

# Flexible Reach Rods

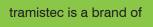
















# **Technical Information**

# Flexible Reach Rods

## **Contents**

	page
Introduction	
General	3
Functional Concept	4
Applicability of the Flexible Reach Rod	5
Concept	
Basic Composition of Flexible Reach Rod Arrangements	
Operating Units	6
Flexible Reach Rod	6
Fixing	6
Deck and Wall Penetration	7
Adapters	7
Documentation, Technical Parameters	
Technical Data	8
Layout and Mounting Instructions	8
Maintenance	8
Spare Parts	8
Enquiry / Specification Form	9
System Flexible Reach Rod	10
Drawings	
Flexible reach rod Ø 16, T0.60, section view	11
Flexible reach rod Ø 16, T0.60, reach rod end ferrules	12
Operating unit with indicator and flange, screwed version T1.22	13
Deck connection for flexible reach rod, screwed version T1.12	14
Deck penetrating sleeve for flex. reach rod, welded, splashwater-tight, T3.110	15
Deck penetrating sleeve for flexible reach rod, screwed version, T3.22	16
Inclined penetration for flexible reach rod, welded, waterproof, T3.111	17
Interconnection for flex. reach rod Ø 16 T3.111 with adapter T5.01 and rod ends	18
Handwheel adapter T5.6x	19



### Introduction

#### General

The Flexible Reach Rod is an advanced development on thebasis of the widely known stiff remote control rods, designed for remote operation of valves installed in places difficult to access or in dangerous environment.

Since its market introduction more than 15 years ago, the system has been showing its suitability and effectiveness in numerous installations.

## Advantages against conventional stiff remote control rods:

- easy system integration
- low maintenance costs
- corrosion-free stainless steel connections and adapters
- good torque transmission (in both directions)
- long-term greasing
- hermetically contained system
- easy and cost-efficient installation
- uncomplicated handling for refit

Main feature: Flexibility of applications

## **Example fields of application:**

- offshore industry
- chemical industry
- petrochemical plants
- shipbuilding
- tank construction

#### **Example installations:**

- at or inside tanks
- in places difficult to access
- in dangerous environment (fire, gases)
- for newbuilding projects
- for modification of existing systems
- medium-tight penetration of tank and vessel shells

#### **Special applications:**

The materials and parameters included in this manual refer to our standard design version in air rat normal ambient temperature. Depending on the specific application and operating conditions, various alternative materials are possible:

- entirely non-magnetic
- for special medium effects
- for special ambient temperatures







## **Functional Concept**

## Overall design:

The principal constructional element, the Reach Rod unit, consists of a flexible and torsionally stiff steel cable, which is encased in a flexible steel sleeve which is rubber coated for protection.

#### 1. Reach Rod Core

Due to its particular design, the Reach Rod core out of specifically wound steel wire is capable of transmitting high torques in both directions, and yet maintains it good flexibility.

### 2. Reach Rod Protective Coating

The outer protective rubber coating is vulcanized directly onto the flexible steel sleeve, protecting both the Reach Rod unit from external impact and dirt.

#### 3. Connections

The end connections of stainless steel are hydraulically pressed onto the Reach Rod core and therefore not removable.

The metal sleeves is connected at one end with a hydraulically press fitted end bushing, and equipped with a greasing nipple. For the purpose of local fixing, the other end piece is threaded on the outside M30x1.5 and equipped with two fixing nuts. This end piece is fitted onto the coating in a detachable manner with three set screws, allowing the insertion into penetrating ferrules etc. during installation.

In order to use the Flexible Reach Rod for the operation of a valve, it is necessary to establish a connection with the valve on one side, and to provide a possibility for the operator to actually turn it.

