



# RUPTURE DISC SIZING

The objective of this bulletin is to provide detailed guidance for sizing rupture discs using standard methodologies found in ASME Section VIII Div. 1, API RP520, and Crane TP-410. To assist in the sizing process, Fike offers DisCalc™, a web based sizing program. See www.fike.com.

#### OVERPRESSURE ALLOWANCE

When sizing pressure relief devices, the ASME Code defines the maximum pressure that may build up in the pressure vessel while the device is relieving. This pressure varies depending on the application of the device. The following table defines the various overpressure allowances. See technical bulletin TB8100 for ASME application requirements.



## RUPTURE DISC SIZING METHODOLOGIES

Three basic methodologies for sizing rupture disc devices are described below. These methods assume single phase, non-reactive fluid flow. Resources such as API RP520 Part 1, the DIERS Project Manual, and CCPS Guidelines for Pressure Relief and Effluent Handling Systems provide other methods for two-phase, flashing, reactive, and otherwise non-steady state conditions.

Coefficient of discharge method  $(K_D)$  - The  $K_D$  is the coefficient of discharge that is applied to the theoretical flow rate to arrive at a rated flow rate for simple systems.

Resistant to flow method  $(K_R)$  - The  $K_R$  represents the velocity head loss due to the rupture disc device. This head loss is included in the overall system loss calculations to determine the size of the relief system.

Combination capacity method - When a rupture disc device is installed in combination with a pressure relief valve (PRV), the valve capacity is derated by a default value of 0.9 or a tested value for the disc/valve combination. See technical bulletin TB8105 for specific application requirements when using rupture disc devices in combination with PRV's. A listing of Fike certified combination factors can be found in technical bulletin TB8103.

## COEFFICIENT OF DISCHARGE METHOD  $(K_n)$

Use this method for simple systems where the following conditions are true  $(8 \& 5 \text{ Rule})$ . This method takes into account the vessel entrance effects, 8 pipe diameters of inlet piping, 5 pipe diameters of discharge piping, and effects of discharging to atmosphere.



#### GAS/VAPOR SIZING

*Determination of Critical vs. Subcritical Flow per API RP520*

Critical Pressure:

$$
P_{cf} = P\left(\frac{2}{(k+1)}\right)^{k/(k-1)}
$$

If  $P_e \leq P_{cf}$  use critical flow equations

*Calculations per ASME Section VIII (assumes critical flow)*

Critical Flow:

$$
W = K_D \cdot C \cdot A \cdot P \sqrt{\frac{M}{T - Z}}
$$

$$
A = \frac{W}{K_D \cdot C \cdot P} \sqrt{\frac{T \cdot Z}{M}}
$$

*Calculation per API RP520*

Subcritical Flow: Critical Flow:

 $A = \frac{W}{K_D \cdot C \cdot P}$ 

1.175

6.32

 $A = \frac{V\sqrt{T}\cdot Z\cdot SG}{1.175\cdot K_n\cdot C\cdot P}$ 

*D*

*D*  $=\frac{V\sqrt{T}\cdot Z\cdot SG}{1.175\cdot K_{p}\cdot C}.$ 

 $A = \frac{V\sqrt{T \cdot Z \cdot M}}{6.32 \cdot K_p \cdot C \cdot P}$ 

 $=\frac{W}{K_D\cdot C\cdot P}\sqrt{\frac{T\cdot}{M}}$ 

 $=\frac{V\sqrt{T}\cdot Z\cdot M}{6.32\cdot K_D\cdot C}$ 

*M T Z* г

$$
A = \frac{W}{735 \cdot F_2 \cdot K_D} \sqrt{\frac{T \cdot Z}{M \cdot P(P - P_e)}}
$$
  

$$
A = \frac{V}{4645 \cdot F_2 \cdot K_D} \sqrt{\frac{T \cdot Z \cdot M}{P(P - P_e)}}
$$
  

