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University**

MAGAZINE ISSUE #5

EVOLVING WITH THE TIMES

SEPTEMBER 2026

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EVOLVING WITH THE TIMES

The Construction Industry Under Pressure

Across Australia, the construction and infrastructure sectors are facing unprecedented strain. Projects are becoming more complex, programs are tightening, and expectations around compliance and sustainability continue to rise. Yet, the industry is expected to deliver more with fewer resources.

Skilled labour shortages remain one of the most significant challenges. Demand for qualified trades continues to outpace the available workforce, placing pressure on experienced engineers and increasing reliance on specialists for repetitive, time-intensive tasks.

At the same time, delays in material supply and ongoing price changes—such as fluctuations in PVC and other essential inputs—are further impacting the situation. Together, these pressures are driving up costs, disrupting schedules, and increasing risk across every stage of the project.

The reality is clear: the industry is no longer constrained by demand, but by capacity and the ability to execute efficiently on site.

Smarter Solutions for a Changing Industry

While the challenges are real, they also present an opportunity to rethink how projects are delivered. The way forward lies in smarter systems, better preparation, and confidence from the start.

Labour-saving solutions and modern construction methods are transforming productivity on site. Modular support systems, wire suspension solutions, and custom-engineered fixings are helping teams reduce installation time, optimise labour, and maintain performance without compromise.

Prefabrication and cut-to-length services further support efficiency by shifting work off site, reducing hot works, and speeding up installation once materials arrive. When combined with early coordination and planning, these approaches help projects stay on schedule despite labour constraints.

Just as critical is compliance confidence from day one. Using proven, tested systems alongside early design planning reduces the risk of rework, failed inspections, and last-minute changes that impact both time and budget.

In addition, sustainability is becoming a key driver—not just in materials, but in how projects are delivered. Reducing waste, limiting transport, and selecting systems that support long-term performance are now essential to responsible construction.

As industry expectations continue to evolve, the projects that succeed will be those that move faster, plan earlier, and build smarter.

EIGHTYEIGHT O'CONNELL





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our range

siFramo

siFramo by Sikla has redefined service support structures, offering the first true alternative to welded structural frameworks for load-bearing applications. This modular, screw-together system eliminates the need for on-site welding, drilling, or bolting, reducing inefficiencies, installation hazards, and reliance on skilled labour.

Engineered for speed, flexibility, and precision, siFramo delivers high seismic performance, C4 corrosion protection, and exceptional structural integrity. Its tool-free assembly and compatibility with various installation systems make it a smart choice for mechanical/HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and fire (MEPF) services.



On a complex multi-tower residential project like Eighty Eight O'Connell, efficiency, coordination, and compliance across mechanical/HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and fire (MEPF) services were critical to keeping the build moving.

ACURA Group worked closely with on-site trades to support service installation through a combination of construction essentials and engineered systems suited to real site conditions. This included cable management, allthread, and strut, along with specialised solutions such as Snap fire collars, passive fire protection, Zip-Clip seismic wire bracing, siFramo modular framing systems, and custom-engineered brackets.

By supplying systems that could adapt to changing service layouts, ACURA helped streamline workflows and reduce rework across multiple trades. Technical support and project-specific solutions also ensured penetrations, supports, and services were installed correctly the first time, saving valuable time and resources on site.

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full article



IN-HOUSE ENGINEERING SERVICES



ACURA Group delivers project-specific solutions tailored to real site requirements. Our team develops practical engineering designs that simplify complex challenges into efficient, buildable outcomes.

Working closely with contractors, consultants, and engineers, we provide bespoke supports and systems that reduce installation time, improve coordination, and ensure compliance from the outset.

ACURA has supported major multi-storey projects with innovative solutions, including engineering drawings, custom riser brackets, and project-specific components—helping teams deliver with greater accuracy, efficiency, and confidence on site.

For custom engineering services, call **1300 750 750** or email sales@acuragroup.com.au.

