

Discharge Piping

Piping on the discharge side should be at least as large as the flowmeter connection. For pressure fed flowmeters on air or gas service, the piping should be as short and open as possible. This allows operation at or near atmospheric pressure and assures the accuracy of the device. This is less important on water or liquid flowmeters since the flowing medium is generally incompressible and back pressure will not affect the calibration of the instrument.

POSITION AND MOUNTING

All Visi-Float® flowmeters must be installed in a vertical position with the inlet connection at the bottom and outlet at the top.

Surface Mounting

Drill three holes in panel using dimensions shown in drawing. Holes should be large enough to accommodate #10 - 32 machine screws. If back connected model, drill two additional holes for clearance of fittings. Install mounting screws of appropriate length from rear. Mounting screws must not be longer than the panel thickness plus $\frac{3}{8}$ " (9.66 mm), or the screw will hit the plastic and may damage the meter. The screws will require additional force during the initial installation, since the insert boots are of a collapsed thread type and must be expanded into the plastic for the knurled surface to take hold. Insert boots will not have the proper 10-32 threads until the first screw has been inserted to expand the boot. Use pipe thread sealant tape or pipe thread sealant to insure against leakage.

CAUTION: Do not overtighten fittings or piping into fittings. Maximum recommended torque is 10 ft. (lbs) (13.56 newton (meter)). Hand tighten only.

In Line Mounting

Both end connected and back connected models may be installed in-line supported only by the piping. Be sure that flowmeter is in a vertical position and that piping does not create excess stress or loading on the flowmeter fittings.

OPERATION

Once all connections are complete, introduce flow as slowly as possible to avoid possible damage. With liquids, make sure all air has been purged before taking readings. Once the float has stabilized, read flow rate by sighting across the largest diameter of the float to the scale graduations on the face of the device.

The standard technique for reading a Variable Area Flowmeter is to locate the highest point of greatest diameter on the float, and then align that with the theoretical center of the scale graduation. In the event that the float is not aligned with a grad, an extrapolation of the float location must be made by the operator as to its location between the two closest grads. The following are some sample floats shown with reference to the proper location to read the float.



Variable Area Flowmeters used for gases are typically labeled with the prefix "S" or "N", which represents "Standard" for English units or "Normal" for metric units. Use of this prefix designates that the flowmeter is calibrated to operate at a specific set of conditions, and deviation from those standard conditions will require correction for the calibration to be valid. In practice, the reading taken from the flowmeter scale must be corrected back to standard conditions to be used with the scale units. The correct location to measure the actual pressure and temperature is at the exit of the flowmeter, except under vacuum applications where they should be measured at the flowmeter inlet. The equation to correct for

nonstandard operating conditions is as follows:

$$Q_2 = Q_1 \times \sqrt{\frac{P_1 \times T_2}{P_2 \times T_1}}$$

Where: Q_1 = Actual or Observed Flowmeter Reading
 Q_2 = Standard Flow Corrected for Pressure and Temperature

P_1 = Actual Pressure (14.7 psia + Gage Pressure)

P_2 = Standard Pressure (14.7 psia, which is 0 psig)

T_1 = Actual Temperature (460 R + Temp °F)

T_2 = Standard Temperature (530 R, which is 70°F)

Example: A flowmeter with a scale of 10-100 SCFH Air. The float is sitting at the 60 grad on the flowmeter scale. Actual Pressure is measured at the exit of the meter as 5 psig. Actual Temperature is measured at the exit of the meter as 85°F.

$$Q_2 = 60.0 \times \sqrt{\frac{(14.7 + 5) \times 530}{14.7 \times (460 + 85)}}$$

$Q_2 = 68.5$ SCFH Air

MAINTENANCE

The only maintenance normally required is occasional cleaning to assure proper operation and good float visibility.

Disassembly

The flowmeter can be completely disassembled by removing the connection fittings and top plug. When lifting out the float guide assembly, be careful not to lose the short pieces of plastic tubing on each end of the guide rod which serve as float stops.

Cleaning

The flowmeter body and all other parts can be cleaned by washing in a mild soap and water solution. A soft bristle bottle brush will simplify cleaning of the flow tube. Avoid benzene, acetone, carbon tetrachloride, gasoline, alkaline detergents, caustic soda, liquid soaps, (which may contain chlorinated solvents), etc., and avoid prolonged immersion.

Re-assembly

Install the lower fitting and then the float and float guide. Finally install the upper fitting and plug being certain that both ends of the float guide are properly engaged and the float is correctly oriented. A light coating of silicone stop cock grease or petroleum jelly on the "O" rings will help maintain a good seal as well as ease assembly.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional flowmeter application information, conversion curves, correction factors and other data covering the entire line of flowmeters, please request a Dwyer Instruments, Inc. full-line catalog.