For this purpose, we offer a wide selection of different components and equipment, which can be adapted in a flexible manner to every thinkable specific case of application. These include for instance:

- operating units
- deck connections
- wall, bulkhead and deck penetration units
- gear boxes
- longitudinal compensation elements
- fixing elements
- adapters





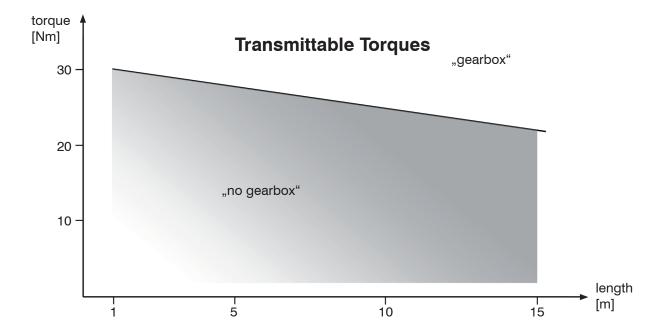
## **Applicability of the Flexible Reach Rod**

The Flexible Reach Rod is suitable for all cases of application where a (basically manual) turning movement with low driving speed is to be transmitted to a valve or the emergency handwheel of a valve actuator. Ideally, the transmission can be up to 25-30 Nm minimum.

The effective torque in a specific case depends however on various influences, such as length of the Flexible Reach Rod, number and radii of bends, the existence of penetrating units as well as the number of fixing points to avoid a twisting of the Flexible Reach Rod. In cases requiring a higher transmission of torque, this is typically achieved with the use of a gear box.

The following diagram shows the general interdependence between the maximum (directly!) transmittable torque and the effective length of the Flexible Reach Rod, under the assumption of "ideal" conditions (single Reach Rod, no bends, no external impact, installation according to these instructions).

Generally, there is no gear box required for situations underneath the dividing line, whereas above, the application requires the use of a torque-reducing gear box. The grey area shows the effective situation with respect of the various possible influences from bends as well as specific conditions and external influences.









## Concept

## **Basic Composition of Flexible Reach Rod Arrangements**

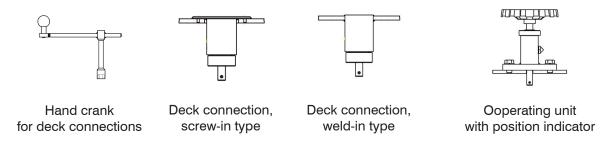
### **Operating Units**

The operating unit is installed in an easily accessible and safe place. This is the location from where the valve will be turned.

According to the specific conditions and requirements, the operating unit can be installed on the floor, at a wall, bulkhead or handrails and optionally equipped with a position indicator.

The elements for operating include different types of handwheels, cranks and lockable levers, which upon request can also be produced as detachable units.

#### Examples:



#### Flexible Reach Rod

The Flexible Reach Rod transmits the torque and is fixed and connected by means of adapters, fixing elements and various kinds of accessories. The length is individually configured according to specific customer requirements.

#### **Fixing**

For the installation of the functional elements as well as to secure the Flexible Reach Rod against twisting, we offer various kinds of fixing elements and units, which can naturally be adapted to specific conditions and requirements in a specific case.

Example:







#### **Deck and Wall Penetration**

In case the Flexible Reach Rod is planned to pass through a deck, bulkhead or wall, there are different kinds of penetrating units available.

Among other solutions, we offer a deck-penetrating connecting element which can be welded into a deck or bulkhead with an angle of up to 15°, so as to connect two Flexible Reach Rods with each other in a completely watertight way.

The corresponding applications include, in specific cases, even the use at a tank wall, or at a wall between two different safety-rated areas.

Examples:



Deck penetrating ferrule, screw-on type



Deck penetrating ferrule, weld-in type

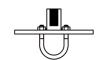


Deck penetrating element, weld-in type

### **Adapters**

In order to connect the Flexible Reach Rod with the other functional elements and accessories, different kinds of adapters are available for every specific case of application. Apart from a range of standard adapters for frequently recurring tasks, we regularly design tailor-made solutions for every specific case.

This way, adapters cannot only be designed to fit to different valve stems and shafts, but also to allow direct connection to an existing handwheel. For this purpose, basic designs are available for different diameters and number of spokes. Examples:







Adapter male / female



Adapter male / male



Adapter female / female

Since the adapters and connection elements are designed and manufactured in-house, we are able to react quickly and in a flexible way to special requirements!







