Pump Ratio and Performance Charts



Concept and Theory Training

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Introduction

Welcome to *Pump Ratio and Performance Charts*, a learning module in Graco's concept and theory sales training series. Your understanding of the information in this module provides the basis for further study on specific Graco products. Your ability to successfully promote and sell Graco products depends in part on how well you learn the basics and then apply this knowledge to addressing your customers' needs.

While this curriculum best fits the requirements of Graco and distributor sales people, it will also benefit anyone whose job function depends on knowledge of Graco's products.

Overview

A *System* is any collection of component elements that work together to perform a task. Properly *designing* a system is to arrange those component elements in a way that accomplishes the desired task efficiently, cost effectively and safely.

The process of system design involves asking questions and collecting information. The more information that you gather about the customer's needs, the better you will be able to design and recommend a system that will meet or exceed customer expectations.

The pump is the heart of every Graco system. It is also the primary consideration when designing a system. What information do you need to select a pump that will operate efficiently at the lowest possible cycle speed for the longest time without maintenance down time or replacement? The answer is three-fold: First, an understanding of pump ratio; Second, a knowledge of system design; and Third, using that understanding of pump ratio and the information gathered from designing a system to properly interpret pump performance charts.



How to Use this Module

The basic concept and theory curriculum consists of a series of self-study modules. As the term selfstudy implies, you work through the materials on your own at a comfortable pace. Plan sufficient time (approximately 30 minutes) to complete at least one section of a module in a working session.

This module combines a variety of features to make the learning process convenient and productive:

- Learning objectives
- Text
- Charts, illustrations
- Progress checks
- Additional resources

Learning Objectives

Each section of material offers a set of learning objectives. Read the objectives and use them to guide you to the most important concepts. After you finish each section and before you complete the progress check, reread the objectives to confirm that you understand the key concepts.

Text

Definitions, examples and explanations comprise the learning module text. Read it carefully and return for review if necessary.

Charts, Illustrations

An important element of any instruction is visualizing the concepts. This module contains graphics and illustrations to enhance the text material and aid your learning. Where appropriate, the module also contains charts that help you organize or summarize information.

Progress Checks

Progress checks are self-tests that provide reinforcement and confirm your understanding of important topics. After completing each section of the module, return to review the objectives, and then work through each of the progress checks items. Upon completion, check your answers against those provided. If you answered any incorrectly, return to the text and reread the pertinent information.

Additional Resources

This module may refer you to other documents or sources that expand on the concepts covered in the module. The reference will include the name of the source and how you can obtain it.

Reference Materials:

Graco's Industrial Fluid Handling Products Catalog

Graco's Concept and Theory Training Modules:

- Fluid Basics Module # 321-026
- Moving Fluids Module # 321-037



Pump Ratio

Learning Objectives

The most important component of a delivery system is the pump. Selecting the appropriate pump is critical. Knowledgeable and informed recommendations to the customer are impossible without understanding pump ratios. After completing this section, you will be able to:

- Explain how pump ratios are determined.
- Explain the effect of pump ratios with regards to air pressure and fluid pressure.
- Describe the differences between air pump ratios and hydraulic pump ratios.

Pump Ratio Formulation

"Pump" has two meanings at Graco. It can mean a motor and a pump together as a pump package or refer to the fluid displacement pump. The fluid displacement pump is also known by several names. It is referred to as a pump, a pump lower, a lower, or a fluid section. For the rest if this discussion, the fluid displacement pump will be referred to as a *pump*.

The pump ratio is the relationship between the effective area of the air or hydraulic motor's piston and the effective area of the pump's piston. The ratio is determined by dividing the motor piston effective area by the pump piston effective area. For example, if the motor piston's effective area is 1 square inch (6.45 cm²) and the pump piston's effective area is 1 square inch (6.45 cm²), the motor to pump ratio is 1:1. If the motor's effective area is 2 square inches (12.9 cm²) and the pump's effective area is 1 square inch (6.45 cm²), the motor to pump ratio is 2:1. Figure 1 shows the comparison between the motor piston's effective area and the pump piston's effective area.



Figure 1 Motor Piston and Pump Piston Effective Areas.