CUT-TO-LENGTH SERVICES

Cut-to-length materials—including strut, allthread, pipes, and more—are tailored to your exact specifications for fast, accurate installation. This streamlined approach eliminates the need for on-site hot works, work permits, and additional paperwork, making it ideal for projects that require efficiency without compromising quality and safety.

Range of Services:

- Simple cut-to-length and labelled for easy part identification
- Cut-to-length and pre-assembled components, including pipe brackets, pipes, and more



WE ASSEMBLE. YOU INSTALL. SIMPLE.



For decades, welded fabrication has been the foundation of structural support systems across industry. It's proven and familiar, but it's now being challenged—not because it no longer works, but because the environment around it has changed.

Projects are moving faster. Designs continue to evolve deeper into delivery, compressing lead times and increasing pressure on site. At the same time, the skilled labour required for traditional fabrication, such as experienced welders, fitters, and fabricators, is becoming harder to recruit and even harder to retain.

So it's worth reflecting: *are we building this way because it's still the best option, or simply because it's the only way we know?*

At ACURA, we're challenging that mindset with modular framing and support systems built around a different philosophy: **assembly over fabrication.**

The transition from time-intensive, fixed welded structures to modular systems delivers several key benefits:

- **Speed** - Prefabricated components and on-site assembly significantly reduce lead times, with installations often completed in days rather than weeks.
- **Pre-assembly support** - Partial or full pre-assembly accelerates installation and improves consistency on site.
- **Adjustability** - Modular systems allow real-time changes without cutting, rewelding, or rework when layouts evolve.
- **Future-proofing** - Systems can be reconfigured, expanded, or relocated as facilities change, protecting long-term investment.
- **Availability** - Off-the-shelf components reduce reliance on custom fabrication and long procurement cycles.
- **Project-ready preparation** - Pre-cutting, labelling, and kitting aligned to drawings streamline installation and reduce errors.
- **Workforce resilience** - Assembly-based systems free skilled trades from repetitive tasks, allowing them to focus on higher-value work.

Rethinking How We Build

This shift isn't just about building faster—it's about building smarter. Across the projects ACURA supports, there's a clear move away from rigid, permanent structures towards adaptable systems that better match the pace and complexity of modern construction.

The real opportunity isn't simply replacing welded fabrication. It's rethinking the entire lifecycle of support systems: how they're designed, installed, and adapted over time.

At ACURA, modular isn't just a product. It's an approach to unlocking efficiency, flexibility, and long-term value.

The question is no longer *"Why modular?"*

It's *"Why not?"*

For many projects, the next step is turning that flexibility into a practical site advantage. This is where prefabrication comes in.

Bringing Modular Efficiency to Site

When space is limited, labour resources are stretched, or project timelines are tight, prefabrication offers a smarter way to deliver support systems.

Using pre-built modular solutions, teams can reduce on-site labour, streamline installation, and accelerate project delivery. The result is improved productivity, less waste, and more time spent progressing the build rather than fabricating or assembling components on site.



The ACURA Prefabrication Process

1. Briefing

We assist with planning and CAD drawings as needed, or work to your existing specifications.

2. Assembly

Modular framing systems are assembled off-site, including all sections, components, and connection points.

3. Delivery

Prefabricated solutions are delivered to site, with optional crane lifts and certified lifting arrangements coordinated through our own delivery system.

4. Installation

With assembly completed off-site, installation is faster and more efficient. If project requirements change, modular components can be reconfigured using removable and reusable thread-forming tapping screws.



ARMORGARD STORAGE

ACURA is Armorgard's exclusive partner in South Australia, Western Australia, and Northern Territory.

Together, we revolutionise site storage with cutting-edge, industry-leading solutions—creating safer, more organised, and highly efficient worksites.



Designed for active construction environments, the ACURA Site Box serves as both a delivery unit and a secure, lockable storage box. It provides a practical way to keep tools, equipment, and valuable personal items organised, protected, and easily accessible on site.



FITTINGSTOR FC5



Disorganised fittings, missing materials, and unsecured gear slow the whole job down. The Armorgard FittingStor FC5 eliminates these frustrations by giving you a durable, portable storage unit built for tough site conditions—keeping your M&E gear secure, organised, and easy to grab when you need it.

