



General assembly instructions for flat soft gaskets **DIMERSIL, DIMERGRAF, DIMERFLON etc.**

The gasket:

1. **Inspect of gasket.** The gasket must not be damaged, it has to be clean, dry and the dimensions and the type of gasket has to comply with the corresponding flange dimensions. The storage life of the gasket has to correspond to the recommended storage life. The gasket has to comply with the operating parameters of the flange joint.

Flange surfaces and connecting material:

2. **Check the sealing surfaces of flanges.** The sealing surfaces have to be clean (with the old gasket removed), degreased, flat, parallel, non-corroded and they must not show any other marks of damage. The recommended roughness of seating depends on the type of the gasket used. In case of scratches, scores or impressions it is recommended to professionally inspect the flange or to renew it by special preparations (mechanically) so that it can again be fit for gasket installation and follow-up operation.
3. **Check connecting material.** Fastening bolts, nuts and washers have to be clean, non-corroded and they must not be otherwise damaged. Their size has to be selected properly. They have to be greased by a suitable lubricant in threads and contact friction surfaces. We recommend using of screws of the same quality. Do not use damaged bolts and / or nuts.

Gasket installation:

4. **Pay attention to gasket installation.** Correctly apply the gasket on a more suitable sealing surface between the flanges. For correct insertion and fixation of the gasket under more difficult conditions (vertical installation, badly accessible spaces, split gaskets of bigger dimensions, etc.), it is suitable to use a chloride-free adhesive agent. Protect the gasket from climatic influences during installation. When handling gaskets of bigger dimensions, we recommend carrying it in the original packaging by more people previously instructed. Pay heightened attention to the introduction and installation of the flange counterpart to avoid gasket damage.

Tightening:

5. First tighten the bolts by fingers. Then tighten them crosswise gradually in three steps to 30, 60 and 100 % of the recommended tightening torque for installation (tightening the bolts crosswise has to be observed and is generally valid when tightening 4 bolts or more). After tightening the bolts to 100 % of the tightening torque and introduction of operating values, it is recommended to check them after 24 hours and if required, the bolts should be tightened to 100 % of the tightening torque after reducing operating parameters to lower values, if possible.
6. During tightening, the maximum compression stress in the gasket must not be exceeded.
7. We do not recommend loosing the bolts and tightening them again. If the tightness of the flange joint is not fulfilled, the bolts can be retightened, but always after reducing operating parameters to lower values. In this case, the principles of correct installation have to be followed again or consult the flange joint with specialists.
8. The most suitable tightening systems are torque spanners, hydraulic, pneumatic or mechanical tightening systems (please follow the rule of valid calibration of the system used). Tightening of bolts without checking the fastening torque is not recommended, since the recommended tightening torques cannot be guaranteed. Tightening without tightening torque check is possible only for light-duty operating conditions. (i.e. low pressures, low operating temperatures of the used media, suitability of flange joint).
9. After „warming-up“ of the flange joint to the operating temperature, it is recommended to carry out more frequent checks during the first 48 hours.