

## PRESSURE

### Extension of Orifice Flow Data

#### High Pressure Extrapolation

To calculate flow rates at pressures higher than those on the attached charts, use the following formula.

$$Q_{HP} = Q_{80} \times \frac{P_{HP} + 14.7}{94.7}$$

$Q_{HP}$  = Flow at elevated pressure (above 80 psig.).

$Q_{80}$  = Chart flow reading at 80 psig.

$P_{HP}$  = Elevated pressure in psig.

**Example:**

To calculate the flow for the No. 16 metal orifice at 150 psig supply pressure:

$$Q_{HP} = 17.9 \times \frac{150 + 14.7}{94.7} = 31.13 \text{ SCFH}$$

↑  
(from chart)

#### Low Pressure Extrapolation

To calculate flow rates at pressures lower than those on the charts, use the following formula.

$$Q_{LP} = Q_5 \sqrt{\frac{P_{LP}^2 + 29.4 P_{LP}}{13.12}}$$

$Q_{LP}$  = Flow at the low pressure (below 5 psig.)

$Q_5$  = Chart flow reading at 5 psig.

$P_{LP}$  = Low pressure in psig.

**Example:**

To calculate the flow at a supply pressure of 0.5 psig. for the No. 16 metal orifice:

$$Q_{LP} = 3.26 \sqrt{\frac{0.5^2 + 29.4(.5)}{13.12}} = 0.96 \text{ SCFH}$$

↑  
(from chart)

## TEMPERATURE EFFECTS

The flow of gases through an orifice varies inversely as the absolute temperature. As the gas temperature rises and the gas density decreases, the mass flow rate also decreases.

### Extension of Orifice Flow Data

To extend the chart data on the attached pages for air flow, use the following formula:

$$Q_T = Q_S \sqrt{\frac{T_S}{T_T}}$$

Where:

$T_S$  = standard absolute temperature °R  
(°R = 460 + °F).

$T_T$  = non standard absolute temperature °R.

$Q_S$  = flow from chart at 70°F = 530°R.

$Q_T$  = flow at a different temperature.

**Example:**

At 70°F and an inlet pressure of 25 psig the No. 60 (.060" dia.) orifice has a flow rate of 52.8 SLPM (see page 4).

Under similar conditions, the air flow rate at 300°F is:

$$Q_T = 52.8 \sqrt{\frac{530}{760}} = 44.09 \text{ SLPM}$$

## SPECIFIC GRAVITY - OTHER GASES

### Extension of Orifice Flow Data

To convert air flow from the attached chart to another gas flow.

S.G. = specific gravity of gas relative to air

$$\text{Flow (gas)} = \text{Flow (air)} / \sqrt{\text{S.G. (gas)}}$$

**Example:**

To obtain flow rate for helium when air flow is 5 SCFH:

S.G. = .138 for Helium       $\text{Flow (Helium)} = \text{Flow (air)} / \sqrt{.138}$   
 $= 5 / .371 = 13.48 \text{ SCFH}$

Gas	Specific Gravity 1	Chart Multiplier 2
Air	1.0	1.0
Argon	1.379	.852
Carbon Dioxide	1.53	.809
Helium	.138	2.68
Hydrogen	.0696	3.79
Methane	.554	1.34
Natural Gas	.61	1.28
Nitrogen	.972	1.01
Oxygen	1.1053	.95
Propane	1.56	.80

**Note 1**

Specific gravity relative to air @ 70°F, 14.7 psia

**Note 2**

To obtain the flow of gases other than air, multiply the air flow values on the charts on pages 3-5 by the chart multiplier.

## CONVERSIONS

### Flow Conversions

SCFH - standard cu. ft. per hour

SLPM - standard liters per min.

SCCM - standard cu. cm. per min.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SCFH} \times .472 &= \text{SLPM} \\ \text{SCFH} \times 472 &= \text{SCCM} \\ \text{SLPM} \times 1000 &= \text{SCCM} \end{aligned}$$

**Example:**

5 SCFH x .472 = 2.36 SLPM

### Pressure Conversions

PSIG - pounds per sq. in. gage

Kg/CM<sup>2</sup> - kilograms per sq. cm

KPA - kilo pascals

Bar - unit of pressure equal to 1 atmospheric pressure at sea level

In-H<sub>2</sub>O - pressure produced by 1" H<sub>2</sub>O

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PSIG} \times .0703 &= \text{Kg/CM}^2 \\ \text{PSIG} \times 6.895 &= \text{KPA} \\ \text{PSIG} \times .0689 &= \text{Bars} \\ \text{PSIG} \times 27.68 &= \text{In. H}_2\text{O} \end{aligned}$$

**Example:**

25 psig x 6.895 = 172.37 KPA

## OTHER ORIFICE SIZES (Not on Charts)

To calculate the required diameter of an orifice not included in the charts on pages 3-5 use the following formula.

The equations are based on data taken for a no. 60 (.060" dia.) orifice.

$$d_L = .060 \sqrt{\frac{Q_L}{Q_{60}}} \text{ in. dia.}$$

Where:

d<sub>L</sub> = diameter of the unknown orifice.

Q<sub>L</sub> = flow through the unknown orifice.

Q<sub>60</sub> = flow from chart on pages 3-5.

**Example:** (Data from page 4) At supply pressure of 50 psig and outlet at standard conditions,

Q<sub>60</sub> = 87.4 SLPM (from chart)

Let:

Q<sub>L</sub> = 600 SLPM @ 50 psig

$$d_L = .060 \sqrt{\frac{600}{87.4}} = .157 \text{ in. dia.}$$

## TEST PROCEDURES

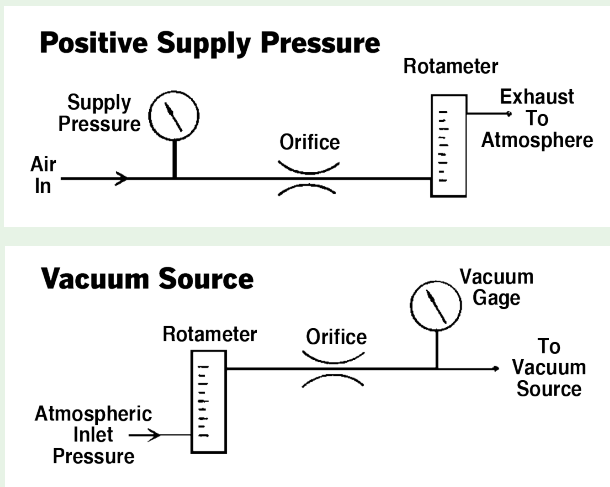
### Rotameters

Rotameters for measurement of air or other gas flows must be used for the conditions for which they are calibrated. Typically they are calibrated for the following:

- Air Flow
- Outlet Conditions – 14.7 psig @ 70°F

Rotameters can be calibrated for other gas flows or other outlet pressure conditions. Manufacturers also provide graphs or tables for correction of measured data when conditions vary from the calibration conditions.

When using rotameters calibrated for standard outlet conditions use the test procedures shown below.



### Mass Flow Meters

Mass flowmeters are generally insensitive to gas pressure or barometric pressure conditions. Consequently their location in the test circuit is not critical. Consult your instrument manufacturer for recommended test procedures.

## INSTRUMENT ACCURACY

The three variables to be measured in gas flow applications are:

- Pressure
- Temperature
- Flow Rate

The accuracy of the flow measurement of a gas through an orifice is limited by the combined accuracy of the instruments used in the measurement.

Expected accuracy of a gas flow measurement is generally in the range of 1 to 20%. 1% accuracy can only be achieved with high quality instruments.