Key Benefits

- Portable design with forklift skids & heavy-duty castors
- Bi-fold doors for quick access on tight or busy sites
- Hasp & staple padlock point for key-free security
- Six welded shelves for maximum storage capacity
- Built-in handles for easy mobility
- Powder-coated finish for maximum durability
- Optional fittings bins to keep small components organised

Other FittingStor Models

- FC4
- FC6

CUTTINGSTATION SS7



A compact, mobile workstation that eliminates the need for a separate cutting room—enabling safe cutting of conduit, timber, cable tray, and pipe. Featuring improved lighting, chamfered corners to reduce noise, an expandable work area for mitre saws, and cutaway sides for longer lengths, it delivers a safer, quieter, and more versatile on-site cutting setup.

MOBILE TUFFBENCH



A combination of a heavy-duty storage cabinet and multi-purpose work surface, this innovative workbench makes any job easier while ensuring that your tools and equipment remain safe from thieves and damage.

Its ultra-tough surface is ideal for fixing chain vices, engineer vices, and other equipment, making it indispensable for M&E contractors when pipe threading and bending.

BARROBOX BB2



A tough, mobile site box built to keep your tools safe from theft and damage. Its retractable wheel system lets you shift gear between work areas without constant lifting, while the powder-coated steel body and keyed-alike 5-lever deadlocks deliver solid, everyday protection on tough worksites.

FC4



FC6



PIPERACK



An innovative wheeled storage rack designed to keep pipes, strut, and cable tray organised and easy to manoeuvre on site. With three storage levels, it safely stores long materials to help maintain a tidy, hazard-free workspace.

Fully collapsible for easy transport and compact storage, PipeRack supports loads of up to 1 tonne and can be upgraded to 2 tonnes with an optional kit.



SUPERIOR HANGING TECHNOLOGY

Traditional wire bracing and rigid support systems can be time-consuming to install, often requiring multiple components that add complexity and impact project efficiency. Zip-Clip simplifies seismic bracing with a high-tensile galvanised wire rope and zinc alloy locking system, delivering up to 81% faster installation than conventional methods. Designed to support services from any angle, it provides a flexible and compliant solution for mechanical/HVAC and electrical applications.

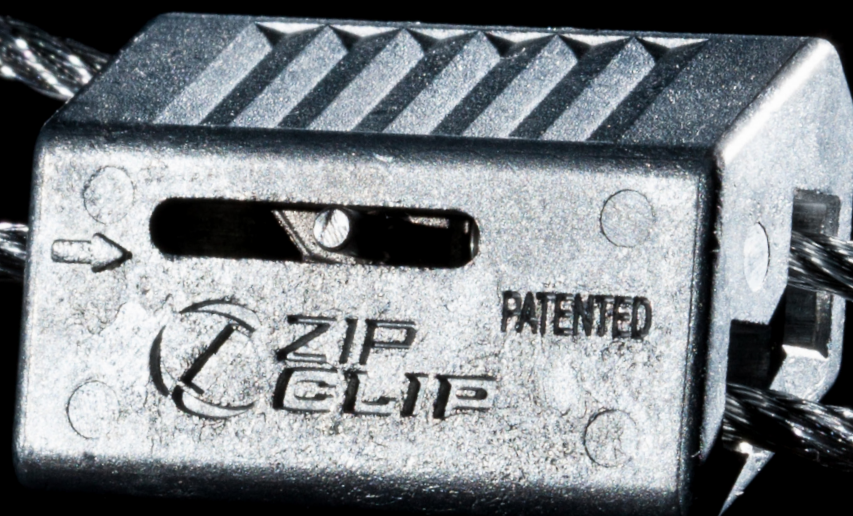
Key Benefits

- **Time & cost savings** – Saves up to 81% on install time
- **Material reduction** – Eliminates the need for strut, angle, trapeze supports, and allthread
- **Versatility** – Supports services from any angle and works around existing suspended services
- **Tailored solutions** – End fixings and wire lengths to suit every application
- **Practical installation** – Can be installed ahead of time, before duct or tray delivery
- **Improved safety** – Wires can be left hanging prior to fit-off without safety risks
- **High strength** – 5:1 safety factor for loads up to 500kg

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WATCH DEMO



ARC BOWDEN

The ultimate location.





