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Basic considerations for the safety of hydrogen systems

Considérations fondamentales pour la sécurité des systèmes à l'hydrogène

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Contents

Page

Foreword ..... **vi**
Introduction ..... **vii**
1 Scope **1**
2 Normative references **1**
3 Terms and definitions **1**
4 Overview of hydrogen applications **13**
4.1 Basic hydrogen infrastructure 13
4.1.1 Categories of infrastructure 13
4.1.2 Production 13
4.1.3 Storage and transport 13
4.1.4 Hydrogen use applications 14
4.2 Typical hydrogen system components 15
4.2.1 General 15
4.2.2 Storage vessels 15
4.2.3 Fluid delivery lines, piping, joints, and seals 15
4.2.4 Flow controls 15
4.2.5 Pressure-relief systems 16
4.2.6 Detection components 16
4.2.7 Other components 16
4.2.8 Considerations for conditions external to the system 16
4.3 Hydrogen fuel 16
4.4 Environmental effects 17
5 Basic properties of hydrogen **17**
5.1 General properties 17
5.1.1 Atomic and molecular properties 17
5.1.2 Appearance and general characteristics 18
5.2 Selected thermophysical properties 18
5.2.1 General 18
5.2.2 Selected thermophysical properties of gaseous hydrogen 18
5.2.3 Selected thermophysical properties of cryogenic liquid hydrogen 18
5.3 Basic combustion properties 19
5.3.1 General remark on safety characteristics 19
5.3.2 Selected combustion properties of hydrogen 19
5.3.3 Explosions 20
5.3.4 Deflagration 20
5.3.5 Detonation 21
5.3.6 Flammability limits 21
5.3.7 Ignition energy and minimum ignition energy as applied to deflagration 22
6 Safety considerations for the use of gaseous and liquid hydrogen **23**
6.1 General 23
6.2 Hazards involved as a consequence of the properties of hydrogen 24
6.2.1 General 24
6.2.2 Gaseous hydrogen 24
6.2.3 Liquid hydrogen 24
6.3 Factors involved in combustion hazards 25
6.3.1 Aspects of combustion 25
6.3.2 Non-premixed combustion processes 25
6.3.3 Explosions 26
6.4 Factors involved in pressure hazards 26
6.4.1 General 26
6.4.2 Gaseous storage 27
6.4.3 Liquid hydrogen 27

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6.5 Factors involved in low temperature hazards 27
6.6 Factors involved in hydrogen embrittlement hazards 27
6.6.1 Hydrogen embrittlement 27
6.6.2 Hydrogen attack 28
6.7 Health hazards 28
6.7.1 Cold burns 28
6.7.2 High temperature burns 28
6.7.3 Asphyxiation 28
6.8 Team approach and education/training needed for the safe use of hydrogen 28

7 Mitigation and control of hazards and risks 28
7.1 General mitigation and control of hazards and risk 28
7.1.1 General 28
7.1.2 Lessons learned from past experience 29
7.1.3 Addressing hazards 30
7.1.4 Minimizing the severity of the consequences of hazards 30
7.2 Mitigation of design hazards and risks 31
7.2.1 Inherently safer design 31
7.2.2 Considerations in the selection of suitable construction material 31
7.2.3 Considerations for vessels and components 32
7.2.4 Prevention of overpressure 33
7.2.5 Considerations for piping, joints, and connections 33
7.2.6 Cleaning considerations 34
7.2.7 Component considerations 34
7.3 Prevention and mitigation of fire and explosion hazards and risks 35
7.3.1 General 35
7.3.2 Prevention of unwanted hydrogen/oxidizer mixtures 35
7.3.3 Ignition 36
7.3.4 Deflagration and detonation 37
7.3.5 Oxygen enrichment 37
7.4 Detection considerations 38
7.4.1 Hydrogen gas detection 38
7.4.2 Fire detection 38
7.5 Considerations for facilities 39
7.5.1 General 39
7.5.2 Locations 39
7.5.3 Exclusion areas 40
7.5.4 Protecting barricades 40
7.5.5 Safety control equipment 40
7.5.6 Disposal of hydrogen 41
7.5.7 Buildings 41
7.5.8 Ventilation 42
7.5.9 Electrical components 42
7.5.10 Alarms and warning devices 43
7.5.11 Fire protection and fire fighting 43
7.6 Considerations for operations 44
7.6.1 General 44
7.6.2 Operating procedures 44
7.6.3 Personal protective equipment 44
7.6.4 Cool-down 45
7.6.5 Transportation 45
7.6.6 Storage and transfer operations 45
7.6.7 Safety procedures 46
7.7 Recommended practices for organizations 48
7.7.1 General 48
7.7.2 Control through organizational policies and procedures 48
7.7.3 Use of approved procedures and checklists 48
7.7.4 Conduct appropriate reviews 48
7.7.5 Approved maintenance and quality control programmes 48

