

Orifice Metering of Natural Gas and Other Related Hydrocarbon Fluids— Concentric, Square-edged Orifice Meters

Part 1: General Equations and Uncertainty Guidelines



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Contents

	Page
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Scope	1
1.2 Organization of Standard	2
2 Normative References	2
3 Terms, Definitions, and Symbols	3
3.1 Terms and Definitions	3
3.2 Symbols	7
4 Field of Application	8
4.1 Applicable Fluids	8
4.2 Types of Meters	9
4.3 Uncertainty of Measurement	10
5 Method of Calculation	10
6 Orifice Flow Equation	10
6.1 Velocity of Approach Factor (E_v)	12
6.2 Orifice Plate Bore Diameter (d)	12
6.3 Meter Tube Internal Diameter (D)	12
7 Empirical Coefficient of Discharge	13
7.1 Regression Database	14
7.2 Empirical Coefficient of Discharge Equation for Flange-tapped Orifice Meters	15
7.3 Reynolds Number (Re_D)	16
7.4 Flow Conditions	16
7.5 Pulsating Flow	17
8 Empirical Expansion Factor (Y) for Flange-tapped Orifice Meters	19
8.1 Upstream Expansion Factor (Y_1)	20
8.2 Downstream Expansion Factor (Y_2)	21
9 In-situ Calibration	22
9.1 General	22
9.2 Meter Factor (MF)	22
10 Fluid Physical Properties	23
10.1 Viscosity (μ)	23
10.2 Density (ρ_l, ρ_g, ρ_s)	23
10.3 Isentropic Exponent (κ)	24
11 Unit Conversion Factors	24
11.1 Orifice Flow Equation	24
11.2 Reynolds Number Equation	25
11.3 Expansion Factor Equation	25
11.4 Flow Rate per Unit of Time Conversion	25
12 Practical Uncertainty Guidelines	28
12.1 General	28
12.2 Uncertainty Over a Flow Range	28
12.3 Uncertainty of Flow Rate	28
12.4 Typical Uncertainties	31
12.5 Example Uncertainty Calculations	37

Contents

Page

Annex A (informative) Discharge Coefficients for Flange-tapped Orifice Meters	40
Annex B (informative) Adjustments for Instrument Calibration and Use	41
Annex C (informative) Buckingham and Bean Empirical Expansion Factor (Y) for Flange-tapped Orifice Meters	52
Bibliography	56

Figures

1 Orifice Tapping Location	5
2 Orifice Meter Elements	9
3 Contribution to Flow Error Due to Differential Pressure Instrumentation	29
4 Empirical Coefficient of Discharge: Uncertainty at Infinite Reynolds Number	32
5 Relative Change in Uncertainty: Dependence on Reynolds Number	32
6 Practical Uncertainty Levels	34

Tables

1 Linear Coefficient of Thermal Expansion	13
2 Orifice Flow Rate Equation: Unit Conversion Factor (N_1)	26
3 Reynolds Number Equation: Unit Conversion Factor (N_2)	27
4 Empirical Expansion Factor Equation: Unit Conversion Factor (N_3)	27
5 Uncertainty Statement for Empirical Expansion Factor	33
6 Example Uncertainty Estimate for Liquid Flow Calculation	38
7 Example Uncertainty Estimate for Natural Gas Flow Calculation	39
A.1 Discharge Coefficients for Flange-tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 2-in. (50-mm) Meter [$D = 1.939$ in. (49.25 mm)]	40
A.2 Discharge Coefficients for Flange-tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 3-in. (75-mm) Meter [$D = 2.900$ in. (73.66 mm)]	41
A.3 Discharge Coefficients for Flange-tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 4-in. (100-mm) Meter [$D = 3.826$ in. (97.18 mm)]	42
A.4 Discharge Coefficients for Flange-tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 6-in. (150-mm) Meter [$D = 5.761$ in. (146.33 mm)]	43
A.5 Discharge Coefficients for Flange-tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 8-in. (200-mm) Meter [$D = 7.625$ in. (193.68 mm)]	44
A.6 Discharge Coefficients for Flange-tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 10-in. (250-mm) Meter [$D = 9.562$ in. (242.87 mm)]	45
A.7 Discharge Coefficients for Flange-tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 12-in. (300 mm) Meter [$D = 11.374$ in. (288.90 mm)]	46
A.8 Discharge Coefficients for Flange-tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 16-in. (400-mm) Meter [$D = 14.588$ in. (373.08 mm)]	47
A.9 Discharge Coefficients for Flange-tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 20-in. (500-mm) Meter [$D = 19.000$ in. (482.60 mm)]	48
A.10 Discharge Coefficients for Flange-tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 24-in. (600-mm) Meter [$D = 23.000$ in. (584.20 mm)]	49
A.11 Discharge Coefficients for Flange-tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 30-in. (750-mm) Meter [$D = 29.000$ in. (736.60 mm)]	50

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1 Introduction

1.1 Scope

This standard provides a single reference for engineering equations, uncertainty estimations, construction and installation requirements, and standardized implementation recommendations for the calculation of flow rate through concentric, square-edged, flange-tapped orifice meters. Both U.S. customary (USC), and international system of units (SI) units are included.

1.2 Organization of Standard

The standard is organized into four parts. Parts 1, 2, and 4 apply to the measurement of any Newtonian fluid in the petroleum and chemical industries. Part 3 focuses on the application of Parts 1, 2, and 4 to the measurement of natural gas.

1.2.1 Part 1—General Equations and Uncertainty Guidelines

The mass flow rate and base (or standard) volumetric flow rate equations are discussed, along with the terms required for solution of the flow equation.

The empirical equations for the coefficient of discharge and expansion factor are presented. However, the basis for the empirical equations are contained in other sections of this standard or the appropriate reference document.

In several sections of this revision of Part 1, identified errata have been changed relative to previous editions. In addition, this revision includes a change to the empirical expansion factor (Y) calculation for the flange-tapped orifice meters.

For all existing installations, the decision as to which expansion factor equation to use shall be at the discretion of the parties involved. However, the parties should be cognizant of the following:

- 1) If the calculated difference between previous revision (1990) Buckingham and Bean expansion factor equation (Annex C or API *MPMS* Ch. 14.3.3/AGA Report No. 3, Part 3, Annex G) and the new revised expansion factor equation is less than or equal to 0.25 %, then the expansion factor values produced by either expansion factor equation will be within the uncertainty of the new expansion factor database and the existence of any flow bias will be uncertain.
- 2) However, if the calculated difference between expansion factor equations exceeds 0.25 %, then a variable flow bias, which is a function of diameter ratio (β), isentropic exponent (κ), and $\Delta P/P_{f1}$ ratio (x_1), will be experienced unless the new expansion factor equation is utilized.

For the proper use of this standard, a discussion is presented on the prediction (or determination) of the fluid's properties at flowing conditions. The fluid's physical properties shall be determined by direct measurements, appropriate technical standards, or equations of state.

Uncertainty guidelines are presented for determining the possible error associated with the use of this standard for any fluid application. User-defined uncertainties for the fluid's physical properties and auxiliary (secondary) devices are required to solve the practical working formula for the estimated uncertainty.