



BSI Standards Publication

**Measurement of fluid flow in closed conduits
— Guidelines on the effects of flow pulsations
on flow-measurement instruments**

National foreword

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A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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**Measurement of fluid flow in closed
conduits — Guidelines on the
effects of flow pulsations on flow-
measurement instruments**

*Mesurage du débit des fluides dans les conduites fermées — Lignes
directrices relatives aux effets des pulsations d'écoulement sur les
instruments de mesure de débit*





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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 30, *Measurement of fluid flow in closed conduits*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Pressure differential devices*.

This fourth edition of ISO/TR 3313:2018 is a technical revision of ISO/TR 3313:1998, which was withdrawn in 2013.

Measurement of fluid flow in closed conduits — Guidelines on the effects of flow pulsations on flow- measurement instruments

1 Scope

This document defines pulsating flow, compares it with steady flow, indicates how it can be detected, and describes the effects it has on orifice plates, nozzles or Venturi tubes, turbine and vortex flowmeters when these devices are being used to measure fluid flow in a pipe. These particular flowmeter types feature in this document because they are amongst those types most susceptible to pulsation effects. Methods for correcting the flowmeter output signal for errors produced by these effects are described for those flowmeter types for which this is possible. When correction is not possible, measures to avoid or reduce the problem are indicated. Such measures include the installation of pulsation damping devices and/or choice of a flowmeter type which is less susceptible to pulsation effects.

This document applies to flow in which the pulsations are generated at a single source which is situated either upstream or downstream of the primary element of the flowmeter. Its applicability is restricted to conditions where the flow direction does not reverse in the measuring section but there is no restriction on the waveform of the flow pulsation. The recommendations within this document apply to both liquid and gas flows although with the latter the validity might be restricted to gas flows in which the density changes in the measuring section are small as indicated for the particular type of flowmeter under discussion.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

steady flow

flow in which parameters such as velocity, pressure, density and temperature do not vary significantly enough with time to prevent measurement to within the required uncertainty of measurement

3.2

pulsating flow

flow in which the flowrate in a measuring section is a function of time but has a constant mean value when averaged over a sufficiently long period of time, which depends on the regularity of the pulsation

Note 1 to entry: Pulsating flow can be divided into two categories:

- periodic pulsating flow;
- randomly fluctuating flow.

Note 2 to entry: For further amplification of what constitutes steady or pulsating flow see [5.1](#) and [5.2](#).