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7.7.6 Personnel education/training 48
7.7.7 Hazard and operability assessment 49
Annex A (informative) **Hydrogen properties** **50**
Annex B (informative) **Hydrogen combustion data** **54**
Annex C (informative) **Material data** **57**
Annex D (informative) **Other storage options** **61**
Bibliography **62**

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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).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 197, *Hydrogen technologies.*

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/TR 15916:2004), which has been technically revised.

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Introduction

The focus of this Technical Report is on the relatively new hydrogen energy applications. The intent is to provide, those unfamiliar with the technology, a basis upon which to understand the safety issues. This Technical Report concerns itself with applications that derive their utility from the chemical reactions of hydrogen and does not apply to applications based on nuclear processes.

Traditionally, hydrogen has been used extensively in the petrochemical and chemical industries and in smaller quantities in the electronics, steel-producing, glass-making, and food hydrogenation industries. In energy applications, the first significant use of hydrogen has appeared in space programmes. This is changing, given the promise that hydrogen brings as an efficient energy carrier and a fuel with minimal environmental impact. Systems are being developed that produce hydrogen using variety of energy sources and feedstocks such as sunlight, wind, biomass, hydro power and fossil fuels, for use in energy applications for home and office heating, generation of electricity and transportation.

The safe use of hydrogen as a fuel is a primary ISO goal as it seeks to facilitate the rapid emergence of these hydrogen technologies. A key element in the safe use of hydrogen is to understand its unique safety-related properties and related phenomena, and that there are acceptable engineering approaches to controlling the hazards and risks associated with the use of hydrogen. This Technical Report describes the hazards associated with the use and presence of hydrogen, discusses the properties of hydrogen relevant to safety, and provides a general discussion of approaches taken to mitigate hydrogen hazards. The aim of this Technical Report is to promote the acceptance of hydrogen technologies by providing key information to regulators and by educating people involved with hydrogen safety issues.

The development of International Standards to eliminate barriers to international trade and to simplify the arduous regulatory process by providing hydrogen-specific standards to allow implementation for rapidly emerging technologies was among the needs identified by the ISO/TC 197. This Technical Report is one of many documents that have been developed, or are in the process of being developed, by ISO. Detailed safety requirements associated with specific hydrogen applications are treated in separate International Standards. This Technical Report provides an informative reference for those separate standards as a common, consistent source of safety-related hydrogen information. This should result in a reduction in duplication and possible inconsistencies in these separate standards.

The considerations presented in this Technical Report are broad, general, and attempt to address most aspects of hydrogen safety. The degree to which these guidelines are applied will vary according to the specifics of the application (such as the conditions and quantity of hydrogen involved, and the way in which the hydrogen is used). Industrial users may find large portions of the guidelines, presented herein, applicable for their operations. It is not expected that the general public will be required to apply this degree of knowledge to safely operate a hydrogen appliance. It is anticipated that good appliance design, coupled with appropriate care in installation, will reduce the degree of safety considerations to levels that are deemed acceptable by the public for common appliances. The manufacturers of hydrogen appliances will need to consider these guidelines to tailor sufficient specific information for the operation of their appliances, in the environment in which they are to be used, and for the audience that will use them. Readers are encouraged to keep these points in mind as they consider the information presented in this Technical Report. Hydrogen has been safely used in many different applications over many years. Adherence to the principles presented in this Technical Report can lead to a continuation of the safe and sustainable use of hydrogen.