$$
A = \frac{V}{864 \cdot F_2 \cdot K_D} \sqrt{\frac{T \cdot Z \cdot SG}{P(P - P_e)}}
$$



$$
W = \text{rated flow capacity, (lb/hr)}
$$
\n
$$
V = \text{rated flow capacity, (SCFM)}
$$
\n
$$
A = \text{minimum net flow area, (sq. in.)}
$$
\n
$$
C = \text{constant based on the ratio of specific heats } k
$$
\n
$$
k = c_p/c_v
$$
\n
$$
K_D = \text{coefficient of discharge 0.62 for rupture disc devices}
$$
\n
$$
F_2 = \sqrt{\left(\frac{k}{k-1}\right)} \left(r\right)^{2/k} \left[\frac{1 - r^{(k-1)/k}}{1 - r}\right]
$$
\n
$$
r = \frac{P_e}{P}
$$
\n
$$
P = \text{set pressure plus overpressure allowance plus atmospheric pressure (psia)}
$$
\n
$$
P_e = \text{exit pressure, (psia)}
$$
\n
$$
M = \text{molecular weight}
$$
\n
$$
SG = \text{specific gravity of gas at standard conditions, } SG=1.00 \text{ for air at 14.7 psia and 60°F}
$$
\n
$$
T = \text{absolute temperature at inlet (R=9F + 460°F)}
$$
\n
$$
Z = \text{compressibility factor for corresponding to P and T.}
$$
\nuse 1.0 if unknown.





## STEAM SIZING

*Calculation per ASME Section VIII*

Steam:  
\n
$$
W = 51.5 \cdot A \cdot P \cdot K_D \cdot K_N
$$
\n
$$
A = \frac{W}{51.5 \cdot P \cdot K_D \cdot K_N}
$$

*Calculation per API RP520*

$$
K_N = \text{Correction factor for steam}
$$
\n
$$
K_N = \text{when } P \le 1500 \text{ psia}
$$
\n
$$
K_N = \left(\frac{0.1906P - 1000}{0.2292P - 1061}\right) \text{ when } P > 1500 \text{ psia and } P \le 3200 \text{ psia}
$$
\n
$$
K_{SH} = \text{See Table 3 for superheat steam correction factors. For saturated steam use 1.0.}
$$

Steam:

$$
A = \frac{W}{51.5 \cdot P \cdot K_D \cdot K_N \cdot K_{SH}}
$$

TABLE 3 - Superheat Correction Factors,  $\rm K_{SH}$  (API RP520 Part 1 Table 9)

<b>Burst</b>	Temperature °F									
<b>Pressure</b> (psig)	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200
15	1.00	.98	.93	.88	.84	.80	.77	.74	.72	.70
20	1.00	.98	.93	.88	.84	.80	.77	.74	.72	.70
40	1.00	.99	.93	.88	.84	.81	.77	.74	.72	.70
60	1.00	.99	.93	.88	.84	.81	.77	.75	.72	.70
80	1.00	.99	.93	.88	.84	.81	.77	.75	.72	.70
100	1.00	.99	.94	.89	.84	.81	.77	.75	.72	.70
120	1.00	.99	.94	.89	.84	.81	.78	.75	.72	.70
140	1.00	.99	.94	.89	.85	.81	.78	.75	.72	.70
160	1.00	.99	.94	.89	.85	.81	.78	.75	.72	.70
180	1.00	.99	.94	.89	.85	.81	.78	.75	.72	.70
200	1.00	.99	.95	.89	.85	.81	.78	.75	.72	.70
220	1.00	.99	.95	.89	.85	.81	.78	.75	.72	.70
240	÷	1.00	.95	.90	.85	.81	.78	.75	.72	.70
260	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	1.00	.95	.90	.85	.81	.78	.75	.72	.70
280	$\overline{a}$	1.00	.96	.90	.85	.81	.78	.75	.72	.70
300	$\overline{a}$	1.00	.96	.90	.85	.81	.78	.75	.72	.70
350		1.00	.96	.90	.86	.82	.78	.75	.72	.70
400	$\overline{a}$	1.00	.96	.91	.86	.82	.78	.75	.72	.70
500		1.00	.96	.92	.86	.82	.78	.75	.73	.70
600	$\overline{a}$	1.00	.97	.92	.87	.82	.79	.75	.73	.70
800	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\qquad \qquad -$	1.00	.95	.88	.83	.79	.76	.73	.70
1000	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$		1.00	.96	.89	.84	.78	.76	.73	.71
1250	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	1.00	.97	.91	.85	.80	.77	.74	.71
1500	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$		1.00	.93	.86	.81	.77	.74	.71
1750	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{a}$	÷	1.00	.94	.86	.81	.77	.73	.70
2000	$\overline{a}$		$\qquad \qquad -$	1.00	.95	.86	.80	.76	.72	.69
2500	$\overline{a}$	$\overline{a}$		1.00	.95	.85	.78	.73	.69	.66
3000	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\qquad \qquad -$	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$	$\qquad \qquad -$	1.00	.82	.74	.69	.65	.62