## **Operating Instruction Flexible Reach Rod**

#### **Technial Data**

Ø Reach Rod core:
Ø Protective hose
Ø End bushing
Ø End pieces
16 mm
29 mm
30 mm
Minute of the min

Torsional twist[10Nm/1m]: 0,41-0,45

Handwheel ø [mm]: 175

Weight: ca. 2,5 kg/m + ca. 1 kg (End bushings)

Danding Dadius	max. Torque		
Bending Radius	up to 25 Nm	25-65 Nm	
400-600 mm	500 mm	400 mm	
601-1000 mm	600 mm	400 mm	
>1000 mm	800 mm	600 mm	

For special requirements, different core diameters are available upon request.

#### **Layout and Mounting**

- Ideally on site, measure the required length from B (point of operation) to A (valve) by means of a flexible rubber hose or rope. Determine the required wall penetrations as well as operating conditions of the installation (submerged under medium, temperature impact, etc.).
- The given minimum bending radii must be observed!
- Please observe that in case of high torques and/or distances, a gearbox has to be used (ref. chapter 1.3 Applicability of the Flexible Reach Rod).
   In case a gearbox is required, ARMATUREN-WOLFF will carry out the project-specific layout in respect of frictional loss, torques, etc.
- For manufacturing reasons as well as handling during installation, we recommend that Flexible Reach Rods over 10.0 m should be realized out of two or more sections.

#### **Maintenance**

Due to the generally low mechanical stress of the reach rod protective coating, the Flexible Reach Rod remain permanently functional in case of proper handling and use.

We recommend to perform general status check-ups and functional tests in regular intervals of maximum 2 years, including an operation of the corresponding valve.

If there are additional maintenance instructions for the valve requiring more frequent maintenance or functional testing, the shorter intervals are applicable.

During the check-up the Flexible Reach Rod should be greased by means of filling the greasing nipple with normal high-pressure grease.

Penetration elements trough bulkheads, decks and tanks (divisions in general) have to be checked regularly for potential leakages. In case of apparent leaks the contained sealing components have to be replaced.

#### **Spare Parts**

Since the Flexible Reach Rod is subject to a relatively low wear we cannot recommend that spare parts to be kept in storage permanently. Many years of experience show that the are virtually no failures that justify the storage of spares.



8



The enquiry or specification form allows an easier and more effective establishment of an offer. Please complete the form with all known parameters for your enquiry accordingly.

## Flexible Reach Rods

**Enquiry Form/Specification** 

ARMATUREN-WOLFF · Friedrich H. Wolff GmbH & Co. KG

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# 1) General



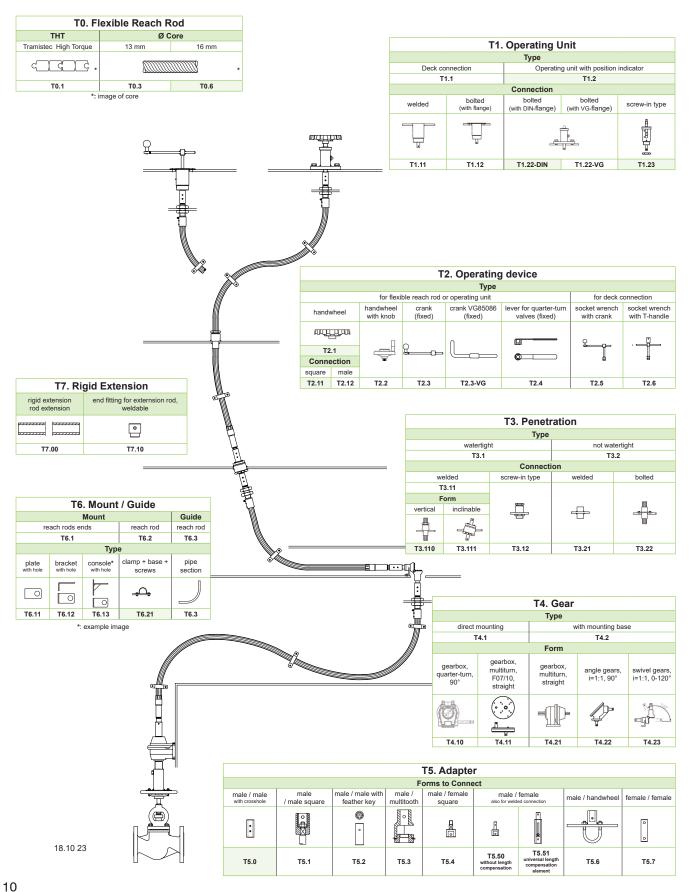
Company (shipyard, customer):			Project / hull no.:	
Address:			addtl. reference:	
			Delivery time:	
Person in charge (commercial):			addtl. remarks:	
Phone, Fax:			-	
Email:			_	
Person in charge (technical):			-	
Phone, Fax:			-	
Email:			-	
2) Specification				
Classification society			Documentation	
Flag state				
3) Technical Specification	/ Design			
Type of valve <sup>1</sup>				
Size of the valve				
Operating mode (direct oder indirect	ect)			
Distance operating unit / valve [r	n]			
Closing direction (clockwise/counter	er-clockwise)			
Torque at the valve (regular + maximum) [Nm]				
Requested minimum radius				
Deck and bulkhead penetrations	(number)			
Ambient temperature (if <-10°C or	>90°C)			
Medium impact (specific details) <sup>2</sup>				
Required fire resistance (specific	details)			
Addtl. remarks and special requ	irements:			
Sketch:				
System / valve no. / place of instal	lation			
→ AW no.				
→ reference drawing no. (if ap	plicable)			
Remarks:  1: Globe or SDNR valve, ball valve, gate valve, butterfly valve, etc.				

