

**Client:** Team  
**Location:** Mayflower Cruise Terminal, Southampton  
**Date:** May 2007

### Project Specifics:

The passenger boarding walkway at the Mayflower Cruise Terminal in Southampton required to be proof load tested before being taken into service.

The load required to test the entire structure was 140 tonnes. Water Weights' engineers achieved this load using several different sized bags. Thick plywood was also used to line the sides of the walkway and prevent any potential damage to the windows and handrails.

At one point, work had to be stopped as the brow of the walkway dropped during loading. The commissioning engineers adjusted the hydraulic rams to raise the brow to the original position and the test continued. This incident highlights the advantage of using water, rather than solid weights, as the load is applied gradually and the test can be stopped at any time.

Before the test started, various points on the structure had been marked with a laser measure. Once fully loaded, these measurements were checked for deflection. Minimal deflection was found.

The work was completed within a day and a half to the satisfaction of the client.



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