Ratio\Pressure\Volume

If the motor piston has a 2 square inch (12.9 cm²) effective area and the pump piston has a 2 square inch (12.9 cm²) effective area, the motor to pump ratio would be 1:1. Applying 100 psi (7 bar) to the motor would develop 100 psi (7 bar) of fluid pressure when the fluid outlet is closed (Figure 2).

If the motor piston has a 5 square inch (32.25 cm²) effective area and the pump piston has a 1 square inch (6.45 cm²) effective area, the ratio would be 5:1. Applying 100 psi (7 bar) to the motor in this case would develop 500 psi (35 bar) of fluid pressure with the fluid outlet closed.

The maximum pressure developed in these examples is always in a *stall condition* (maximum pressure at no flow). As flow increases from stall, or zero flow, frictional losses downstream of the pump outlet will reduce the fluid pressure. See page 21 for additional information on stall condition.



Figure 2 Ratio/Pressure/Volume Comparison between 1:1 ratio and 5:1 ratio.



Pressure vs. Volume - Same Air Motor

When using the same air motor with different pumps the ratio will change. If the ratio goes up the flow will decrease. If the ratio goes down the flow will increase. Figure 3 illustrates this relationship.



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Figure 3 Same air motor with different pumps.

For example, a pump and motor with a 5:1 ratio at maximum air pressure of 100 psi (7 bar) will result in a maximum fluid pressure of 500 psi (35 bar) and a flow volume of 15 gpm (56.77 lpm) at 60 cycles per minute or 1/4 gpm (.94 lpm) per cycle.

Note: Liters Per Minute, lpm, may also be abbreviated as 1/min.

Whereas the same motor and a smaller pump that has a 10:1 ratio, will produce a 1000 psi (70 bar) maximum fluid pressure and a flow volume of 7.5 gpm (28.38 lpm) at 60 cycles per minute, or 1/8 gpm (.12 lpm) per cycle, at a maximum inlet air pressure of 100 psi (7 bar).

A motor has a finite amount of power available, you can use it to develop maximum flow at low pressure. You can use it to develop maximum pressure at no flow, or some balance of the two.



Pressure vs. Volume - Same Pump Lower Assembly

When you change motors and keep the same pump you will change the ratio and the pressure. A larger motor will increase the ratio and the pressure. A smaller motor will reduce the ratio and the pressure. Figure 4 illustrates this relationship.

Note: As long as the cycle rate does not change the flow rate will not change.

For example, the 20:1 Bulldog pump has an air motor diameter of 7 inches (17.78 cm). At 120 psi (8.4 bar) maximum air pressure, the fluid pressure will be 2400 psi (168 bar) and the flow volume will be 8.1 oz. (230 g) per cycle.

Whereas the 45:1 King pump, which has an air motor diameter of 10 inches (25.40 cm) and the exact same pump as the 20:1 Bulldog, will produce a fluid pressure of 4050 psi (283.5 bar) and a flow volume of 8.5 oz. (241 g) per cycle at a maximum inlet air pressure of 90 psi (6.3 bar).

When the size of the air motor changes, the amount of power available also changes. And since the flow volume output does not change, the fluid pressure must.







King Air Motor 10 inch (25.40 cm) diameter



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Figure 4 Same pump with different air motors.

Air vs. Hydraulic Ratios

Air and hydraulic ratios work exactly the same way. The only difference is that hydraulic pressures are much higher and the ratio of motor to pump is much lower. Air compressor systems typically operate with pressures up to 100 psi (7 bar), while hydraulic power systems operate with pressures up to 1500 psi (105 bar). So to achieve similar pump pressures the effective surface area of the hydraulic motor will be much smaller than the effective surface area of the air motor. Typically, a 10:1 air motor/pump combination is equivalent to a 1:1 hydraulic motor/pump combination because typical hydraulic pressure is 1000 psi (70 bar) and typical air pressure is 100 psi (7 bar).

In this example, both the air powered and hydraulic systems have an identical pump. The required outlet fluid pressure for each system is 1000 psi (70 bar).

With an air compressor supplying 100 psi (7 bar) to the air motor, a 10:1 pump ratio would be necessary to deliver a 1000 psi (70 bar) outlet pressure.