<sup>2</sup>: liquid medium, gas, steam, etc.

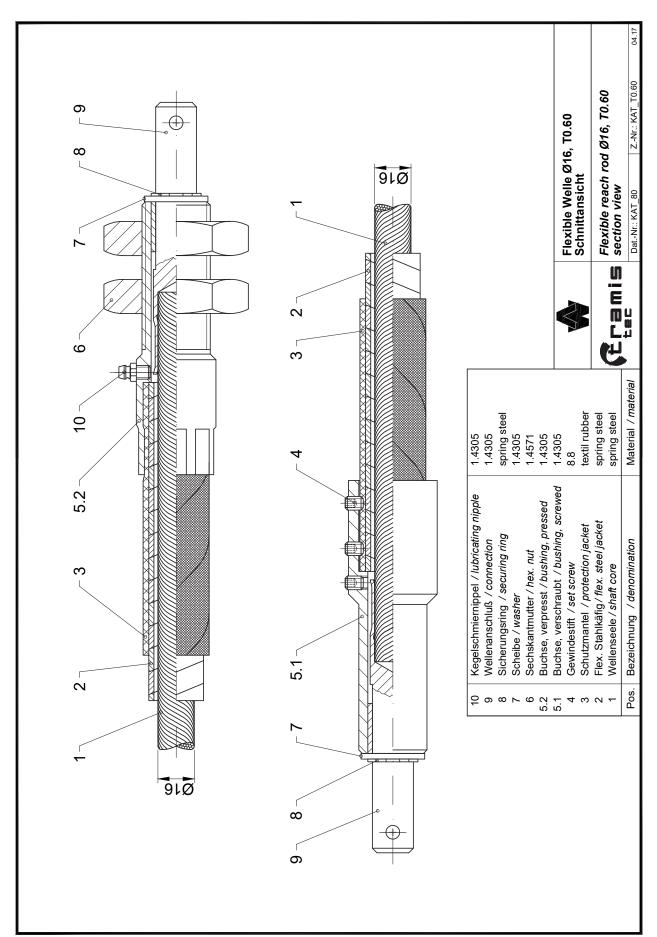
Please observe the corresponding datasheets and operating manuals



