restricting operation

- in fact anything that just 'doesn't look right' should be investigated.

Corrosion is the real destroyer of pipe supports, as the photos show. With many units operating in very harsh conditions, it is particularly important to regularly review their condition across the site to identify and isolate problem supports, or pipework corrosion and damage, before it becomes critical.

Often damage occurs during installation due to lack of care in handling. Pipe supports are carefully calibrated mechanisms and should be treated as such if they are to give long service. Damage to their structure or finish during installation can quickly affect their ability to perform.

So don't wait for expensive damage and problems to occur – let us inspect your pipe supports now!

For support with your maintenance program please contact us at:

sales@keksa.com

where you will find your readily available service team.

KEKSA offer a full visual inspection service by trained pipe supports' specialists, both for plants where its equipment is installed and also where other manufacturers' supports have been used. The inspections can be annual or at intervals to suit the operating cycle of the plant. Support performance can be matched against original design criteria or over time against previous inspection information.

Each inspection is followed by a full report which not only contains a snapshot of the condition of a plant's supports, but also an action plan highlighting priorities, recommendations and costs.

If initial surveys discover potential problems with supports or piping systems then more detailed studies can be undertaken to enable the piping systems to be restored to a safe and efficient operating condition.