Whereas a hydraulic system supplying 1000 psi (70 bar) to the hydraulic motor, would only require a 1:1 pump ratio to deliver 1000 psi (70 bar).

In this example, if the effective surface of the pump is 1 sq. inch (6.45 cm²), the air motor's effective surface area is 10 sq. inches (64.5 cm²) and the hydraulic motor's effective surface area is 1 sq. inch (6.45 cm²).



Progress Check

Directions: After answering the following questions, compare your answers with those provided in the answer key following the progress check. If you respond to any items incorrectly, return to the text and review the appropriate topics.

1. Explain the term, "pump ratio".

- 2. If the pump ratio is 5:1 and the motor piston's effective area is 10 square inches (64.5 cm²), the effective area of the pump is ______ square inches (_____ cm²).
 - a. 50 (322.5)
 - b. 2 (12.9)
 - c. 1 (6.45)
 - d. 10 (64.5)
 - e. 5 (32.25)
- 3. If the pump ratio is 1/4:1 and the motor piston's effective area is 1 square inch (6.45 cm²), the effective area of the pump is ______ square inches (______ cm²).
 - a. 4 (25.8)
 - b. 1/4 (1.61)
 - c. 3/4 (4.84)
 - d. 3 (19.35)
 - e. 14 (90.3)



- 4. If the pump ratio is 20:1 and the pump's effective area is 1/4 square inch (1.61 cm²), the effective area of the motor piston is _____ square inches (_____ cm²).
 - a. 20 (129)
 - b. 15 (96.75)
 - c. 5 (32.25)
 - d. 1 (6.45)
 - e. 1/4 (1.61)
- 5. If the motor piston has a 2 square inch (12.9 cm²) effective area and the pump piston has a 2 square inch (12.9 cm²) effective area, the pump ratio would be 2:2. Applying 100 psi (7 bar) to the motor would develop 200 psi (14 bar) of fluid pressure when the fluid outlet is covered.

a. True

b. False

6. Select the correct statement.

When using the same air motor with different pumps.

a. If the ratio goes up the flow will increase. If the ratio goes down the flow will decrease.

b. If the ratio goes up the flow will decrease. If the ratio goes down the flow will increase.

- c. The flow will always stay the same regardless of the ratio.
- d. Ratios do not change.

7. Select the correct statement.

When you change the motors and keep the same pump.

- a. A larger motor will increase the ratio and the pressure. A smaller motor will decrease the ratio and the pressure.
- b. A larger motor will decrease the ratio and the pressure. A smaller motor will increase the ratio and the pressure.
- c. A larger motor will increase the ratio and a smaller motor will decrease the ratio, but the pressure will always stay the same.
- d. A larger motor will decrease the ratio and a smaller motor will increase the ratio, but the pressure will always stay the same.
- 8. Typically, a ______ air pump ratio is equivalent to a 1:1 hydraulic pump ratio.
 - a. 20:1
 - b. 5:1
 - c. 1/2:1
 - d. 10:1



Answers to Progress Check

- 1. Pump ratio is the relationship between the air or hydraulic motor piston's effective area and the pump piston's effective area.
- 2. b. 2 (12.9)
- 3. a. 4 (25.8)
- 4. c. 5 (32.25)
- 5. b. False (If the motor piston has a 2 square inch (12.9 cm²) effective area and the pump piston has a 2 square inch (12.9 cm²) effective area, the motor to pump ratio would be 1:1. Applying 100 psi (7 bar) to the motor would develop 100 psi (7 bar) of fluid pressure when the fluid outlet is closed.)
- 6. If the ratio goes up the flow will decrease. If the ratio goes down the flow will increase.
- 7. a. A larger motor will increase the ratio and the pressure. A smaller motor will reduce the ratio and the pressure.
- 8. d. 10:1



System Design Considerations

Learning Objectives

Asking the right questions will help you recommend Graco pumping systems that satisfy customer needs. Appropriate system design is critical for the development of long term professional relationships, and repeat sales. After completing this section, you will be able to:

- List the fluid characteristic considerations.
- List the application methods.
- List and briefly discuss the application requirement considerations.

