



ISO 4126-10

Safety devices for protection against excessive pressure —

Part 10: Sizing of safety valves and bursting discs for gas/liquid two-phase flow

Dispositifs de sécurité pour protection contre les pressions excessives —

Partie 10: Dimensionnement des soupapes de sûreté et des disques de rupture pour les débits diphasiques gaz/liquide

Second edition
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This is a preview of ISO 4126-10:2024. [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)



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Foreword	v
Introduction	vi
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
3.1 General.....	1
3.2 Pressure.....	2
3.3 Flow rate.....	4
3.4 Flow area.....	5
3.5 Fluid state.....	5
3.6 Temperature.....	5
4 Symbols and abbreviated terms and figures	6
4.1 Symbols.....	6
4.2 Abbreviated terms.....	8
4.3 Figures.....	9
5 Application range of the method	11
5.1 General.....	11
5.2 Limitations of the method for calculating the two-phase mass flux in safety devices.....	11
5.2.1 Flashing flow.....	11
5.2.2 Condensing flow.....	12
5.2.3 Flashing flow for multi-component liquids.....	12
5.2.4 Dissolved gases.....	12
5.2.5 Compressibility coefficient ω	13
5.3 Limitations of the method for calculating the mass flow rate required to be discharged.....	13
5.3.1 Rate of temperature and pressure increase.....	13
5.3.2 Immiscible liquids.....	13
6 Sizing steps	13
6.1 General outline of sizing steps.....	13
6.2 Step 1 — Identification of the sizing case.....	14
6.3 Step 2 — Flow regime at the inlet of the vent line system.....	15
6.3.1 General.....	15
6.3.2 Phenomenon of level swell.....	15
6.3.3 Influence of liquid viscosity and foaming behaviour on the flow regime.....	15
6.3.4 Prediction of the flow regime (gas/vapour or two-phase flow).....	17
6.4 Step 3 — Calculation of the mass flow rate required to be discharged.....	20
6.4.1 General.....	20
6.4.2 Pressure increase caused by an excess in-flow.....	20
6.4.3 Pressure increase due to external heating.....	22
6.4.4 Pressure increase due to thermal runaway reactions.....	25
6.5 Step 4 — Calculation of the dischargeable mass flux through and pressure change in the vent line system.....	29
6.5.1 General.....	29
6.5.2 Two-phase flow discharge coefficient, $K_{dr,2ph}$	32
6.5.3 Dimensionless mass flow rate, C	33
6.5.4 Compressibility coefficient, ω (numerical method).....	34
6.5.5 Calculation of the downstream stagnation condition.....	35
6.5.6 Slip correction for non-flashing two-phase flow.....	35
6.5.7 Slip correction for two-phase flow in straight pipes.....	36
6.6 Step 5 — Ensure proper operation of safety valve vent line systems under plant conditions.....	36
6.7 Simultaneous calculation of the dischargeable mass flux and pressure change in the vent line system.....	36
6.8 Summary of calculation procedure.....	37

This is a preview of ISO 4126-10:2024. [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

Annex B (informative) Example calculation of the mass flow rate to be discharged	46
Annex C (informative) Example of calculation of the dischargeable mass flux and pressure change through connected vent line systems	50
Annex D (informative) Environmental factor	67
Bibliography	68

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This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 4126-10:2010), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- opening of the method for sizing of bursting discs;
- more thorough iteration for the calculation of the flow rate;
- allowing for slip;
- allowing for velocity in the outlet line and pressure losses in front and after the safety device;
- added an example for flow rate to be discharged ([Annex B](#));
- added an example for dischargeable mass flow rate added and method to estimate pressure drop in pipe flow ([Annex C](#));
- various correction.

A list of all parts in the ISO 4126 series can be found on the ISO website.

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Well-established recommendations exist for the sizing of safety valves and bursting discs and the connected inlet and outlet lines for steady-state, single-phase gas/vapour or liquid flow. However, in the case of a two-phase vapour/liquid flow, the required relieving area to protect a system from overpressure is larger than that required for single-phase flow when the same vessel condition and heat release are considered. The requirement for a larger relief area results from the fact that, in two-phase flow, the liquid partially blocks the relieving area for the vapour flow, by which most of the energy is removed by evaporation from the vessel.

This document includes a widely applicable method for the sizing of the most typical safety valves and bursting discs in fluid services encountered in various industrial fields (see [Table 1](#)). It is based on the omega parameter method, which is extended by a thermodynamic non-equilibrium parameter. A balance is attempted between the accuracy of the method and the unavoidable uncertainties in the input and property data under the actual sizing conditions.

In case of two-phase flow, the safety device size can influence the fluid state and, hence, the mass flow rate to be discharged. Furthermore, the two-phase mass flow rate through a safety device essentially depends on the mass flow quality (mass fraction of vapour) of the fluid at the inlet of the device. Because these parameters are, in most cases, not readily at hand during the design procedure of a relief device, this document also includes a comprehensive procedure that covers the determination of the fluid-phase composition at the safety device inlet. This fluid-phase composition depends on a scenario that leads to the pressure increase. Therefore, the recommended sizing procedure starts with the definition of the sizing case and includes a method for the prediction of the mass flow rate required to be discharged and the resulting mass flow quality at the inlet of the safety device.

The formulae of ISO 4126-7:2013/Amd 1:2016 for single-phase flow up to the narrowest flow cross-section are included in this document, modified to SI units, to calculate the flow rates at the limiting conditions of single-phase gas and liquid flow.

In this document, the unit bar for pressures is being used 100 000 Pa = 1 bar.

Table 1 — Possible fluid state at the inlet of the safety valve or bursting disc that can result in two-phase flow

Fluid state at device inlet	Cases	Examples
liquid	subcooled (possibly flashing in the safety device) saturated with dissolved gas	cold water boiling water CO ₂ /water
gas/vapour	near saturated vapour (possibly condensing in the safety device)	steam
gas/liquid	vapour/liquid non-evaporating liquid and non-condensable gas (constant quality) gas/liquid mixture, when gas is desorbed or produced	steam/water air/water