



American Gas Association

AGA Report No. 3

ORIFICE METERING OF NATURAL GAS AND OTHER RELATED HYDROCARBON FLUIDS

PART 1

General Equations and Uncertainty Guidelines

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FOREWORD

AGA Report No. 3, *Orifice Metering of Natural Gas and Other Related Hydrocarbon Fluids*, consists of four parts. **This one is Part 1 – General Equations and Uncertainty Guidelines.** Other parts are:

Part 2 – *Specification and Installation Requirements*

Part 3 – *Natural Gas Applications*

Part 4 – *Background, Development, Implementation Procedure, and Subroutine Documentation for Empirical Flange-Tapped Discharge Coefficient Equation*

Each of the four parts is published separately to facilitate future changes, allow immediate use, and reduce the size of the applicable part needed by most users. Although for many applications each part can be used independently, users with natural gas applications should obtain Parts 2, 3 and 4 before implementing Part 1.

This report applies to fluids that, for all practical purposes, are considered to be clean, single phase, homogeneous, and Newtonian, measured using concentric, square-edged, flange-tapped orifice meters; and the Part 1 of the report provides equations for computing the flow through orifice meters and offers guidelines for uncertainty determination. Users of pipe tap orifice meters are referred to AGA Report No. 3, Part 3, for some equations and guidelines relevant to those meters.

This report has been developed through the cooperative efforts of many individuals from industry under the sponsorship of the American Gas Association, the American Petroleum Institute, and the Gas Processors Association, with contributions from the Chemical Manufacturers Association, the Canadian Gas Association, the European Community, Norway, Japan and others.

It may become necessary to make revisions to this document in the future. Whenever any revisions are advisable, recommendations should be forwarded to the Operations and Engineering Section, **American Gas Association**, 400 N. Capitol Street, NW, 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20001, U.S.A. A form has been included at the end of this report for that purpose.

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CONTENTS

	Page
1.1 Introduction	1
1.1.1 Scope	1
1.1.2 Organization of Standard	1
1.1.3 Referenced Publications	2
1.2 Field of Application	2
1.2.1 Applicable Fluids	2
1.2.2 Types of Meters	2
1.2.3 Uncertainty of Measurement	3
1.3 Method of Calculation	3
1.4 Symbols	4
1.5 Definitions	5
1.5.1 Primary Element	5
1.5.2 Pressure Measurement	6
1.5.3 Temperature Measurement	8
1.5.4 Flow Rate Determination	8
1.5.5 Fluid Physical Properties	8
1.5.6 Base Conditions	9
1.5.7 Sensitivity Coefficient	9
1.5.8 Meter Factor	9
1.6 Orifice Flow Equation	9
1.6.1 Velocity of Approach Factor	11
1.6.2 Orifice Plate Bore Diameter	11
1.6.3 Meter Tube Internal Diameter	11
1.7 Empirical Coefficient of Discharge	12
1.7.1 Regression Data Base	12
1.7.2 Empirical Coefficient of Discharge Equation for Flange-Tapped Orifice Meters	13
1.7.3 Reynolds Number	14
1.7.4 Flow Conditions	15
1.7.5 Pulsating Flow	15
1.8 Empirical Expansion Factor for Flange-Tapped Orifice Meters	16
1.8.1 Upstream Expansion Factor	17
1.8.2 Downstream Expansion Factor	18
1.9 In-Situ Calibration	19
1.9.1 General	19
1.9.2 Meter Correction Factor	19
1.10 Fluid Physical Properties	20
1.10.1 Viscosity	20
1.10.2 Density	20
1.10.3 Isentropic Exponent	21
1.11 Unit Conversion Factors	21
1.11.1 Orifice Flow Equation	21
1.11.2 Reynolds Number Equation	21
1.11.3 Expansion Factor Equation	22
1.11.4 Flow Rate per Unit of Time Conversion	22

	Page
1.12 Practical Uncertainty Guidelines	23
1.12.1 General	24
1.12.2 Uncertainty Over a Flow Range	24
1.12.3 Uncertainty of Flow Rate	24
1.12.4 Typical Uncertainties	26
1.12.5 Example Uncertainty Calculations	31
APPENDIX 1-A—REFERENCES	35
APPENDIX 1-B—DISCHARGE COEFFICIENTS FOR FLANGE-TAPPED ORIFICE METERS	37
APPENDIX 1-C—ADJUSTMENTS FOR INSTRUMENT CALIBRATION AND USE	51
Figures	
1-1—Orifice Meter	3
1-2—Orifice Tapping Location	7
1-3—Contribution to Flow Error due to Differential Pressure Instrumentation ..	25
1-4—Empirical Coefficient of Discharge: Uncertainty at Infinite Reynolds Number	27
1-5—Relative Change in Uncertainty: Dependence on Reynolds Number	27
1-6—Practical Uncertainty Levels	29
Tables	
1-1—Linear Coefficient of Thermal Expansion	11
1-2—Orifice Flow Rate Equation: Unit Conversion Factor	22
1-3—Reynolds Number Equation: Unit Conversion Factor	23
1-4—Empirical Expansion Factor Equation: Unit Conversion Factor	23
1-5—Uncertainty Statement for Empirical Expansion Factor	28
1-6—Example Uncertainty Estimate for Liquid Flow Calculation	32
1-7—Example Uncertainty Estimate for Natural Gas Flow Calculation	33
1-B-1—Discharge Coefficients for Flange-Tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 2-Inch (50-Millimeter) Meter	39
1-B-2—Discharge Coefficients for Flange-Tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 3-Inch (75-Millimeter) Meter	40
1-B-3—Discharge Coefficients for Flange-Tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 4-Inch (100-Millimeter) Meter	41
1-B-4—Discharge Coefficients for Flange-Tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 6-Inch (150-Millimeter) Meter	42
1-B-5—Discharge Coefficients for Flange-Tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 8-Inch (200-Millimeter) Meter	43
1-B-6—Discharge Coefficients for Flange-Tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 10-Inch (250-Millimeter) Meter	44
1-B-7—Discharge Coefficients for Flange-Tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 12-Inch (300-Millimeter) Meter	45
1-B-8—Discharge Coefficients for Flange-Tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 16-Inch (400-Millimeter) Meter	46
1-B-9—Discharge Coefficients for Flange-Tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 20-Inch (500-Millimeter) Meter	47
1-B-10—Discharge Coefficients for Flange-Tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 24-Inch (600-Millimeter) Meter	48
1-B-11—Discharge Coefficients for Flange-Tapped Orifice Meters: Nominal 30-Inch (750-Millimeter) Meter	49

PART 1 –GENERAL EQUATIONS AND UNCERTAINTY GUIDELINES

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 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. U.S. customary [Inch-Pound (IP)] and International System of Units (SI) are included.

1.1.2 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.

1.1.2.1 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 bases for the empirical equations are contained in other sections of this standard or the appropriate reference document.

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.

1.1.2.2 Part 2 – Specification and Installation Requirements

Specifications are presented for orifice meters, in particular, orifice plates, orifice plate holders, sensing taps, meter tubes, and flow conditioners.

Installation requirements for orifice plates, meter tubes, thermometer wells, flow conditioners, and upstream/downstream meter tube lengths are presented.

1.1.2.3 Part 3 – Natural Gas Applications

The application of this standard to natural gas is presented, along with practical guidelines. Mass flow rate and base (or standard) volumetric flow rate methods are presented in conformance with North American industry practices.