

RECOMMENDED SIZE FOR COMPRESSOR INTAKE PIPING

The testing of high pressure breathing air can often result in a failure to meet the CSA standard unless procedures are followed to provide a source of fresh air for the compressor intake. The inlet source is to be provided from the cleanest ambient air supply possible. A compressor intake pipe is not a substitute for a cooling exhaust air fan.

The factors to consider when installing compressor intake piping in a building are the length of pipe, the diameter of the pipe and the number of 90-degree bends. All intake pipes must have a bug screen on the inlet end to avoid birds or bugs from entering the inlet system. Install a gooseneck end on the pipe or water trap to avoid water entry to the compressor air inlet filter.

1. Install compressors with an inlet capacity of up to 13 SCFM or less with a pipe size of 2” within a distance 50 feet, provided the maximum 90-degree bends do not exceed four. Add 1” in pipe diameter for a pipe distance beyond 50 feet for every additional 50-foot length or if the bends exceed four.
2. Install compressors with an inlet capacity from 13 to 30 SCFM with a pipe size of 3” within a distance 50 feet, provided the maximum 90-degree bends do not exceed four. Add 1” in pipe diameter for a pipe distance beyond 50 feet for every additional 50-foot length or if the bends exceed four.
3. Install compressors with an inlet capacity from 30 to 50 SCFM with a pipe size of 4” within a distance 50 feet, provided the maximum 90-degree bends do not exceed four. Add 1” in pipe diameter for a pipe distance beyond 50 feet for every additional 50-foot length or if the bends exceed four.

INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

- For ease of installation use PVC plastic pipe.
- The pipe is to be secured to the wall with proper clamps and fasteners in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations.
- The PVC plastic pipe is to be terminated three to 5 feet from the compressor intake with a stub reducer of equal size as the compressor inlet housing entrance pipe.
- Be sure to not terminate the suction pipe over the compressor cooling air exhaust causing any blockage of the cooling flow.
- Use a non-collapsing type clear PVC hose to join the compressor intake to the installed intake piping system.
- PVC requires a 24 hour cure time to allow the vapours from the glue to dissipate. Ensure at least 24 hours has past before using the intake system.

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