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Basic considerations for the safety of hydrogen systems

1 Scope

This Technical Report provides guidelines for the use of hydrogen in its gaseous and liquid forms as well as its storage in either of these or other forms (hydrides). It identifies the basic safety concerns, hazards and risks, and describes the properties of hydrogen that are relevant to safety. Detailed safety requirements associated with specific hydrogen applications are treated in separate International Standards.

"Hydrogen" in this paper means normal hydrogen ($^1H_2$), not deuterium ($^2H_2$) or tritium ($^3H_2$).

2 Normative references

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

ISO 11114-4, *Transportable gas cylinders — Compatibility of cylinder and valve materials with gas contents — Part 4: Test methods for selecting metallic materials resistant to hydrogen embrittlement*

ISO 11119 (all parts), *Gas cylinders — Refillable composite gas cylinders and tubes — Design, construction and testing*

ISO 14687 (all parts), *Hydrogen fuel — Product specification*

ISO 16110 (all parts), *Hydrogen generators using fuel processing technologies*

ISO 16111, *Transportable gas storage devices — Hydrogen absorbed in reversible metal hydride*

ISO 17268, *Gaseous hydrogen land vehicle refuelling connection devices*

ISO 19880-1[1)], *Gaseous hydrogen — Fueling stations — Part 1: General requirements*

ISO 19881[2)], *Gaseous hydrogen — Land and vehicle fuel tanks*

ISO 19884[3)], *Gaseous hydrogen — Cylinders and tubes for stationary storage*

ISO 22734 (all parts), *Hydrogen generators using water electrolysis process*

ISO 26142, *Hydrogen detection apparatus — Stationary applications*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1
ambient conditions
AIT
local surrounding conditions characterized by the temperature and pressure at a particular location, such as a city or facility

Note 1 to entry: See *normal temperature and pressure* (3.71).

1) Under development.

2) Under development.

3) Under development.

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3.2
annealing
heat treatment process used to soften hard steel so that it can be machined or cold-worked

3.3
arrested flame
combustion process which is stopped or flame which is put out

3.4
auto-ignition
Ignition which does not require external ignition energy because the thermal energy of the molecules alone is enough to overcome the activation threshold for combustion initiation

3.5
auto-ignition temperature
lowest temperature at which *auto-ignition* (3.4) occurs; 858 K for hydrogen

3.6
backfill
process by which a desired gas is used to replace an undesired gas in a system volume

Note 1 to entry: Typically, the undesired gas is first removed by evacuation with a vacuum pump, then the desired gas is put in.

3.7
back-flow
flow of a fluid in the direction opposite to the normal flow direction

Note 1 to entry: This term is used to describe the entry (diffusion) of atmospheric air into a hydrogen vent line.

3.8
ball valve
valve that functions with a ported sphere in a housing

Note 1 to entry: On-off flow control is achieved by rotation of the sphere 90°.

Note 2 to entry: Diverter ball valves are available for split-flow and other special applications.

3.9
blast wave
intense pressure wave set in motion by the *shock waves* (3.94) and/or hot product gases of a fast *deflagration* (3.22) or *detonation* (3.25) that impinges upon the surroundings, typically air

3.10
bourdon tube
thin-wall curved tube that is closed at one end and attached to a pressure source at the other end

Note 1 to entry: Pressure changes cause a change in the curvature of the Bourdon tube that is used to indicate the pressure in the system.

3.11
buoyancy
vertical force exerted on a body of less dense gas by the surrounding heavier static gas, typically air

3.12
catalytic converter
catalyst that is used for converting ortho-hydrogen to para-hydrogen in a liquefaction process so that the liquid hydrogen produced is mostly para-hydrogen

Note 1 to entry: Some commonly used catalysts in this conversion process are hydrous ferric oxide, chromic oxide on alumina particles, and nickel-based compounds.

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3.13
check valve
valve that operates on differential pressure and allows flow in one direction only

3.14
collimate
make parallel or line up in a straight line

3.15
combustion
reaction process by which a flammable substance is oxidized, producing hot product gases, heat, radiation, and possibly pressure waves

Note 1 to entry: An *explosion* (3.38) in the sense of this Technical Report is a combustion process.

