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BITUMEN METERING

In construction and other production industries, bitumen is a useful and oft-used compound. Bitumen is one of the heaviest and most viscous products produced in oil refineries. It is created from “vacuum bottoms”, the asphalt-like residue extracted from the bottom of vacuum distillation columns.

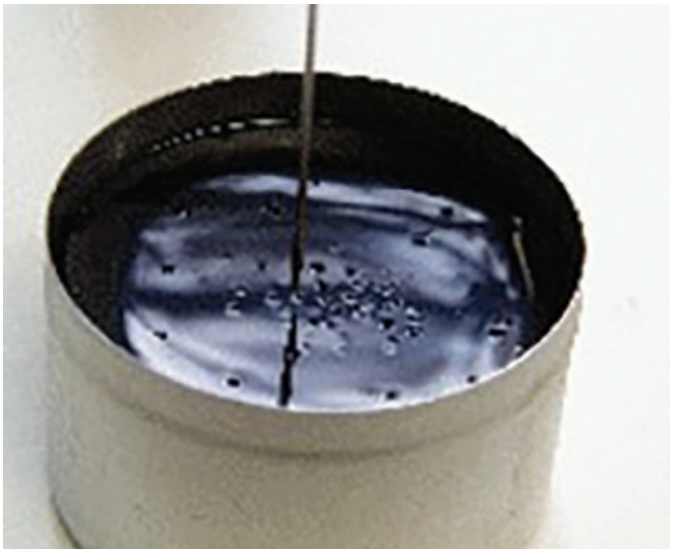
Bitumen is a long chain hydrocarbon molecule and, although it appears to be solid at room temperature, it is actually a highly viscous liquid and does ‘flow’, although very slowly. Bitumen softens when heated, eventually becoming a runny liquid when temperature gets high enough. This changeability of bitumen’s physical form, together with its adhesive and waterproofing qualities, makes it extraordinarily useful in construction.

Most bituminous materials are workable when hot, but become essentially solid once cooled. Best known for its extensive use as a binding agent in road asphalt, it is also useful for many other applications. These include binding and sealing in the roofing and carpet industries and making sheets of corrugated papier mâché water repellant. Different grades of bitumen have different hardness levels. These grades are produced at refineries by blowing oxygen through the bitumen to make it harder when cold.

The measurement of bitumen flow is notoriously difficult because of its high process temperature and viscosity. Conventional meters are challenged with this measurement and, unfortunately, failure is a common problem. However, Rheonik Coriolis Meters are well-equipped for bitumen flow measurement.

RHEONIK ET AND HT CORIOLIS MASS FLOW METERS ARE IDEALLY SUITED FOR THE TASK:

- High temperature ratings to 350C/662F
- No moving parts to wear out
- Built in trace heating jacket options
- High intrinsic accuracy and measurement stability.



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RHEONIK DELIVERS RELIABLE MEASUREMENTS & IMPROVES PRODUCTIVITY

Rheonik meters are tolerant to over-temperature conditions and internal components will not be damaged by steam purge cleaning. Further, they automatically compensate for changing fluid properties caused by small variances in temperature. Using Rheonik Coriolis Mass Flow Meters significantly increases measurement reliability while dramatically reducing the maintenance costs often associated with other meter technologies, including differential pressure devices and mechanical meters. Consequently, product quality and consistency are improved, leading to less waste or rework and greater plant productivity.

RHEONIK METERS CAN BE USED THROUGHOUT BITUMEN PROCESS OPERATIONS FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF APPLICATIONS:

- General process metering
- Batching
- Blending
- Coating
- Packaging
- Truck and railcar loading

All Rheonik meters are suitable for hazardous area installation and operation and are simple to implement and use.