## LIQUID SIZING

*Calculation per ASME Section VIII*

Water:

$$
W = 2407 \cdot A \cdot K_D \sqrt{(P - P_e)w}
$$

$$
A = \frac{W}{2407 \cdot K_D \sqrt{(P - P_e)w}}
$$

*Calculation per API RP520*

Non-viscous liquid:

$$
A_R = \frac{Q}{38 \cdot K_D \cdot K_V} \sqrt{\frac{SG}{P - P_e}}
$$

Viscous liquid:

$$
A_V = \frac{A_R}{K_V}
$$

For viscous liquid sizing, first calculate  $A_R$  using  $K_V$  of 1.0. Apply the area *A* of the next larger size disc to the Reynolds number calculations to arrive at  $K_V$ . Then re-calculate required area  $A_V$  using the derived  $K_V$ .

# RESISTANCE TO FLOW METHOD  $(K_R)$

Use this method when the  $8 \& 5$  Rule does not apply and the rupture disc is not installed in combination with a pressure relief valve. This type of calculation is the responsibility of the system designer. DisCalc<sup>TM</sup> does not perform this type of calculation.

#### **Characteristics of the Resistance to Flow Method**

- Sizing is done on a relief system basis not by capacity of individual components
- Rupture disc is treated as another component in the relief system
- Each device or family of devices has a unit-less resistance value  $(K_R)$  that represents the expected resistance to flow that is independent of the fluid flowing
- System relief capacity must be multiplied by a factor of 0.90

## **Types of KR**

Because many rupture discs have different opening characteristics depending on whether they are opened with a compressed vapor or incompressible liquid, there are certified  $K_R$  values that are denoted by the applicable service media. The  $K_R$  values for different media are a result of differences in how the rupture disc opens with different media and test methods that have been standardized in ASME PTC25. A list of Fike certified  $K_R$  factors can be found in technical bulletin TB8104.

- Air or gas service  $K_{RG}$ Use  $K_{RG}$  when the media is a gas or vapor, or when the media is liquid but there is a significant vapor volume directly in contact with the disc at the time of rupture
- Liquid service  $K_{RL}$ Use  $K_{\text{RL}}$  when the media is liquid and the liquid is against the disc at the time of rupture
- Air or gas and liquid service  $K_{RGL}$  $K_{RGI}$  can be used for any service conditions

$$
Q = \text{rated capacity, (gal.min)}
$$
  
\n
$$
A_R = \text{required Area without viscosity corrections (in}^2)
$$
  
\n
$$
A_V = \text{required Area with viscosity corrections (in}^2)
$$
  
\n
$$
W = \text{Specific weight of water, (lb/ft}^3)
$$
  
\n
$$
K_V = \left(0.9935 + \frac{2.878}{R^{0.5}} + \frac{342.75}{R^{1.5}}\right)^{-1.0}, \text{viscosity correction factor}
$$
  
\n
$$
R_e = \frac{Q(2800 \cdot SG)}{u\sqrt{A}} \text{ Reynolds Number (u is in centipoises)}
$$
  
\nor  
\n
$$
R_e = \frac{12700 \cdot Q}{U\sqrt{A}} \text{ (U is in Saybolt Universal seconds, SSU)}
$$

The following examples will illustrate how  $K_R$  values are used to establish the flow capacity of a pressure relief piping system.