3.16
component
any part of a complete item or system

3.17
confined space
space not normally occupied by personnel

Note 1 to entry: Confined space has limited or restricted openings for entry and exit, may lack adequate ventilation, and may contain or produce "dangerous air contamination". Therefore, it may not be safe for entry.

3.18
confinement
physical restriction, sufficient to influence the combustion process or to facilitate the accumulation of hydrogen

3.19
convection current
motion or circulation of a fluid involving the transport of mass from one location to another driven by temperature dependent density gradients

Note 1 to entry: See *natural convection* (3.68).

3.20
cryogenic
condition involving very low temperatures in the vicinity of the *normal boiling point* (3.69)

3.21
cryopumping
process that consists of cooling a surface to a temperature of less than 120 K so that gases and vapours condense on the surface

Note 1 to entry: This process, though usually undesirable in the context here, is also used as a vacuum pump.

3.22
deflagration
combustion process in which a flame or chemical reaction moves through a flammable mixture at a rate less than the speed of sound in the unburned mixture

Note 1 to entry: Fast deflagrations are characterized by velocities in the hundreds of metres per second, and their effects to not differ much from those of a *detonation* (3.25).

Note 2 to entry: Laminar deflagration waves are characterized by velocities in the several metres per second and do not cause significant over pressures in the open.

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3.23
deflagration-to-detonation-transition
DDT
event, often caused by turbulence, in which a *deflagration* (3.22) initiates a *detonation* (3.25)

3.24
deluge system
water spray system that is used to keep equipment, especially hydrogen storage vessels, cool in the event of a fire

3.25
detonation
shock stabilized combustion process resulting in a combustion phenomenon propagating faster than the speed of sound

Note 1 to entry: A detonation is an explosion, but the reverse is not true.

Note 2 to entry: The thermal energy of the reaction sustains the shock wave, and the shock wave compresses unreacted material, producing the high temperatures necessary to drive the reaction.

3.26
detonation cell
fundamental part of the mechanism for energy release within a *detonation* (3.25)

Note 1 to entry: The spatial arrangement of the shock front and acoustic waves moving behind and transverse to the shock front defines a cellular region of combustion that is observed experimentally as a "fish-scale" shaped track on sooted foils exposed to the detonation.

Note 2 to entry: The width of this diamond shape denotes the cell size, and its length can be empirically related to the formulae that can predict the energy required to directly initiate detonation and the physical dimensions of the structures that prohibit detonation.

3.27
detonation limits
maximum and minimum concentrations of a gas, vapour, mist, spray or dust, in air or oxygen, for stable *detonation* (3.25) to occur

Note 1 to entry: The limits are in reality controlled not only by the concentration of the mixture but also by the size and geometry of the environment as well as the means by which ignition occurs. There is no standard procedure for their determination.

Note 2 to entry: See *flammability limits* (3.47)

3.28
deuterium
D or ^{2}H
isotope of hydrogen having a nucleus containing one neutron and one proton

3.29
diffusion
flux of a fluid through another fluid or material due to concentration gradient

EXAMPLE The motion of hydrogen gas through air, or the movement of hydrogen gas through the wall of a rubber hose.

Note 1 to entry: The diffusion coefficient is the mass of material diffusing across a unit of area in a unit of time at a unit concentration gradient.

3.30
diluent
inert component within a gas mixture that reduces the concentration of the remaining (active) materials

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3.31
dual-fault-tolerant
system design in which the failure of two elements to perform as intended does not cause an entire system to function unpredictably or catastrophically

Note 1 to entry: The faults may be in two related areas or two areas which function completely independently, and the system should continue to function as intended.

3.32
ductility
<of a material> percentage elongation to failure or the reduction in cross-sectional area of a specimen in a simple tensile test

Note 1 to entry: Materials may make a ductile-to-brittle transition at low temperatures.

3.33
electrolyser
device that performs *electrolysis* (3.34)

3.34
electrolysis
process in which electric current is used to promote a chemical reaction

Note 1 to entry: In the case of water, an example is the separation of hydrogen from oxygen.

