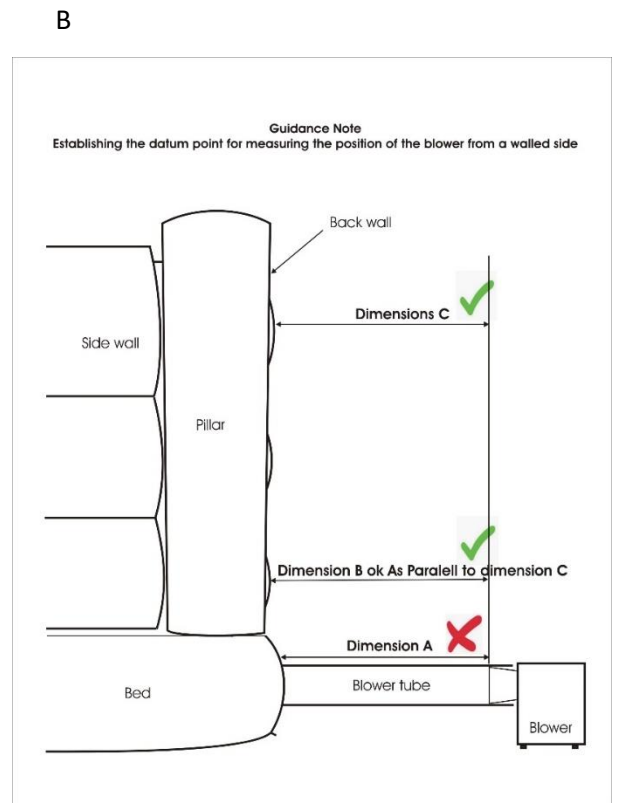
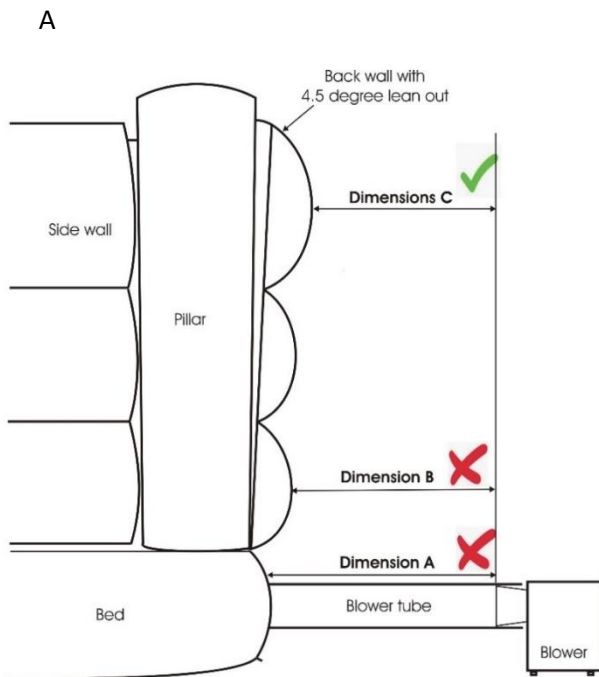


Technical Bulletin	02
Title	Blower position related to a walled side
Date	April 2022

Guidance note: Blower position related to a walled side

BS EN 14960 section 4.2.4 states ‘**The Blower shall be positioned at least 1.2m from a walled side**’

Information: This dimension was put in place as a response to an accident with serious consequences prior to the standard being completed. The accident occurred when a user fell from the back wall striking their head on the corner of the blower. It was considered that had the blower been 1.2metres away from the back wall the injury would have been reduced significantly. When units are enclosed or semi enclosed the risk of the above is often reduced or even removed. If the inspector finds this is the case, he should conduct a risk assessment and record it on the PIPA web site. See below 2 examples of the locations the dimension should be taken from.





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Notes:

On compiling this guidance note it has become clear that some inflatable do not achieve the required 1.2metre minimum distance from a walled side if inspected in the correct manner, as detailed in the examples.

In section 4.2.8 of BS EN 14960 the impact area is increased to 1.5m. This section will cause many blowers to be within this extended area and this can be dealt with in a similar manner to the below guidance but is only applicable to units sited on a hard standing.

Measurements must be taken as per this guidance note and BS EN 14960 and the findings recorded.

Guidance:

1. Should a measurement be taken that passes the inspection as detailed in both diagram A and B then the blower tube passes the PIPA inspection and may be recorded
2. If the blower tube is found to be too short when inspected and compared to diagram B then it will fail its inspection
3. If the blower tube is found to meet the requirements detailed in diagram B but not for diagram A then the unit can be said to not conform and a fail should be recorded

If a blower tube is found to fail as per guidance 3 then the following steps may be taken:

- A. In all cases the operator/owner must be informed and findings recorded. The operator/owner will be advised that an adjustment is the best solution and should be considered
- B. If the blower tube is found to bring a hard surface within 1m or less when inspected in line with diagrams A and/or B, then the unit will be recorded as failing its inspection and an alteration will be required
- C. If the blower tube is found to bring a hard surface within 1 to 1.1m when inspected in line with diagrams A and/or B, then the unit can be risk assessed for users up to 1.2m in height, this provided that there is sufficient wall height and structural integrity to contain such users
- D. If the blower tube is found to bring a hard surface within 1.1 to 1.2m when inspected in line with diagrams A and/or B, then the unit can be risk assessed for all users, this provided that there is sufficient wall height and structural integrity to contain such users
- E. If it can be demonstrated that users are so suitably contained that they cannot fall into the impact area from the inflatable, then the inspector's findings should be recorded and the blower tube element may be passed
- F. Soft cowls or covers for blowers may be used to reduce the risk caused by the blowers encroachment into the impact area around the inflatable, however these may only represent a short term form of mitigation and inspectors should be wary of new hazards that such equipment may cause
- G. Suitable risk assessment should be used in all cases where an inflation tube is found to be short. This can be a simple statement of dimensions and details.



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All initial inspections must be completed in line BS EN 14960 section 4.2.4 and with diagrams A and B in this guidance.

Guidance sections A through to G listed above will apply to initial tests for a period of six months from the release date of this guidance note. After this period they may only be used with units that have been previously tested and tagged.

This guidance and the instructions that it clarifies within BS EN 14960 will be held to apply, without exception, from the date of release of this guidance note.