



TYPES OF BELLOWS

There are two main types of bellows viz "Welded Bellows" and "Formed Bellows".

The latter is made by a relatively newer technology in which a uniform bellow is produced from a thin tube. The shaping of the metal is carried out in a collapsible die under high fluid pressure.

"Valvola" prefers Formed Bellows over the Welded Type. The following table will tell you just why :

TYPE	FORMED BELLOWS	WELDED BELLOWS
Shape of Convolution		
Durability	<p>Reliable durability because bellows are produced from a single piece of metal. Guaranteed 10,000 cycles or more life cycle.</p>	<p>Of doubtful reliability because of a number of welded joints. Plies can be affected by Heat, and thus cycle life is hard to predict</p>
Suitability for use in valve	<p>Because of wide opening between plies of bellows, bellow compression function will not be impaired by bits of foreign matter in fluid.</p>	<p>Wedge-shaped opening between plies will trap foreign matter in fluid, leading to bellow failure.</p>
Quality Control	<p>Easy to test for quality, bellow can be produced with uniform quality.</p>	<p>Very difficult to inspect welded spots for quality, hence quality difficult to control</p>