3.35
emergency
unintended circumstance, bearing clear and present danger to personnel or property, which requires an immediate response

3.36
emissivity
relative amount of radiant heat emitted by a surface when compared to a black body at the same temperature

Note 1 to entry: The emissivity of a hydrogen/air combustion is small compared to other familiar sources of heat, such as a wood fire.

3.37
enthalpy
thermodynamic property of a material that is equivalent to the sum of the internal energy and the product of the pressure and the volume

3.38
explosion
self-sustained combustion of a gas mixture releasing heat, and hot combustion products when the rate of reaction in a reacting mixture increases with time until either the fuel or oxidizer is consumed or nearly so

Note 1 to entry: This definition excludes pressure sources not related to chemical reactions (like burst of a pressure vessel, BLEVE, etc.).

Note 2 to entry: There is neither a standard terminology nor another generally acknowledged definition for the term “explosion”, but different sources give different definitions, some of them not even requiring that combustion takes place.

Note 3 to entry: When hydrogen and an oxidizer (air) are allowed to form a mixture prior to ignition (premixed mixture), after ignition, the ensuing chemical reaction (combustion wave) will propagate through the flammable region. The resulting combustion process releases heat. The resulting dilatation of the products, if fast enough, can cause a pressure wave to propagate from the source. See References [9] and [11] in the Bibliography for more information.

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3.39
facility
group of buildings or equipment used for specific operations at one geographic location

3.40
fail-safe
ability to sustain a failure without causing loss of equipment, injury to personnel, or loss of operating time

3.41
fatigue
gradual deterioration of a material that is subjected to repeated loading and unloading

Note 1 to entry: See *load cycle* (3.62).

3.42
fire
sustained burning of a fuel jet as manifested by any or all of the following: light, flame, heat, and smoke

3.43
fire triangle
visual concept showing the requirements for combustion depicting a fuel, an oxidizer and an ignition source as the three sides of a triangle, where combustion cannot occur if any one side is not present

3.44
flame
zone of combustion of a gas or vapour from which light and heat are emitted

Note 1 to entry: A flame may be stationary with the flammable mixture fed into the reaction zone, or a flame may propagate through the flammable mixture, as in a *deflagration* (3.22).

Note 2 to entry: Unlike hydrocarbon flames, hydrogen flames are weakly radiating. They radiate in the near UV (faint blue) and in the near IR (reddish). Only if particles are entrained into the flow from the surroundings will the flame thermally radiate producing a yellow color. Because hydrogen weakly radiate in the near UV and IR, they are often difficult to see in the daylight.

3.45
flame front
region of burning or chemical reaction (typically from fractions to several millimetres across) that separates burned and unburned regions

3.46
flammability
degree to which a material is ignitable in an oxidizing atmosphere

3.47
flammability limits
explosion limits
lower (LFL) and upper (UFL) concentration thresholds of fuel gas in a flammable mixture at a given temperature and pressure that will sustain propagation of a combustion wave

Note 1 to entry: These limits are functions of temperature, pressure, diluents, fluid dynamics, and ignition energy.

Note 2 to entry: These limits are usually expressed as percent (volume fraction of fuel gas).

Note 3 to entry: The values given in this paper (see Table B.1) are determined according to standardized procedures. The measurement of the “Explosion limits” as defined e.g. in Reference [5] in the Bibliography leads essentially to the same results as that of the “Flammability limit” in this paper, as e.g. Reference [6] in the Bibliography.

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3.48
flare flameout blow off
extinguishment of the hydrogen flame of a hydrogen flare system, resulting in unburned hydrogen being vented to the atmosphere

3.49
fuel cell
electrochemical device that converts the chemical energy of a fuel and oxidant, both externally supplied, to electrical energy and by-products, including heat

3.50
galling
damaging or breaking of the surface where two parts rub together, creating heat and wear, which in turn produce loose particles

Note 1 to entry: Galling is generally encountered when materials of identical or similar hardness are in sliding or rotating contact with each other.

Note 2 to entry: The potential for galling increases with materials of similar chemical composition and hardness.