#### **Vapor Sizing**

The following example, see Figure 1, assumes that  $k = c_p/c_v = 1.4$ which results in a conservative calculation. The example shown is based on Crane TP-410 methods. It also assumes a steady state relieving condition where the vessel volume is large relative to the relieving capacity.

Given information:

- Pressure vessel  $MAWP = 1000$  psig
- Relieving pressure as allowed by ASME Section VIII Div.  $1 = 110\%$  x MAWP = 1114.7 psia = P'1
- Back pressure (outlet pressure)  $= 14.7$  psia
- Working fluid air  $(k = c_p/c_v = 1.4)$ <br>• Air temperature at disc runture = 50
- Air temperature at disc rupture =  $500^{\circ}F = 960R = T_1$
- Maximum flow rate into the vessel  $= 20,000$  SCFM
- Rupture Disc Fike 3" SRX-GI  $\rightarrow$  K<sub>RG</sub> = 0.99





## DETERMINE THE TOTAL PIPING SYSTEM RESISTANCE FACTOR:



The Darcy Equation defines the discharge of compressible fluids through valves, fittings and pipes. Since the flow rate into the example vessel is defined in SCFM, the following form of the Darcy equation is used:

Crane Equation 3-20

$$
q'_{m} = 678 \cdot Y \cdot d^{2} \sqrt{\frac{\Delta P \cdot P'_{1}}{K \cdot T_{1} \cdot SG}}
$$



To determine *Y*, first it must be determined if the flow will be sonic or subsonic. This is determined by comparing the actual  $\Delta P/P'_{1}$  to the *limiting*  $\Delta P/P'_{1}$  for sonic flow. Crane Table A-22 shows limiting factors for  $k=1.4$  for sonic flow at the known value of  $K_T$ . If  $(\Delta P/P')_{\text{sonic}} < (\Delta P/P')_{\text{actual}}$ , then the flow will be sonic.



Limiting Factors for Sonic Velocity (*k*=1.4) Excerpt from Crane 410, Pg A-22

For this example:

$$
\left(\Delta P_{\cancel{P_1}}\right)_{actual} = \frac{1114.7 - 14.7}{1114.7} = 0.9868
$$

From table A-22 at  $K_T$ =7.33

$$
K_T = 7.33
$$

$$
\left(\frac{\Delta P}{P_1}\right)_{sonic} = 0.754
$$

Since  $(\Delta P/P')_{\text{sonic}} = 0.754$ , then  $\Delta P = 0.754 * P'_{1} = 0.754 * 1114.7 = 840.5$  psig Calculating the system capacity is completed by substituting the known values into Crane 410 Equation 3-20.

$$
q_m = 678 \cdot Y \cdot d^2 \sqrt{\frac{\Delta P \cdot P_1}{K \cdot T_1 \cdot SG}}
$$
  

$$
q_m = 678 \cdot 0.680 \cdot (3.068)^2 \sqrt{\frac{840.5 \cdot 1114.7}{7.33 \cdot 960 \cdot 1}}
$$
  

$$
q_m = 50,074 \text{ SCFM}
$$

The ASME Pressure Vessel Code, Section VIII, Division 1, paragraph UG-127(a)(2), also requires that the calculated system capacity using the resistance to flow method must also be multiplied by a factor of 0.90 or less to account for uncertainties inherent with this method.

