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NDT Inspection & Testing Carry Out Remote Visual Inspection On Pharmaceutical Pipework

NDT Inspection & Testing have used the latest remote visual inspection (RVI) equipment to carry out inspection of stainless steel, fabricated pipework intended for use in a pharmaceutical plant. The inspection was carried out to meet ASME BPE standards, and took place both at the Ellesmere Port factory of the pipework fabricators, Laker-Vent Engineering, and on-site at the pharmaceutical company.

Laker-Vent Engineering has an international reputation for fabricating and installing high purity pipework. It employs ASME-coded welders who use the latest orbital TIG welding techniques, it boasts a state-of-the-art, fabrication clean room and its stringent quality control procedures ensure that all welding is fully traceable. Stainless steel is used throughout the pharmaceutical industry, as it doesn't rust to cause possible contamination of sensitive, high purity product. However, stainless steel can sometimes undergo a metallurgical change in the heat-affected zone during welding, resulting in a loss of some of the corrosion-resistant properties, and this is evidenced by a "bluing" of the weld.

To ensure that all welds are fit-for-purpose, in conformance with the ASME BPE codes, Laker-Vent insisted upon rigorous post-weld inspection procedures for the pharmaceutical plant pipework and these have been implemented by NDT Inspection & Testing. Using the latest Olympus Iplex remote visual inspection equipment, the Queensferry company has carried out internal borescope inspection of all welds for bluing and for weld geometry. The portable equipment allowed access to even the most complex geometry pipework fabrications and the results could be stored and tagged to aid traceability.

NDT Inspecting & Testing is one of the UK's largest independent inspection service providers and believes in working closely with customers to understand and address their needs in a reliable, quality-compliant and cost efficient fashion by using the most appropriate technology to best effect. Its field services division offers a wide range of conventional inspection technology, including remote visual inspection, supported by specialist techniques such as TOFD, remote field eddy current inspection, digital radiography and IRIS ultrasonic testing. The company also provides dedicated and qualified radiographic testing services to the aerospace sector and carries both Nadcap and UKAS accreditation at each of its three strategically located sites in the UK.