3.51
getter
substance that takes up gas at very low pressures by a sorption process

Note 1 to entry: A primary use of a getter is to improve or maintain a vacuum in a closed system.

3.52
guideline
consensual document that originates from any one of a number of different professional organizations and provides technical information about safe practices and procedures

3.53
hardness
composite property of a material involving resistance to indentation, deformation, and/or abrasion

Note 1 to entry: It is measured as yield strength, work hardening, true tensile strength, modulus of elasticity, and other material characteristics.

3.54
hazard
potential source of harm

Note 1 to entry: The term hazard can be qualified in order to define its origin or the nature of the expected harm (e.g. electric shock hazard, crushing hazard, cutting hazard, toxic hazard, fire hazard, drowning hazard).

3.55
hydride
compound containing hydrogen and another element

Note 1 to entry: Several metal hydrides are being investigated as potential storage media for hydrogen.

3.56
hydrogen embrittlement
deleterious changes in the ductility properties of a metal that exposure to hydrogen can produce

3.57
ignite
to cause to burn or to catch fire

Note 1 to entry: The process involves the raising of a substance to its ignition point (the minimum temperature at which a substance will continue to burn without additional application of external heat).

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3.58
ignition energy
energy required to initiate a flame in a flammable mixture; function of the mixture concentration

Note 1 to entry: See also *minimum ignition energy* (3.65).

3.59
Joule-Thomson coefficient
coefficient relating the change of temperature to that of pressure in the *Joule-Thomson process* (3.60)

Note 1 to entry: If the Joule-Thomson coefficient is positive, an expanding gas will be cooled and if it is negative, the expanding gas will be heated. For hydrogen, it is negative above 200 K (inversion temperature).

3.60
Joule-Thomson process
cooling or heating that occurs when a highly compressed gas is allowed to expand in such a way the enthalpy remains constant; scientifically known as isenthalpic expansion

3.61
laminar flow
fluid particles moving along smooth paths in thin layers with one layer gliding smoothly over an adjacent layers (only a molecular interchange of momentum)

3.62
load cycle
repeated loading and unloading of a material such that it undergoes repeated stress

Note 1 to entry: See *fatigue* (3.41).

EXAMPLE Repeated pressurization and depressurization of a storage vessel.

3.63
maximum allowable working pressure
MAWP
maximum gauge pressure permissible in a storage vessel or piping system for a designated temperature

Note 1 to entry: The MAWP is the basis for the pressure setting of the pressure-relief devices protecting the vessel or piping system.

Note 2 to entry: The MAWP may also be the maximum allowable operating pressure rating of pressure vessels manufactured in accordance with national pressure vessel regulations and standards.

Note 3 to entry: This pressure may be called by different names depending on the system and the source of the regulation.

3.64
metal fracture
straining of a metallic material to the extent that it breaks or fails in a ductile-to-brittle behaviour

3.65
minimum ignition energy
MIE
while the *ignition energy* (3.58) of a given combination of gases depends on the concentration of the mixture, the minimum ignition energy is the absolute minimum of this function

Note 1 to entry: The concentration at which the MIE is found is always more or less close to the stoichiometric concentration, but usually deviates systematically from it.

3.66
molecular mass
total mass of the atoms within a molecule

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3.67
most easily ignitable mixture
MEIM
mixture of a fuel gas and an oxidizer which has the lowest ignition energy [see *minimum ignition energy* (3.65)] as function of the concentration

3.68
natural convection
motion of fluid particles caused by the buoyancy forces that arise when a hot body creates temperature and density gradients within a fluid

3.69
normal boiling point
NBP
temperature at which a liquid boils at normal atmospheric pressure (101,325 kPa absolute)

3.70
normal hydrogen
75 % ortho and 25 % para hydrogen

3.71
normal temperature and pressure
NTP
temperature of 293,15 K and absolute pressure of 101,325 kPa

Note 1 to entry: Always check the source of the data to make sure that it does not consider 273,15 K or 288,15 K as "normal".

3.72
NOx compound
any compound of nitrogen with oxygen; may be produced by high temperature combustion of fuels with air

3.73
ortho-hydrogen
hydrogen molecule in which the rotation of the nuclear spin of the individual atoms in the molecule is in the same direction (parallel)

Note 1 to entry: See *para-hydrogen* (3.76).

