

Frequently Asked Questions

PROGRESS

Q: What does “Zero Lead” mean?

A: “Zero Lead” identifies Viega products meeting the lead free requirements of California and Vermont law, effective January 1, 2010, as tested and listed against NSF- 61, Annex G

Q: What does “Lead Free” mean?

A: California AB 1953 defines “Lead Free” as materials containing not more than 0.2 percent lead when used with respect to solder and flux and not more than a weighted average of 0.25 percent when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes and pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures, providing a specified definition and formula for determining “weighted average.”

Q: What is NSF 61 Annex G (NSF 61 G)?

A: NSF 61 Annex G is an optional evaluation method for products that need to meet a 0.25% weighted average lead content standard. Certification of products to this annex shall be noted in the certification listing. Products must first comply with the full requirements of NSF/ANSI 61 in order to be deemed compliant to this section.

Q: What is a wetted surface?

A: “Wetted Surface”, refers to any and all parts of a valve or fitting that is directly in contact with potable water.

Q: Are ProPress valves and fittings “Lead Free”?

A: Yes. ProPress fittings and valves contain zero lead and are listed to NSF 61 Annex G.

Q: What materials are used to produce ProPress fittings?

A: ProPress copper fittings are constructed of:
Copper UNS – C87710
Zero Lead Bronze Alloy UNS – C87700

Q: What is the warranty for ProPress Zero Lead fittings?

A: ProPress fittings carry a 50-year warranty against defects in material and workmanship from Viega.

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Q: What is the procedure for soldering near a ProPress connection?

A: When soldering near a ProPress connection, you must remain at least three pipe diameters away from the connection. If three pipe diameters are not possible, the installer should take proper precautions to keep the ProPress connection cool while soldering. These include:

- Wrapping the connection with a cold wet rag
- Fabricating solder connections prior to installing the pressed fitting making sure the pipe has cooled before installing the fitting
- Applying “spray type” spot freezing product

Q: How would an inspector know they are looking at a good connection?

A: Good connections can be proven by performing a pressure test. This is the same procedure for solder connections.

Q: What is the lubrication used on the sealing elements?

A: The sealing elements are lubricated with an NSF-61 approved silicone oil. If it is necessary to lubricate the seals in the field, use water only. Do not use other lubricants, especially any petroleum-based lubricants, as petroleum and EPDM are incompatible.

Q: How long will the EPDM seal last?

A: When properly installed, the EPDM seal and connection will last as long as the copper pipe that joins it, 50 years. This is confirmed in NSF-61 test reports.

Q: How do I fabricate a system in tight places when using ProPress?

A: If necessary, pre-fabricate connections that are in tight places and then install.

Q: What is the warranty for ProPress?

A: ProPress fittings carry a 50-year warranty against defects in material and workmanship from Viega. RIDGID Tools carry a lifetime warranty to be free from defects in workmanship and material.

Q: Can you turn a pressed fitting without damaging the integrity of the connection?

A: Yes. The fitting can be turned, although not by hand, and will not affect the integrity of the connection. As a general rule of thumb, if the fitting is turned more than 5° it must be repressed to restore the resistance to rotational movement.

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Q: How do ProPress connections hold up to freezing temperatures?

A: Copper water systems, both soldered and pressed, should not be allowed to freeze. When water freezes it expands and will damage the pipe or the system.

Q: What level of turbulence occurs in ProPress fittings and will it cause premature wear in copper tubing?

A: The long radius of ProPress elbows reduce the turbulence typically experienced with traditional short radius fittings. Not reaming the ID of the pipe is the largest contributing factor to turbulence and premature wear of any piping system.

Q: Can a user solder the female “C” end of a ProPress fitting?

A: This is not a recommended practice and constitutes improper use of the product voiding any product warranties. The recessed groove that normally houses the EPDM seal will interfere with the capillary action that normally draws solder into and around the tubing.

Q: What are the flow rates through ProPress fittings?

A: Because of the long radius, the flow rate is better than standard short radius solder fitting. Flow rates and flow rate calculations are the same as those used for solder fitting installations. The friction loss allowance table can be found in the ProPress Installation Manual.

Q: Why use FKM or HNBR sealing elements for compressed air systems with more than 25grams per cubic foot of oil content?

A: FKM and HNBR sealing elements are better suited for high oil content due to their high resistance to hydrocarbon substances.

Q: Can both ProPress and ProPress G fittings be used in the same installation?

A: Yes. Both fittings can be used in the same installation as long as both fittings are approved for that particular application.

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Q: What should a user do if a ProPress system leaks?

A: In general, ProPress fittings only leak due to one of three reasons; the fitting was never pressed, the copper tubing was not properly inserted or the pressing jaws were not properly aligned. If the fitting was never pressed, confirm that the tubing is properly installed and proceed with pressing. If the copper tubing was not properly inserted, cut out the fitting and reinstall properly. If the pressing jaws were not properly aligned, cut out the fitting and reinstall properly. If problems persist, be sure to contact Viega immediately.

Q: Is ProPress compatible with the cleaning agents used to disinfect a new plumbing system?

A: Yes, however, it is recommended to contact your local District Manager or the Viega Technical Support Department for consultation.

Q: What should be done if a user accidentally cuts the seal with the copper tubing?

A: If the seal is damaged by inserting the copper tubing, the seal must be replaced. Please note that the tolerances of the fitting socket ensure that the tubing is inserted at the appropriate angle. If a chop saw is used to cut the tubing, debur the tubing before insertion into the fitting. This will prevent damage to the seal.

Q: Is ProPress approved for underground use?

A: Yes. ProPress can be installed underground, however, users must obtain approval from the authority having jurisdiction. Approval of this application is based upon performance testing conducted by NSF, which includes withstanding pressure, temperature, water hammer, bending forces, torsion, temperature variation, vibration and vacuum.

Q: What is the SC Feature?

A: The Smart Connect Feature provides a quick and easy way to identify unpressed connections during the pressure testing process. Unpressed connections are located by pressurizing the system with air or water. When testing with air, the pressure range is ½ psi to 85psi maximum. When testing with water, the pressure range is 15 psi to 85 psi maximum. The SC Feature is removed during the pressing process, creating a leak-proof, permanent connection. Guaranteed.

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Q: Why is the Smart Connect Feature so valuable?

A: The Smart Connect Feature provides the user with a strong peace of mind. It allows for faster testing procedures since you do not have to shut down and drain the system. Costly damages and possible insurance claims and premiums can be avoided because it identifies unpressed connections before they can become a problem. Because of the time savings, projects stay on track.

Q: If a leak is discovered, is it necessary to drain the system prior to pressing the connection?

A: No. It is not necessary to drain the system when making a repair.