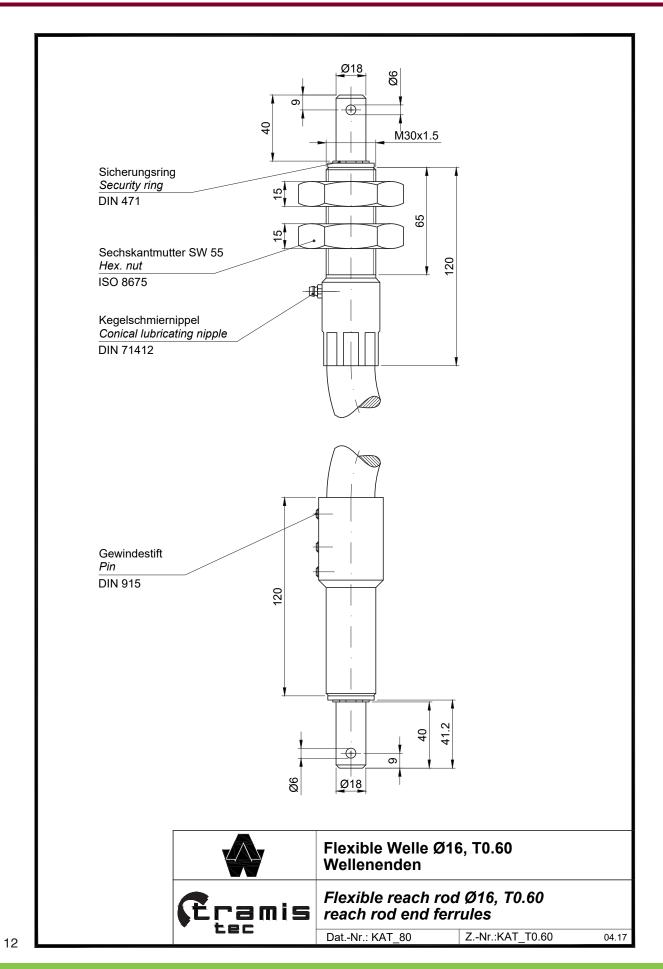
## **Terminology of Flexible Reach Rod Items**