3.74
overpressure
<in a blast wave> pressure above atmospheric pressure

3.75
overpressure
<within a containment structure> pressure that exceeds the maximum allowable working pressure of the containment structure

3.76
para-hydrogen
hydrogen molecule in which the rotation of the nuclear spin of the individual atoms in the molecule is in the opposite direction (antiparallel)

Note 1 to entry: See *ortho-hydrogen* (3.73).

3.77
PEM fuel cell
polymer electrolyte fuel cell
proton exchange membrane fuel cell
fuel cell (3.49) that employs a solid positive-ion-exchange resin membrane as the electrolyte

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3.78
permeability
rate of diffusion of a pressurized gas through a porous material

3.79
permeation
flow of a fluid (gas) through another (usually solid) material by diffusion without a defect or opening of the latter

Note 1 to entry: To be distinguished from leak flow which is not based on diffusion.

3.80
photovoltaic system
device able to produce an electrical potential upon exposure to electromagnetic radiation, including solar radiation

3.81
plastic deformation
permanent deformation that occurs in elastic materials when the material is strained beyond its elastic limit

3.82
pressure regulator
device that is used in a system to regulate the pressure to a set value

Note 1 to entry: The regulator converts a variable high-pressure input to a constant lower-pressure output.

3.83
pressure-relief device
basic safety device used to prevent the pressure within a system from exceeding the MAWP (3.63)

Note 1 to entry: This device is installed so that excessive pressure within the containment structure can be relieved before damage to the containment structure occurs.

Note 2 to entry: A pressure-relief device is a spring-loaded or other valve that will open at a set pressure or temperature, or a rupture disk that contains a membrane designed to rupture at a set pressure.

3.84
Protium
Symbol H
hydrogen isotope with one proton

Note 1 to entry: Protium is the most common constituent of molecular hydrogen.

3.85
purge
process used to remove impurities

Note 1 to entry: For example, before admitting hydrogen to a system, the air in the system is removed to avoid the formation of a combustible mixture within the system.

3.86
quench
terminate a chemical reaction or the propagation of a flame

3.87
quenching distance
gap dimension required to prevent the propagation of an open flame through a flammable fuel/air mixture

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3.88
quenching gap
<between electrodes> spark gap between two flat parallel-plate electrodes at which ignition of a combustible fuel/air mixture is suppressed

Note 1 to entry: Smaller spark gaps between electrodes totally suppress spark ignition.

3.89
quenching gap
<in a passage> passage gap dimension required to prevent propagation of an open flame through a flammable fuel/air mixture that fills the passage

3.90
redundancy
use of more than one independent means to accomplish a given function

3.91
reformer
device for supplying hydrogen from other fuels by stripping the hydrogen atoms from the molecules

3.92
resonance ignition
ignition of a combustible mixture as a result of repeated *shock waves* (3.94) that can occur during flow in a piping system

Note 1 to entry: Acoustic oscillations within a resonant cavity can cause a rapid temperature rise, the rate of which is more rapid and reaches higher values if particles are present or gas velocities are high.

3.93
risk
product of the damage which will be caused by a potential accident and its probability

3.94
shock wave
large-amplitude compression wave in which there is a rapid and great change in density, pressure, and particle velocity

Note 1 to entry: A shock wave can be caused by a violent collision, explosion, or impact. The subsequent transmission of energy moves as a wave at velocities greater than the speed of sound relative to the undisturbed material.

3.95
single-fault-tolerant
system design in which the failure of a single element to perform as intended does not cause an entire system to function unpredictably or catastrophically

Note 1 to entry: The system should continue to function as intended.

3.96
soft goods
non-metallic material

EXAMPLE Polymers, coatings, or lubricants.

Note 1 to entry: For example, in a valve, the term soft goods would refer to items such as the seals, possibly the seat, and the O-rings.

