

## Leakage at hemp-sealed fittings

Compressed air leaks are a major cause of energy loss. Leakage occurs around the clock, even at times when no compressed air is consumed and the compressor runs in standby mode.

Hemp-sealed piping systems are particularly prone to leakage, as the hemp paste dries out over time so that more and more compressed air can escape through cracks in the material. The problem is particularly prevalent in applications with very dry air.

Leakage can best be detected by means of ultrasonic leak detectors.

Minor leaks at small fittings can be fixed using modern sealants such as Teflon tape.

### Recommendation

Hemp-sealed pipelines should be gradually replaced with modern, gap-free piping systems such as press-fitted, soldered, welded or glued pipelines. Fittings with sealing O-rings are equally suitable and have the added advantage that they can be easily opened when required.