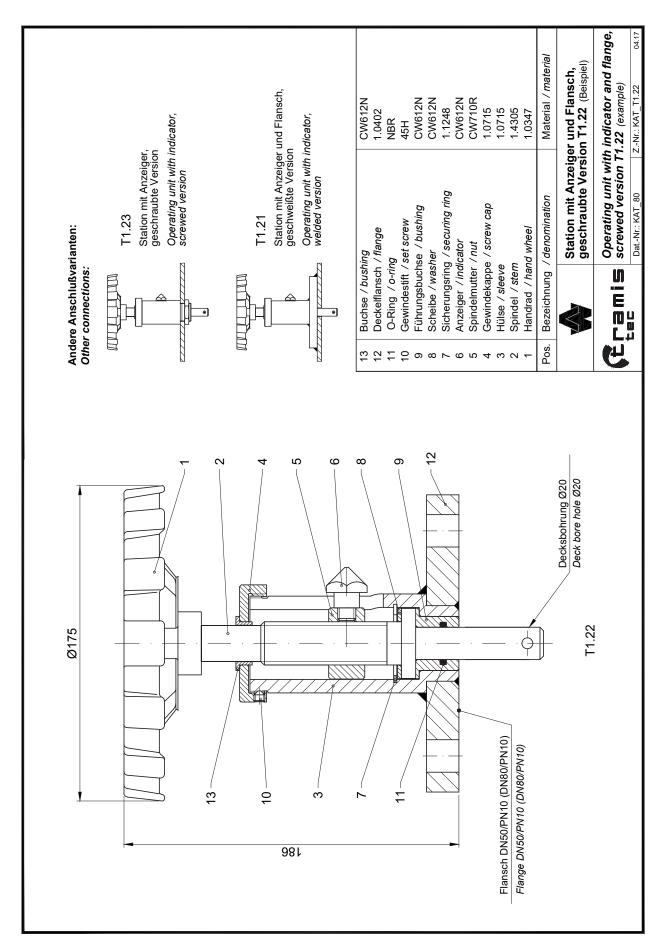




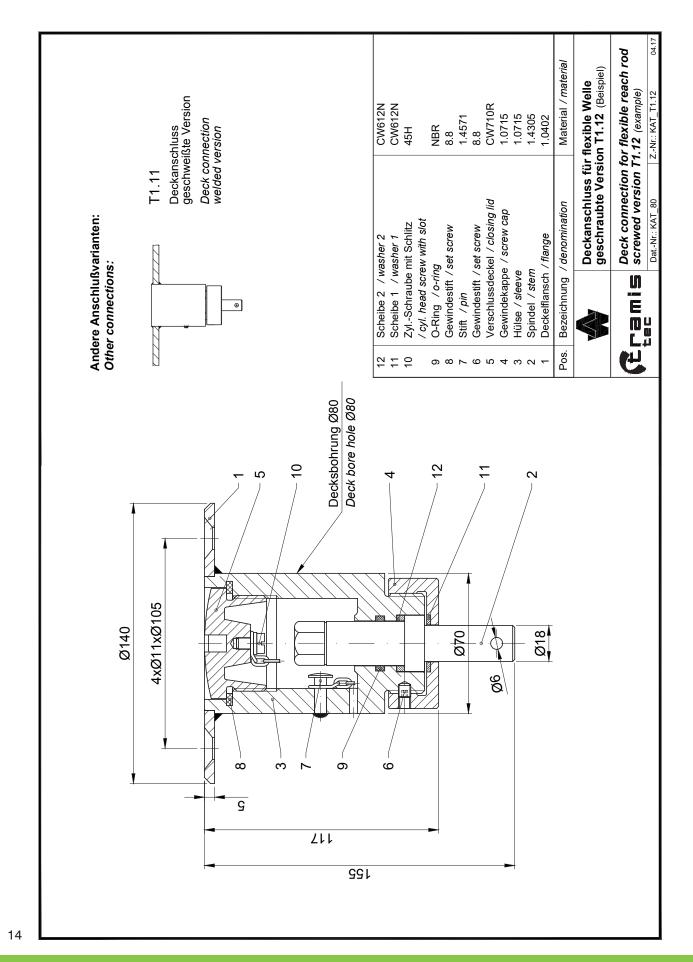






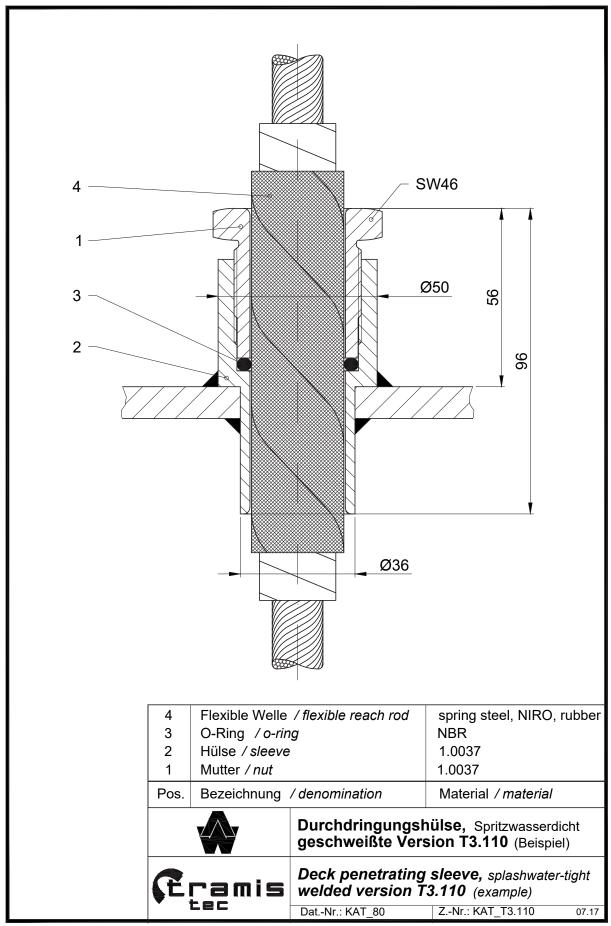








