

Manual of Petroleum Measurement Standards Chapter 5.8

Measurement of Liquid Hydrocarbons by Ultrasonic Flow Meters

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Contents

1	Scope.....	1
2	Normative References	1
3	Terms, Definitions, Acronyms, and Abbreviations	1
3.1	Terms and Definitions	1
3.2	Acronyms and Abbreviations	3
4	Principle of Measurement	3
5	Ultrasonic Flow Meter Design Requirements, Considerations, and Capabilities	3
5.1	Design	3
5.2	Installation	3
5.3	Quality Assurance.....	3
5.4	Ultrasonic Flow Meter Operational Specifications	4
5.5	Ultrasonic Transducers	5
5.6	Influences on Accuracy.....	7
5.7	Flow Fluctuations.....	8
6	Ultrasonic Flow Meter User Interface Software and Firmware.....	8
6.1	User Interface Software	8
6.2	Firmware	8
7	Ultrasonic Flow Meter Configuration Parameters and Settings	9
8	Alarms and Event Logs	9
9	Ultrasonic Flow Meter Security and Access	9
10	Auditing and Reporting Requirements	9
11	Meter Diagnostics	10
11.1	General	10
11.2	Gain	10
11.3	Signal-to-noise Ratio	10
11.4	Speed of Sound Velocity along Each Acoustic Path	10
11.5	Flow Stream Path Turbulence (Standard Deviation of Individual Path Velocities).....	11
11.6	Accepted Measurements for Each Acoustic Path	11
11.7	Path Velocity Ratio.....	12
12	Associated Electronic Liquid Measurement	12
13	Component Replacement.....	12
14	Metering System Design Criteria.....	12
14.1	General	12
14.2	Pressure Limitations.....	13
14.3	Back Pressure	14
14.4	Meter Run Configuration	15
14.5	Bidirectional Flow	15
14.6	Provisions and Alignment.....	16
14.7	Pressure, Temperature, and Density Measuring Devices	16
14.8	Sample Probes	17
14.9	Flow Conditioning.....	17
14.10	Orientation of Meters	17
14.11	Series Metering	17
14.12	Handling the Meter.....	18

15	Installation Considerations	19
15.1	General	19
15.2	Valves	19
15.3	Environmental and Process Considerations	20
16	Laboratory Flow Meter Calibration and Performance Requirements	20
16.1	General	20
16.2	Calibration Process (Typical)	22
17	Commissioning	24
17.1	System Setup	24
17.2	Hardware	25
17.3	Software	25
17.4	Pulse Scaling	25
17.5	Calibration Coefficients and Meter Factor.....	25
18	Meter Proving and Field Verification.....	26
18.1	Overview	26
18.2	Proving Accuracy and Repeatability Performance	27
18.3	Meter Factor Reproducibility	27
19	Ultrasonic Meter Measurement Uncertainty Determination	27
20	Field Maintenance	28
20.1	Ex Situ Meter Tube Cleaning and Inspection	28
20.2	In Situ Meter Tube Cleaning and Inspection	28
20.3	Evaluating Meters after Electronic Component Replacement	28
	Annex A (informative) Ultrasonic Flow Meter Measurement Principle	30
	Annex B (informative) Verification and Validation of Meter Performance	33
	Annex C (informative) Reynolds Number Performance Curve	36
	Annex D (informative) Ultrasonic Flow Measurement Uncertainty	40
	Bibliography	51
Figures		
1	Typical Meter Run with Proper Connections	14
2	Unidirectional Meter Run Configuration	15
3	Bidirectional Meter Run Configuration	15
4	Ultrasonic Flow Meter Main Components	26
A.1	Ultrasonic Flow Meter Transit Time Method	31
C.1	Flow Profile	36
C.2	Velocity Profile Shape Change with Reynolds Number.....	37
C.3	Constant Velocity Profile Shape with Constant Reynolds Number.....	38
C.4	Meter Factor vs. Flow Rate—Three Oils	38
C.5	Meter Factor vs. Reynolds Number.....	39
C.6	Meter Factor vs. Reynolds Number—Characterized	39
Tables		
1	Flow Performance Requirements for a Reynolds Number $\geq 10,000$	22
D.1	Illustrative Uncertainty for an Ultrasonic Meter with In Situ Proving	47
D.2	Illustrative Uncertainty for an Ultrasonic Meter with Laboratory Calibration.....	48

Introduction

This standard is intended to describe methods to achieve custody transfer measurement requirements, including accuracy, when an ultrasonic meter is used to measure liquid hydrocarbons. Ultrasonic flow meters are inferential meters that derive the liquid flow rate by measuring the transit times of high-frequency sound pulses. Multipath ultrasonic meters have at least two independent pairs of measuring transducers (acoustic paths). Applications include, but are not limited to, the dynamic measurement of liquid hydrocarbons flow through production facilities, transmission pipelines, storage facilities, and distribution systems and by end-use customers.

The field of application of this standard is the dynamic measurement of single-phase liquid hydrocarbons. While this document is specifically written for custody transfer measurement, other acceptable applications may include allocation measurement, check meter measurement, and leak detection measurement. This document pertains only to spool-type, multipath ultrasonic flow meters with permanently affixed acoustic transducer assemblies.

It is recognized that meters other than the types described in this document are used to meter liquid hydrocarbons. This publication does not endorse or advocate the preferential use of an ultrasonic meter, nor does it intend to restrict the development of other types of meters. Those who use other types of meters may find sections of this publication useful.

Measurement of Liquid Hydrocarbons by Ultrasonic Flow Meters

1 Scope

This document describes the application, performance, and operation of ultrasonic flow meters (UFMs) in liquid hydrocarbon service.

2 Normative References

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

API *Manual of Petroleum Measurement Standards (MPMS) Chapter 4.8, Operation of Proving Systems*

API *MPMS Chapter 21.2, Section 2—Electronic Liquid Volume Measurement Using Positive Displacement and Turbine Meters*

3 Terms, Definitions, Acronyms, and Abbreviations

3.1 Terms and Definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply. Terms of more general use can be found in the API *MPMS Ch. 1 Terms and Definitions* online database.

3.1.1

accuracy

The closeness of agreement between a measured quantity value and a true quantity value of a measurand.

3.1.2

as-left verification

An as-left verification is performed at multiple flow rate points at the calibration laboratory after the meter has been repaired and/or adjusted, against the laboratory reference standard.

3.1.3

axial flow velocity

The component of liquid flow velocity at a point in the measurement section that is parallel to the measurement section's axis and in the direction of the flow being measured.

3.1.4

calibration

A set of operations that establish, under specified conditions, the relationship between the values indicated by a measuring device and the corresponding known values indicated when using a suitable measuring standard.

3.1.5

calibration coefficients

Calibration coefficients, also known as calibration factors, are corrections applied in the meter electronics to obtain a meter output matching that of the reference standard.

3.1.6

flow conditioning element

A device for reducing swirl and velocity distortions.