System Design

To properly design a Graco pumping system you must know the characteristics of the fluid being moved, the customer's application needs and the application requirements. This will provide you with the information necessary to make a correct pump selection. Specifically, system design research will provide fluid volume requirements, fluid pressure requirements, and air availability.



Fluid Characteristics

What fluid is your customer pumping? A fluid's characteristics greatly affect proper equipment recommendations. Some of the fluid characteristics you will have to consider include:

- Abrasiveness
- Corrosiveness
- Specific Gravity
- Viscosity
- Shear Rate
- Surface Tension
- Moisture Sensitivity
- Vapor Pressure

Note: See Graco's Concept and Theory Training Module; *Fluid Basics* (Module #321-026), for a complete discussion of fluid characteristics and how they affect pump selection.

Application Needs

Fluid application is dependent upon what the customer wants to do with the fluid being moved. There are four types of applications:

- *Transfer Application* is moving a fluid from one location to another. For example, from a railroad tank car outside the plant to a storage tank inside the plant.
- *Extrusion Application* is depositing a fluid (typically a sealant or adhesive) under uniform pressure and flow to make a bead.
- *Dispense Application* is transferring and metering a fluid in a given volume to accomplish a specific task.
- Spray Application (atomizing) is typically used for painting and coating systems.

Application Requirements

Once the customer's basic application needs have been determined, you must consider physical layout factors before selecting a pump. Some factors to consider include:

- *Compressed Air Availability*. Will air driven pumps have sufficient air volume, scfm (m³/min), and pressure, psi (bar), to meet this new pumping requirement. If the existing compressed air system is at its capacity limits, consider a hydraulic system. That would save the customer the expense of purchasing another large air compressor.
- Number of *application points (Drops)* off of the main header.
- *Fluid Volume* required per drop. This would take into consideration:
 - 1. Tip or nozzle size
 - 2. Booth type and length.
 - 3. Conveyor system speed (if applicable).
- *Total Fluid Volume* requirements. Once the fluid volume per drop has been determined, fluid volume for the entire system can be calculated by adding the volume requirements of each drop.
- *Pump Location and Line length*. Once pump and application point locations have been indicated, line length can be determined. When line length, line diameter and the viscosity of the fluid being moved are known, fluid pressure loss can be calculated
- *Fluid Pressure Loss*. System pressure loss is the cumulative total of line loss, fitting loss, hose loss and application equipment pressure loss. Total pressure loss must be overcome in order to meet the system's discharge pressure and fluid volume requirements.

Note: Additional information on many aspects of application needs and application requirements can be found in Graco's Concept and Theory Training Modules; *Fluid Basics* (Module #321-026) and *Moving Fluids* (Module #321-037).



Progress Check

Directions: After answering the following questions, compare your answers with those provided in the answer key following the progress check. If you respond to any items incorrectly, return to the text and review the appropriate topics.

1. To properly design a Graco pumping system you must know what three factors?

2. List the fluid characteristic considerations mentioned in this section.

3. What are the four types of methods?

System pressure loss is the cumulative total of line loss, fitting loss, hose loss and application 4. pressure loss. Total pressure loss must be overcome in order to meet the system's discharge pressure and fluid volume requirements.



a. True

b. False

Answers to Progress Check

- 1. Fluid Characteristics, Application Methods, Application Requirements
- 2. Abrasiveness, Corrosiveness, Specific Gravity, Viscosity, Shear Rate, Surface Tension,



Moisture Sensitivity, Vapor Pressure

3. Transfer Application, Extrusion Application, Dispense Application, Spray Application

4. a. True Pump Performance Charts

Learning Objectives

Knowing the fluid characteristics, the air availability and the application volume and pressure requirements of the fluid being moved brings you to the next step; pump selection. However, in order to select the correct pump an understanding of pump performance charts is critical. After completing this section, you will be able to:

- Explain the different components of and terms used when discussing a pump performance chart:
 - 1. Stall Pressure
 - 2. Free Flow
 - 3. Duty Cycle
 - 4. Air Consumption
 - 5. Air Pressure



- 6. Fluid Flow
- 7. Fluid Pressure
- Demonstrate an understanding of pump performance charts.