Bowden with a view.

ACURA Group plays a key role in the delivery of the \$102 million ARC Bowden residential development, providing specialised plumbing, electrical, and HVAC solutions tailored to the demands of high-rise apartment construction.

Our contribution includes high-quality fixings, support systems, PVC pipework, lagging, and cable management products. ACURA also provides on-site technical support and training for Snap fire collar installations, alongside FyreWrap insulation to help meet compliance and fire safety requirements. To enhance site efficiency, two ACURA site boxes have been provided, giving trades organised and convenient access to frequently used components on site.

At the core of every project is our commitment to the people who bring it to life. ACURA takes pride in supporting trades on the ground through dependable product availability, technical expertise, and fast delivery to help keep projects moving efficiently and safely. By working closely with contractors and understanding their needs, we help build not only quality developments, but communities designed to stand the test of time.



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FIRE COMPLIANCE WITHOUT REWORK

Maintaining fire resistance at service penetrations is critical, and fire collars play a key role in achieving it. Too often, issues arise not because fire-stopping is overlooked, but because the wrong product is selected for the application, leading to failed inspections, rectification, and costly delays.

Compliance without rework starts with early planning and the right technical guidance. With ACURA's in-depth product knowledge, we help project teams determine the most suitable fire collar based on pipe type, penetration size, and the building element involved. By consulting ACURA early, teams can install with confidence, maintain compliance as services are added, and avoid unnecessary disruption.

To support a wide range of project requirements, ACURA offers an extensive selection of fire collars from Snap Fire Systems. Designed to maintain the fire resistance level (FRL) of walls, floors, and ceilings when penetrated by services, they contain high-quality intumescent material that rapidly expands when exposed to fire. This helps seal openings, limit the spread of heat and smoke, and protect the integrity of the surrounding structure.



Snap MS70C

Snap Multi Service Cast-In Collar (MS70C) is a compact, lightweight fire-stopping solution designed for tight cavities and precast installations. Tested across multiple pipe and floor types, the MS70C is suitable for HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and fire services. Designed for floor applications, it accommodates a wide range of service penetrations without compromising safety.

- Pair Coil
- Insulated Copper Pipe
- PVC
- PEX
- Comms Cable
- Data Cable
- Fibre Optic
- Lagged Metal Pipe
- Power Cable
- PVC Conduit
- TPS Cable



Fire Seal FRAS

Fire Seal FRAS is an acrylic, fire-rated acoustic sealant (FRAS) offering up to 4 hours of fire protection. Tested with Snap fire collars and fully compliant with AS 1530.4 and AS 4072.1, it's designed to deliver maximum compatibility and reliable performance. Available in 300ml (cartridge) and 600ml (sausage).



Retrofit Collars

The Retrofit Collar can be installed before or after pipe installation, making it suitable for floor waste and shower & stack applications. It delivers all required FRLs for framed plasterboard walls, concrete or masonry walls, and concrete slabs. Compatible with a wide range of pipe types—including HDPE, P-PVC, PVC, Rehau Raupiano, and Valsir Triplus—the Retrofit Collar adapts easily to diverse plumbing systems.



Testing

All Snap Fire Collars undergo fire testing in accordance with AS 1530.4-2014 and assessed in accordance with AS 4072.1-2005.

For detailed test reports, scan the QR code.



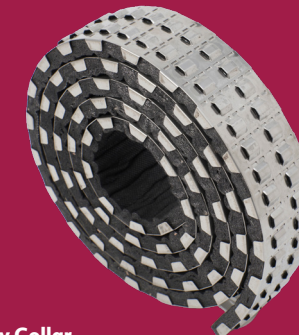
Cast-In Collars

Secured to slab formwork before concrete is poured, Cast-In Collars create a pre-formed void that allows pipes to pass through once the concrete has set. Available for floor waste and shower & stack applications in both low-top and high-top configurations to suit a wide range of construction requirements.



