Cygnus HATCH SURE
Comparison between Ultrasonic Hatch Cover Testing and the Hose Test Method

HOSE TEST - Disadvantages	ULTRASONIC TEST - Advantages
Size of leak cannot be quantified easily	The “Open Hatch” method of calibration gives a quantified percentage value to easily determine the size of the leak
Not easy to repeat test with the same results	Very repeatable
Cannot be carried out with cargo in hold	Can be carried out with cargo in place
Cannot be used in sub-zero conditions due to icing	Can be carried out in sub-zero temperatures
The visible position of water in the hold may not necessarily be the source of the leak in the rubber seal	Leaks location can be precisely detected
It does not identify areas of poor compression	Indicates areas of poor compression
Stops other operations while test is conducted	Does not interfere with other operations
In shipyards routine operations such as painting are not possible until all water is removed	Does not prevent painting
2 surveyors required for the hose testing to be to be supervised on deck	Only one surveyor required
It requires crew assistance (minimum of two crew members) and use of ship equipment, fire hose and vessel’s fire pump	Does not require crew or ships equipment
Communication problems often arise whereby the surveyor within the cargo hold is not synchronized with the person applying the water jet	No communication problems
May result in harbour pollution with cargo remnants being washed overboard	No pollution risk
Water has to be cleared away and drain channels dried before re-test	No clean up required
Total time taken to set up - then test - then clear away water – maybe more than 90 minutes (one Handysize hold)	Survey can take just 25 minutes
Can cause delays prior to loading water sensitive cargo	Major time savings