Pump Performance Chart Components

Performance curves provide data on how a particular pump will perform at various air pressures. Figure 5 shows a Bulldog 33:1 Pump Performance Chart. Actually, there are two separate curves or charts. The one on the left shows fluid outlet pressure, psi (bar), at various flow rates and the chart on the right shows air consumption, scfm (m³/min), on the air motor at various flow rates.

Down the left side of the left chart is fluid outlet pressure, psi (bar). On the top of both charts is cycles per minute, cycles/min or cpm. Down the right side of the right chart is air consumption, scfm (m³/min). And in the middle of both charts are three lines that represent air pressure into the motor at



100 psi (7 bar), 70 psi (4.8 bar), and 40 psi (2.8 bar). These air pressure lines are represented as A, B

and C and are reference points from which any air pressure within the power system's operational range can be plotted.

Along the bottom of both charts is fluid flow, gpm (lpm). Fluid flow (volume) is determined by system back pressure or whatever the restrictions are downstream of the pump. Figure 5 Bulldog 33:1 Pump Performance Chart.

For example, a pump running at 100 psi (7 bar) with nothing connected to the pump outlet would register at the extreme right on the curve in the 5 gpm (18.0 lpm) range. This is called free flow, maximum flow at very high cycle rates. The pump cycle rate at 5 gpm (18.0 lpm) would be approximately 105 cpm.

Now with the pump still running at 100 psi (7 bar) and the fluid outlet to the pump completely shut off, fluid flow would be zero and cycles per minute would be zero (the extreme left on the curve). This is called *stall pressure*, maximum pressure at no flow.

Note: Pumps are typically not used at points on the curve near free flows or stall pressures. When comparing pumps it is important to know the performance at the actual flow point where the pump will be used.

Duty Cycle

Continuous duty is defined as pumping operations 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year. For example, a paint circulation system would be continuous duty. The cycle rate recommended for maximum pump life under continuous duty operation is 25 cpm or less. Recommended cycle rates for intermittent duty pumps are generally between 25 to 60 cycles per minute.

It is important to remember that *the slower the pump runs, the longer the pump will live*. This is often a compromise between the system requirements, the competitiveness of the sale and the amount of



money the customer can spend.

Flow at 60 cycles per minute is a benchmark flow for pump selection. Pumps that require a high cycle rate (60 cpm range) to meet fluid flow requirements will have a shorter operating life than those meeting flow needs at a slower cycle rate. High cycle speeds lead to accelerated wear on pump seals and parts.

How to Read the Pump Performance Chart

To find the Fluid Outlet Pressure at a specific fluid flow and operating air pressure:

- 1. Locate the desired flow along the bottom of the left chart.
- 2. Follow the vertical line up to the intersection with the selected operating air pressure curve. Follow this plot left to the scale and read the fluid outlet pressure.

To find the Pump Air Consumption at a specific fluid flow and operating air pressure:

- 1. Locate the desired flow along the bottom of the right chart.
- 2. Follow the vertical line up to the intersection with the selected operating air pressure curve. Follow this plot right to the scale and read the air consumption.

Note: The information on how to read the pump performance chart was taken from the *Industrial Fluid Handling Products Catalog* Form No. 303-706.

For example, system design information indicated that an output requirement of 2 gpm (7.6 lpm) fluid flow and 2000 psi (140 bar) fluid pressure were needed to overcome pressure loss and meet application needs. Air availability for consumption and pressure was determined to be at satisfactory levels.

Figure 6 shows the Bulldog 33:1 pump performance chart once again. At the bottom of the fluid pressure chart (left side) find 2 gpm (7.6 lpm) and on the left side of the chart find 2000 psi (140 bar)

fluid pressure. By following the lines until they intersect you will note that the point of intersection is 72 psi (4.9 bar) air pressure into the air motor. Notice at the top of the chart that a 2 gpm (7.6 lpm) flow can be accomplished with a 42 cycles per minute pump speed.

To figure what the air consumption would be, locate 2 gpm (7.6 lpm) at the bottom of the right chart. Follow the vertical line up until you reach 72 psi (4.9 bar) air pressure. From this point, project a



horizontal line to the right side of the chart for an air consumption reading. In this case, the air consumption required for a 2 gpm (7.6 lpm) flow would be approximately 50 scfm (1.41 m³/min).