Cast-In Shells

Cast-In Shells are fixed to formwork before concrete is poured to create service penetrations in slabs. They provide a reliable solution for accommodating metal pipes and cables, maintaining structural integrity and seamless integration.



Utility Collar

Snap Utility Collar is a versatile solution developed for the fast-changing demands of refits, fitouts, refurbishments, and retrofit applications. Certified to industry standards, it provides compliant protection for utility penetrations in walls and floors and allows rapid on-site customisation.

Rigorously tested through 23 CSIRO tests across 81 specimens, it supports over 500 approved installation combinations for major pipe types and a wide range of building elements.



Cast-In Collar Extension Top

Each extension adds 50mm to the height of cast-in collars, providing a flexible solution for varying slab thickness requirements. These extensions are compatible with a range of models, including:

- H65S-RR
- H65FWS-RR
- H100S-RR
- H100FWS-RR
- H110S
- H150S-RR
- H150FWS-RR



Metal Deck Plates

Snap Metal Deck Plates speed up the installation of Snap cast-in fire collars on Bondek® and similar metal deck systems, while keeping spring pockets fully exposed from the underside. By creating a flat, reliable mounting surface on the metal deck profile, these plates allow fire collars to seal correctly—preventing smoke, heat, and flame from passing through gaps. Available in a range of sizes, they are compatible with 50mm, 65mm, 100mm, 110mm, and 150mm Snap cast-in fire collars.



Gas Collars

Gas Collars are metal fire collars suitable for retrofit or cast-in applications in fire-rated plasterboard, masonry, block, concrete slabs (from 150mm thick), and concrete walls, including Hebel PowerPanel walls (from 75mm thick). Developed specifically for plastic and aluminium composite gas pipes, they are tested for manufacturer-specified applications—including 22GAS32, 22GAS50, and 22GAS63—and are compatible with PX-AL-PX, Valsir PEXAL, Gaspex PX-AL-PX, Iplex PE-AL-PE, and Rehau PX-AL-PE systems.

HEAR THAT? THAT'S A PROBLEM!



Knocking, tapping, or creaking sounds in the ceiling are often early signs that vibration is transferring through structural supports, pipework, or ducting from nearby mechanical or HVAC equipment. Left unchecked, this movement can lead to noise complaints, loosened connections, and accelerated equipment wear—affecting system performance, occupant comfort, and even business reputation.

Vibratrol® is a tried, tested, and certified solution that isolates vibration at the source, limiting transmission through connected services to help maintain system integrity and long-term reliability. When incorporated early into support and restraint systems, it reduces the risk of callbacks and avoids costly rework.

The result is a quieter, more stable installation that performs as intended, giving project teams greater confidence from project handover through long-term operation.



FACTORY OF THE FUTURE

Being part of the development of Factory of the Future: Tonsley Technical College—the first mass timber commercial building in South Australia—is a significant achievement that ACURA Group takes immense pride in. This multi-storey project is designed not only to shape the future of the youth but also to support the state's transition to more sustainable methods of construction.



TONSLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Built using Cross Laminated Timber and Glue Laminated Timber, the project required specialised solutions to meet its unique demands. ACURA Group supplied mechanical/HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and passive fire protection (MEPF) products designed for timber compatibility, helping ensure structural integrity and compliance. The selected materials and fixings accommodated timber dynamics, including expansion, contraction, and load management, helping enhance the building's strength and resilience.

Additionally, ACURA Group's technical expertise supported seismic compliance and installation coordination. By working closely with the on-site project manager, we gained a deep understanding of the project's unique requirements, allowing us to deliver tailored solutions that streamlined installation, reduced labour time, and optimised costs.

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GETTING PIPE SUPPORTS RIGHT



Insulated piping plays a critical role in mechanical/HVAC and plumbing systems. Whether the objective is thermal efficiency, condensation control, or long-term system reliability, the effectiveness of insulation depends not only on the insulation material itself but also on how it interfaces with pipe supports.

