

Pile Integrity Testing

What is Integrity Testing?

- Pile Integrity Testing is a method of ensuring a pile cast into the ground is a uniform column of concrete.
- It can be used to check if there are any horizontal cracks, inclusions or “necking” of the pile, which might mean it is too weak to support its load.
- A sound wave is sent down the pile shaft to bounce off the bottom. By timing how long this takes the length of the pile can be measured. If the sound wave bounces off any cracks, inclusions or necked areas, it shows up, and the pile is usually condemned.

How can I ensure my piles pass?

- Keep a positive pressure on the concrete at all times to avoid necking of CFA piles.
- If there is an interruption in concrete supply, redrill the previously cast 500mm of pile to have a good joint between the setting and fresh concrete.
- Don't track the rig or excavator near recently cast piles, this can crack or damage them.
- Remind the Main Contractor to take care when breaking down piles, especially if they are 450 or smaller.

Q. What is the purpose of integrity testing?

Q. What things can you do to ensure your piles pass?



Did you Know?

The integrity testing is usually done after you have left site. So if the pile fails, the rig has to come back at considerable expense to put in replacement piles.