If system design information were to indicate a 2 gpm (7.6 lpm) flow requirement, a 2000 psi (140 bar) fluid pressure requirement and an air pressure availability to the air motor of only 50 psi (3.5 bar), the performance chart would indicate that the 33:1 Bulldog was the wrong pump for the job. At 2 gpm (7.6 lpm) and 50 psi (3.5 bar) air pressure, the best fluid pressure possible would be approximately 1000 psi (70 bar).

Figure 6 Example Bulldog 33:1 Pump Evaluation.

Progress Check

Directions: After answering the following questions, compare your answers with those provided in the answer key following the progress check. If you respond to any items incorrectly, return to the text and review the appropriate topics.

For items 1 through 7, match the terms with their pump performance chart locations.

Terms

- _____1. Fluid Pressure
- _____2. Cycles Per Minute
- _____ 3. Air Consumption
 - ____4. Fluid Flow Rate (volume)



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- _____ 5. 100 psi (7 bar) Air Pressure
- _____ 6. 70 psi (4.8 bar) Air Pressure
- _____ 7. 40 psi (2.8 bar) Air Pressure

Pump Performance Chart

- Maximum flow at very high cycle rates is called ______. 8.
- Maximum pressure at zero flow is called ______. 9.
- 10. The cycle rate recommended for maximum pump life under continuous duty operations is _____ cycles per minute or less.



- a. 15
- b. 20
- c. 25
- d. 30
- e. 60



C =

Number 11 Pump Performance Chart.



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For items 11 and 12, plot the information on the pump performance charts and answer the questions.

11. When there is a 4 gpm (15.2 lpm) fluid flow and 85 psi (5.9 bar) air pressure into the air motor:

What is the fluid pressure?



Number 12 Pump Performance Chart.

What is the air consumption rate?

05806



What is the cycle rate?

12. When there is a 1 gpm (3.8 lpm) fluid flow and a 1500 psi (105 bar) fluid pressure: What is the air pressure into the air motor? What is the air consumption rate? What is the cycle rate?

Answers to Progress Check

- 1. g. Fluid Pressure
- 2. f. Cycles Per Minute
- 3. e. Air Consumption
- 4. d. Fluid Volume
- 5. a. 100 psi (7 bar) Air Pressure
- 6. b. 70 psi (4.8 bar) Air Pressure
- 7. c. 40 psi (2.8 bar) Air Pressure
- 8. Free Flow
- 9. Stall Pressure

10.c.2

2000 psi (140 bar) 11. Fluid Pressure -Air Consumption - 125 scfm (3.54 m3/min) Cycle Rate -84 12. Air Pressure -55 psi (3.85 bar) Air Consumption - 25 scfm (.70 m3/min) 21



Module Evaluation

The purpose of this Module Evaluation is to help the Graco Technical Communications department determine the usefulness and effectiveness of the module.

Instructions: Please complete the evaluation, tear it on the perforation, and return to: Graco Technical Communications Department, P.O. Box 1441, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1441, USA.

- 1. Based on the objectives, this module:
 - □ Significantly exceeded my expectations
 - Exceeded my expectations
 - \Box Met my expectations
 - □ Was below my expectations
 - □ Was significantly below my expectations
- 2. Why did you select the above rating?
- 3. How do you plan to use the module information in your job?
- 4. How do you think the module could be improved?

I verify that I have successfully completed Module No. 321-042, Pump Ratio and Performance Charts

Signature _____

Date _____



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This module was developed by the Graco Technical Communications Department with assistance from the following individuals:

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The Graco Concept and Theory Training program consists of the following topics:

Fluid Basics Atomization Electrostatic Spray Finishing Safety Airspray Technology Fluid Types: Paints and Other Coatings Fluid Types: Lubricants Fluid Types: Sealants and Adhesives Airless Atomization Spraying Techniques Transfer Efficiency Fluid Movement Fluid Controls Pumps Motors and Power Sources Plural Component Paint Handling Plural Component Sealant and Adhesive Handling Paint Circulating Systems Automatic Finishing Lube Reels and Dispense Valves Lube Metering Systems Electronic Fluid Management Systems