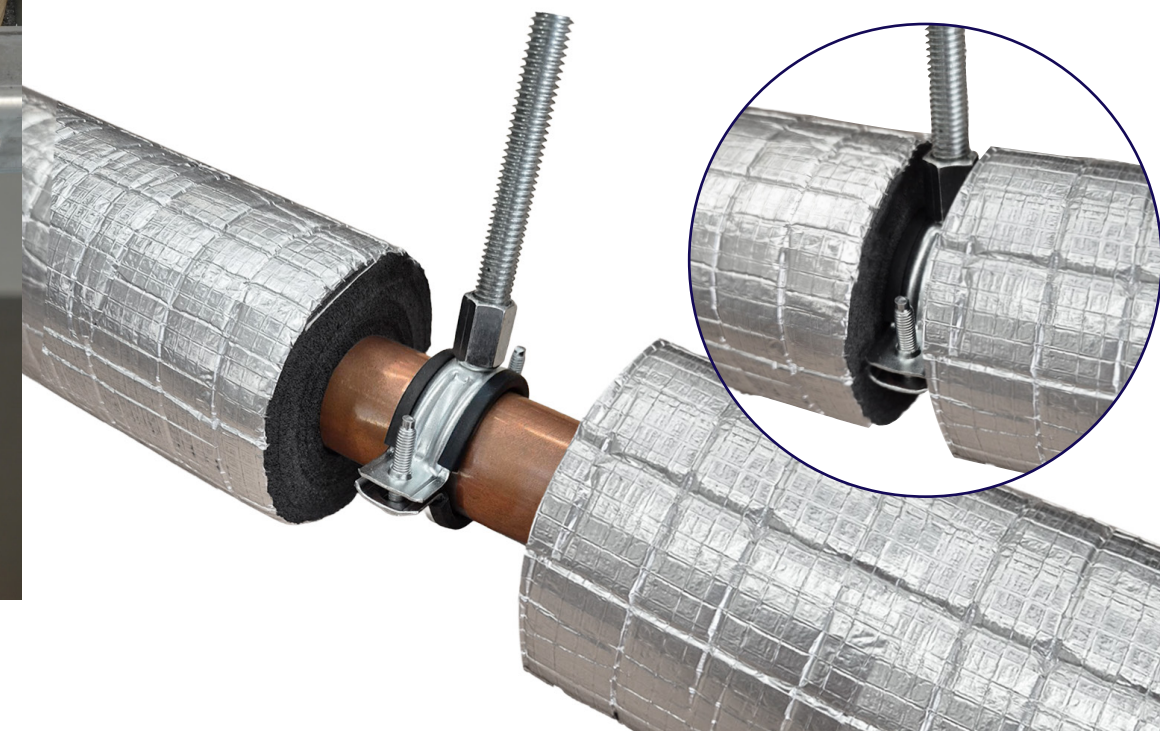
On many commercial and industrial projects, pipe supports are treated as an afterthought. This can impact system performance and shorten service life, with problems often only becoming apparent after handover.

To address these challenges, insulated piping systems commonly rely on ferrules at support locations to protect insulation and manage load interfaces effectively.

Common Issues in Insulated Piping

Direct contact between pipework and metal supports is one of the most common causes of insulation failure. When bare clamps or brackets are installed directly against the pipe, thermal bridges are created, allowing unwanted heat transfer and reducing system efficiency. In chilled water applications, this can lead to condensation, corrosion, mould growth, and an untidy finish.

Other common issues include compressed insulation at supports, compromised vapour barriers, and premature deterioration caused by loads being transferred through the insulation rather than a dedicated support.

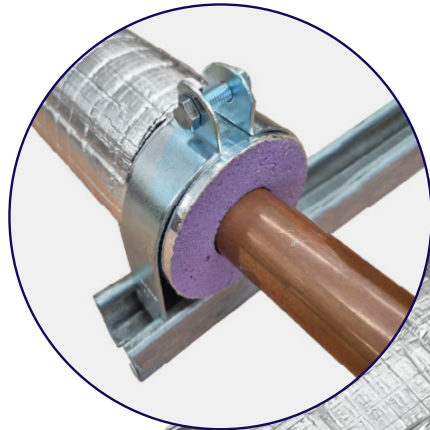


Supporting Insulated Piping with Ferrules

At pipe support locations, insulation performance depends on how pipe loads are managed and how insulation is detailed. Ferrules are installed at these support points to locally replace the insulation and form a stable interface between the pipe and the support hardware.