3.97
specific gravity
ratio of the density of a material to the density of a standard material such as water (for liquids) or air (for gases)

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3.98
specific heat capacity
ratio of the heat (energy) required to change the temperature of a unit mass of a substance by a certain temperature difference and the latter, frequently given under important boundary conditions such that either the pressure is held constant, or the volume is held constant

3.99
standard
generally agreed-upon set of criteria specifically designed to define a product, practice, mechanism, arrangement, process or environment based on currently available scientific and experimental knowledge concerning the relevant subject or scope; basic concept for the free trade of goods and services

3.100
stoichiometric mixture
mixture of reactants in a chemical reaction that optimizes production of the reaction products

3.101
stratified flow
flow of a fluid through a tube or pipe in which the liquid phase of the fluid flows along the bottom of the tube or pipe with little interference with the vapour phase that is flowing above the liquid phase

Note 1 to entry: This type of flow occurs when the vapour flow rate is relatively low.

3.102
stress
internal force per unit of area developed within a body when the body is subjected to a system of external forces, or a non-uniform temperature change

3.103
system
assembly of components in which hydrogen is delivered, stored, or used

Note 1 to entry: A system can include components such as storage vessels, piping, valves, pressure-relief devices, pumps, vacuum subsystems, expansion joints, and gauges.

Note 2 to entry: A system can refer to a new site, a new facility at a site, or a new installation at a facility.

3.104
thermal conductivity
heat-transfer rate per unit area of a material divided by the temperature gradient causing the heat transfer

Note 1 to entry: Thermal conductivity is usually temperature-dependent, that is, it varies with temperature.

3.105
thermal radiation
electromagnetic radiation emanating from a material as a consequence of its temperature

Note 1 to entry: From the human perspective, this is heat radiation.

3.106
tritium
T or 3H
isotope of hydrogen having two neutrons and a mass number of three

3.107
turbulence
flow condition in which radial components or eddies exist together with the fluid motion

3.108
ullage space
volume which a storage vessel lacks of being full of liquid

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Note 1 to entry: The ullage space is important for the safe operation of the vessel and usually given in the applicable regulations or standards.

3.109
vacuum-jacketed
thermally insulated using a double-wall construction technique in which the space between the two walls is evacuated, resulting in a vacuum between the inner wall and the outer wall

Note 1 to entry: The outer wall of the double-wall construction is commonly referred to as the vacuum jacket.

3.110
viscosity
resistance of a fluid to shear motion (its internal friction)

4 Overview of hydrogen applications

4.1 Basic hydrogen infrastructure

4.1.1 Categories of infrastructure

Conceptually, the purpose of hydrogen applications can be categorized as the following:

— production;

— storage and transport;

— use of hydrogen.

Some applications may involve all three categories.

4.1.2 Production

Hydrogen is a very abundant element, and numerous are the processes that can be used to extract the element from its compounds. Large amounts of hydrogen are produced in the chemical industry as by-product. Dedicated hydrogen production is usually done by reformation of natural gas [see ISO 16110 (all parts)]. Other processes include electrolysis of water [see ISO 22734 (all parts)], displacement of hydrogen from acids by metals, dehydrogenation of chemicals, processing of waste, etc. In the future, photochemical processes and genetically tailored plants or microorganisms may also become practical means of producing hydrogen.

Different means of hydrogen production are used for special applications. For example, some applications seek to minimize storage or hazards by supplying hydrogen (or oxygen with hydrogen as a by-product) on demand. Several electrolyser technologies are under development for this purpose. Ultra-pure research-grade hydrogen and oxygen outputs are possible from these systems.

4.1.3 Storage and transport

4.1.3.1 General

Hydrogen that is produced at a site for use elsewhere has to be processed into a state which can be readily stored and transported to consumer applications. Compared to conventional fuels, hydrogen's low density under ambient conditions and its low boiling point make it difficult for storage of sufficient quantities to suit typical applications. Proven methods of increasing hydrogen storage density include handling hydrogen as a pressurized gas or a refrigerated liquid, and using ground transport, water transport, or piping for delivery. Only very small quantities of hydrogen are permitted for transport by commercial aircraft. In the past, hydrogen had widespread use as a component of "town gas" that was frequently used in kitchens. Today, there are some hydrogen pipelines and pipeline networks in certain areas for the chemical industry.

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