

Foundation Testing Just Got a Lot Smarter

Dynamic Pile Testing has been around for more than 30 years as an economical and fast alternative to static load testing of deep foundations. The dynamic test consists of installing gages (accelerometers and strain transducers) on a foundation, and connecting them to a Pile Driving Analyzer® (PDA). The gages acquire the necessary measurements while the pile is being driven (or while a non driven pile is impacted by an adequate drop weight). Test results include an estimate of the capacity of the foundation, integrity evaluation and, for driven piles, driving stresses and hammer efficiency.

It was necessary to keep track of the serial number and calibration factor of each gage in order to enter this information in the PDA. This step has been eliminated with Pile Dynamics' recent launch of the Smart Gages™. Just connect these new accelerometers and strain transducers to the PDA, and the PDA automatically knows to which channel each Smart Gage is connected, the gage number, its calibration and the date of last calibration.

The use of Smart Gages instead of conventional ones eliminates the need to bring calibration sheets to the job site, and may save precious minutes of testing time. More importantly, the possibility of human error when entering the calibration factors is completely eliminated.

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