By providing a solid contact surface for clamps, brackets, or clips, ferrules allow pipe supports to be installed without compressing or damaging the surrounding insulation. This helps maintain insulation thickness and vapour barrier continuity while ensuring the insulation is not required to carry pipe load.

This approach supports effective load management at support points while preserving insulation performance and compliance.



Ferrule Selection

Effective insulation performance depends on selecting the correct ferrule for the application. Key considerations include operating temperature, pipe material, and insulation type.

1. Timber Ferrule

Typically manufactured from durable plywood, timber ferrules are a proven solution for HVAC chilled and heated water copper pipework. Commonly used in plantrooms and heavy pipework installations, they ensure system integrity, efficiency, and long-lasting performance.

2. Thermoloc Ferrule

Thermoloc ferrules are manufactured from lightweight cross-linked polyethylene foam, making them ideal for HVAC chilled and refrigeration pipework. Their closed-cell structure resists water absorption and chemicals, absorbs pipe movement, and enhances long-term durability.

With a sleek black finish, Thermoloc integrates seamlessly with NBR insulation used in direct expansion pipework, delivering a consistent and professional appearance. It also offers strong environmental credentials, including low VOC emissions and zero ozone-depleting substances.

3. Polyblock Ferrule

Polyblock ferrules are lightweight, economical, and manufactured from polyurethane. They provide reliable pipe clamp support while delivering effective insulation for systems operating above or below ambient temperatures.

Featuring a foil outer layer that integrates seamlessly with Thermobreak insulation, Polyblock ferrules deliver a clean, consistent finish in heated and chilled water systems. Their Green Star rating, zero VOC emissions, and fire-resistant properties make them a popular choice across a broad range of construction projects.

Insulation/Lagging Solutions

ACURA supports piping and ductwork systems with a range of insulation/lagging solutions, including:

- Thermobreak Lagging
- Thermobreak No-Clad Lagging
- Solar Lagging
- Sound Lagging
- Drain Lagging
- NBR Insulation
- FyreWrap Insulation

For guidance on selecting the right ferrule or insulation/lagging solution, call 1300 750 750 or email sales@acuragroup.com.au.

RELIABLE CABLE SUPPORTS THAT KEEP PROJECTS MOVING

When cable support supply falls short, progress stalls. Delayed materials can leave crews waiting, disrupt project sequencing, and drive up labour costs, placing pressure on both program and performance.

With ACURA, these delays are minimised. We support project continuity through high stock holdings and fast, reliable delivery. With materials available when needed, electrical teams can maintain momentum and keep installation progressing efficiently on site.

Instead of managing supply gaps, crews can stay focused on the job at hand, helping projects remain on schedule and within budget.

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see our range



SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

TECH PAC BACKPACK WINNER

VALUED AT
\$540



Congratulations to Leighton Smith, with his photo of the Curtin University Project, W.A.

Leighton Smith

Milwaukee TUMBLER WINNER

VALUED AT
\$49



Jordon Kennedy with Brad Smyth

Milwaukee TUMBLER WINNER

VALUED AT
\$49



Jamie Clay



Curtin University Project's range of products from Site Manager Leighton Smith



Liam Godfrey's site selfie in the scissor lift, installing cable tray and threaded rod

Bailey Klemasz's view from the Central Markets



ACURA

WITH YOU ON SITE

YOUR NAME, YOUR YETI!

Score a FREE personalised YETI Rambler 1L when you partner with ACURA for a full supply on your next project using Seismic Design/Solutions, Snap Fire Collars, Cable Containment, and/or Vibration Control.*

VALUED AT
\$84



*Terms and conditions apply. For new orders only, must be over \$2,500. Promotion ends 18/12/2026.



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