$$
q_{m-ASME} = 50,074 \cdot 0.90 = 45,066 \text{ SCFM}
$$

Thus, the system capacity is greater than the required process capacity (20,000 SCFM)

Subsonic Flow Case

In the case where the flow is subsonic, or  $(\Delta P/P')_{sonic} > (\Delta P/P')_{actual}$ , simply read the value of  $Y_{actual}$  from Crane 410 chart A-22, Substitute ( $\Delta P/P'_{1}$ )<sub>*actual*</sub> and  $Y_{actual}$  into the calculations

#### LIQUID SIZING

For this example Figure 2 is assumed, water will be considered the flow media. The example shown is based on Crane TP-410 methods. It also assumes a steady state relieving condition where the vessel volume is large relative to the relieving capacity.

Given information:

- Pressure vessel  $MAWP = 500$  psig
- Relieving pressure as allowed by ASME Section VIII Div.  $1 = 110\%$  x MAWP = 550 psig =  $P_1$
- Back pressure (outlet pressure) =  $1 \text{ psig} = P_2$
- Working fluid water
- Temperature  $= 70^{\circ}F$
- Maximum flow rate into the vessel =  $50$  ft<sup>3</sup>/min
- Rupture disc Fike 2" SRL-GI  $\rightarrow$  K<sub>RGL</sub> = 0.59

From Crane 410:

"Bernoulli's Theorem is a means of expressing the application of the law of conservation of energy to the flow of fluids in a conduit (piping). The total energy at any particular point, above some arbitrary horizontal datum plane, is equal to the sum of the elevation head (*Z*), the pressure head (*P*), the velocity head (*V*).

In real applications, there are energy losses in piping systems between states (or location) 1 and 2. Those losses are accounted for in the term  $h_l$ , which are predominately frictional head losses. The energy balance is then expressed:

Crane Equation 1-3

$$
Z_1 + \frac{144 \cdot P_1}{\rho_1} + \frac{V_1^2}{2 \cdot g} = Z_2 + \frac{144 \cdot P_2}{\rho_2} + \frac{V_2^2}{2 \cdot g} + h_L
$$



40' of 2" ID PIPE

As in the previous example, head losses due to friction in the piping and the head losses due to fittings are proportional to the sum of the flow resistances:

$$
h_{L}=\sum K
$$

Since the acutal head loss is velocity dependent,

$$
h_L = \sum K \left(\frac{V^2}{2 \cdot g}\right)
$$

<b>Piping Component or Feature</b>	Flow Resistance Value (K)	<b>Reference</b>						
<b>Piping Frictional Losses</b>								
1 ft of 2" Sch. 40 Pipe	$K_1$ , pipe = 0.11	K=fL/D; $f = .019$ (Crane 410 Pg A-26) $L = 1$ ft, $ID = 2.067/12$ ft						
20 ft of 2: Sch. 40 Pipe	$K_{20'}$ pipe = 2.21	K=fL/D; $f = .019$ (Crane 410 Pg A-26) $L = 20$ ft, $ID = 2.067/12$ ft						
40 ft of 2" Sch. 40 Pipe	$K_{40}$ pipe = 4.41	K=fL/D; $f = .019$ (Crane 410 Pg A-26) $L = 40$ ft, ID = 2.067/12 ft						
<b>Fitting Losses</b>								
Entrance - $r/d = 0.10$	$K_{ent}$ - 0.09	Crane $410$ Pg A-29						
Fike 2" SRL - GI Rupture Disc	$K_{RGL} = 0.59$	National Board Cert. No. FIK-M80031						
2" Sch. 40 Standard 90° Elbow	$K_{\rho 1} = 0.57$	Crane $410$ Pg A-29						
Pipe exit - Sharp Edged	$K_{\text{exit}} = 1.00$	Crane 410 Pg A-29						
<b>Total Losses</b>	$K_T = 8.98$							

Frictional loss coefficients and fitting loss coefficients for the example are as follows:

Thus,

$$
h_L = 8.98 \left(\frac{V^2}{2 \cdot g}\right)
$$

Other known conditions:

 $V_{vessel} = 0$  ft/sec  $Z_{vessel} = 0$  ft  $Z_{vessel}$  = 1 ft + 20 ft = 21 ft = elevation change of piping  $P_{exit}$  = 0 ft/sec  $\rho_1$  =  $\rho_2$  = 62.3 lb/ft<sup>3</sup> for water at room temperature

Substituting values into Equation 1-3,

$$
0 + \frac{144 \cdot 550}{62.3} + 0 = 21 + 0 + \frac{V_2^2}{2 \cdot 32.2} + \left[ 8.98 \cdot \left( \frac{V_2^2}{2 \cdot 32.2} \right) \right]
$$

Solving for  $V_2$  (exit velocity),

 $V_2 = 89.82$  ft/sec

The friction factor used earlier in the calculations for piping frictional losses assumed that the flow in the pipes was fully turbulent flow. The value of the friction factor is related to the Reynolds Number  $(R_e)$  of the resulting flow (Ref: Crane 410 pg 1-1). For  $R_e$  < 2000, the flow is laminar and the friction factor is a function of Reynolds Number, only. For *Re* >4000, the flow is fully turbulent and the friction factor is also a function of the character of the piping wall (relative roughness).

The friction factor used earlier must be verified. First calculate the Reynolds Number:

$$
R_e = \frac{V \cdot d}{v} = \frac{89.82 \cdot 2.067 \left(\frac{1}{12}\right)}{.000011}
$$

*V* = fluid velocity =  $89.82$  ft/sec  $d =$  pipe diameter = 2.067 in/12 in/ft  $v =$  kinematic viscosity = 0.000011 ft<sup>2</sup>/sec

Since the Reynolds Number is >4000, the flow is turbulent, and the friction factor is now a function of the relative roughness of the pipe. From Crane 410 Figure A-23, the friction factor, *f*, for 2" commercial steel pipe in fully turbulent flow is 0.019. This verifies the original assumption for friction factor.

Laminar Flow Considerations

If the flow had been laminar,  $R_{\rho}$  <2000, the friction factor is calculated as:

$$
f = \frac{64}{R_e}
$$

If this friction factor had not been close to the same value used to determine frictional loss coefficients used earlier, the calculation must be repeated and iteratively solved until the assumed friction factor equals the calculted friction factor.

Now that the fluid velocity is known, the volumetric flow rate can be calculated.

 $Q = A \cdot V$ 

Where:

 $Q =$  volumetric flow rate (ft<sup>3</sup>/sec)

$$
A = \text{area of pipe (ft}^2) - \pi d^2/4
$$

 $V =$  fluid velocity (ft/sec)

Substituting values,

$$
Q = \frac{\pi}{4} \cdot (2.067/\frac{1}{12})^2 \cdot 89.82
$$
  
Q<sub>calc</sub> = 2.09 ft<sup>3</sup>/sec = 125.6 ft<sup>3</sup>/min

Per the ASME Code, the rated system capacity is,

 $Q_{\text{rated}} = Q_{\text{calc}} \cdot (0.90) = 125.6 \cdot (0.90) = 113.04 \text{ ft}^3/\text{min}$ 

Therefore, the relief system can flow the required 50 ft $\frac{3}{min}$ .

References:

American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Section VIII, Division 1 American Society of Mechanical Engineers, PTC25 American Petroleum Institute, RP520 Crane Valves, Technical Paper 410 Crane Valves, Crane Companion Computer Program Fike Technical Bulletin TB8100 ASME Code and Rupture Discs Fike Technical Bulletin TB8103 Certified Combination Capacity Factors Fike Technical Bulletin TB8104 Certified  $K_R$  and MNFA Values Fike Technical Bulletin TB8105 Best Practices for RD & PRV Combinations DIERS Project Manual CCPS Guidelines for Pressure Relief Effluent Handling Systems



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