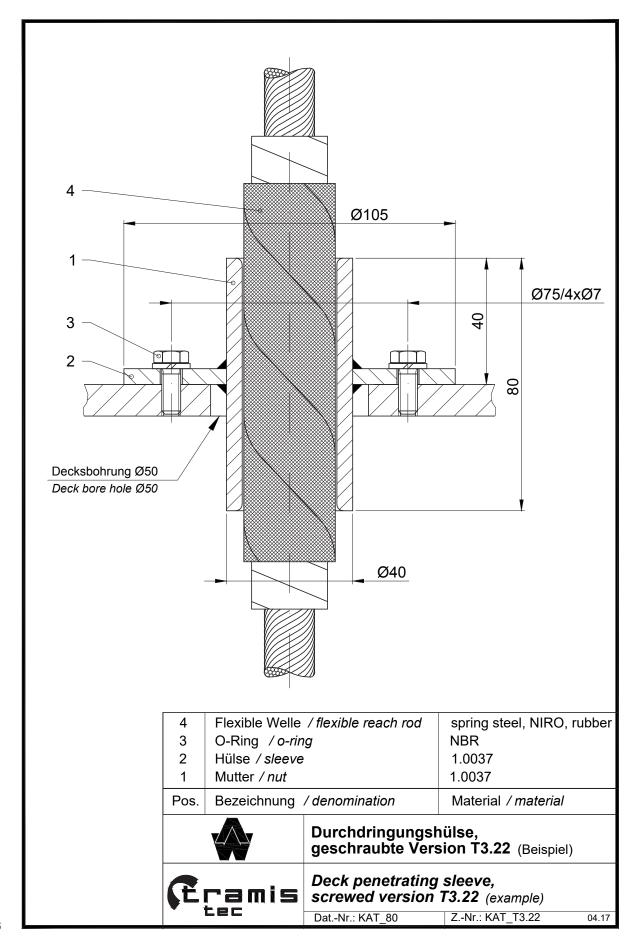




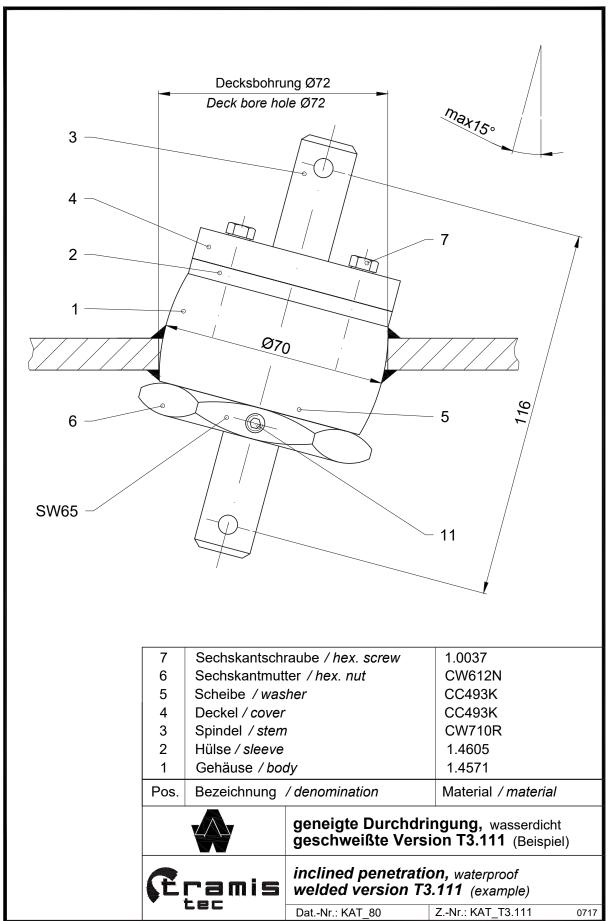




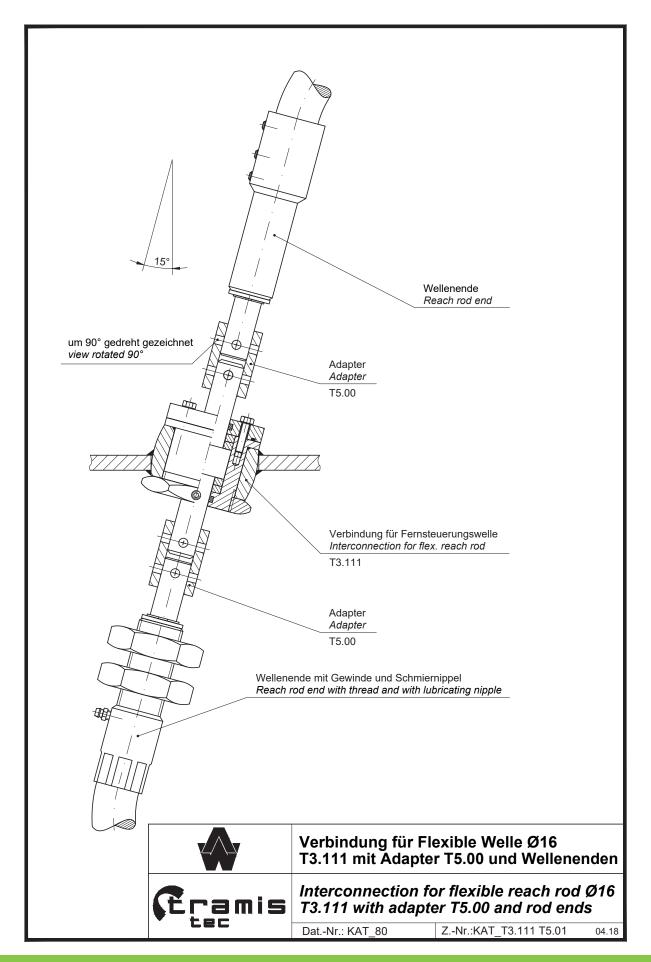






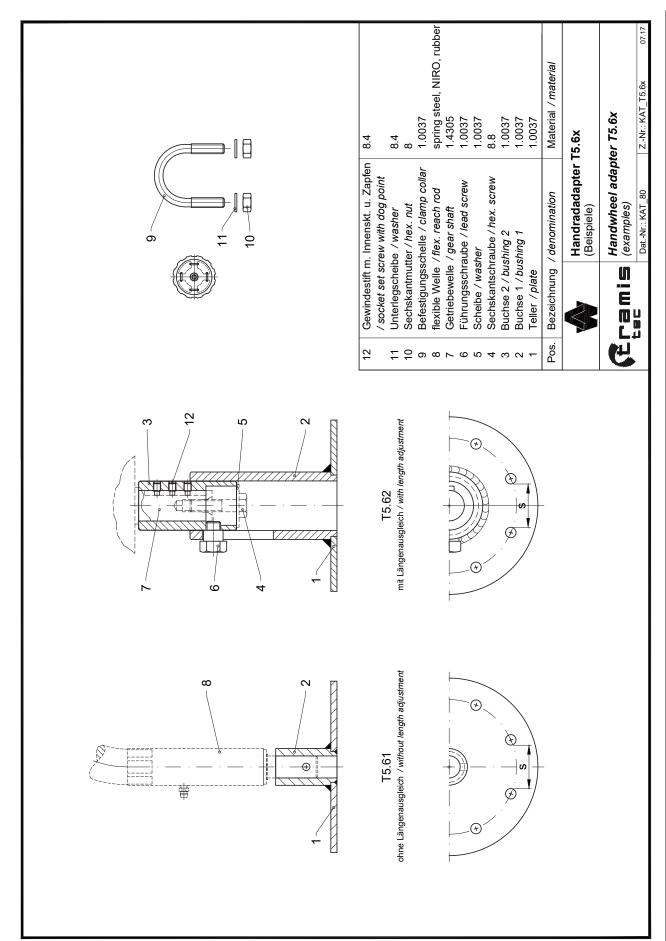


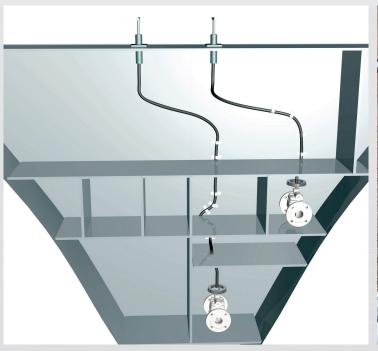


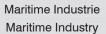














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