



AEROSPACE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

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ARP 1405

Issued February 1976
Revised

UNIFORM MEASUREMENT UNITS FOR LEAKAGE RATES

1. PURPOSE

This ARP is intended to set forth standardized measurement units for the eventual replacement of the variety of fluid leakage rate measurement units now in use.

2. SCOPE

Applications include specifications, reports, ratings, texts, etc. where fluid leakage rates are treated.

3. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

SAE J916a - Rules for SAE Use of SI (Metric) Units

ANSI Z210.1 - Metric Practice Guide (American National Standard, American National Standards Institute -)
ASTM Document E380-72

4. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

This ARP recommends that units of mg/s (Milligram per second) be universally used for measurement of fluid leakage rates through containment barriers.

5. GENERAL NOTES

Currently, leakage rates are treated in a wide variety of measurement units for reasons of practice or direct relation to instrumentation readout. There is a need for standardized terminology for expressing and comparing leakage rates. In SI (metric) terms, it would be logical to use mass/time units of kg/s (kilograms per second). However, this results in very small numbers when applied to commonly used liquid and gaseous leakage rates. For example, helium leakage rates across precision valve seats or permeating through materials, are currently expressed as "atmospheric cm^3/s " in the E-10 to E-04 range. Using kg/s units, these would be in the range of E-13 to E-07. A higher range, as exemplified by allowable seat leakage for a current aircraft refuel shutoff valve, is $60 \text{ cm}^3/\text{min}$. In kg/s terms, this would become E-04. Therefore, commonly used leakages fall within the range of E-12 to E-04. Such low numbers are relatively awkward to handle. A prefix raising the exponent by a multiple of 6 has been selected. This results in the term mg/s (milligram per second) for uniform expression of leakage rates. Most practical leakages will fall within the range of E-06 to E +02.

In gas leakage rate measurement, volumetric units are commonly employed, relating directly to contemporary instrumentation. However, this requires reference to "standard" temperatures and pressures, which are not universally accepted. Conversion to mass/time units after measurement is relatively simple and avoids the need for knowledge of "standard" conditions.

CANCELLED JAN. 1992
Superseded by MAP 4053

5. (Continued)

Gas, liquid, and vapor leakage rates through barriers and components and systems vary widely in character and magnitude. An individual leakage may simultaneously involve liquid and gaseous states of one or a combination of fluids. One or more leakage principles may be acting (molecular, viscous). Again, mass/time units provide for logical measurement of each situation.

Use of this ARP does not imply necessity of changes in existing calculation, control, or measurement of leakage rates; nor does it suggest any particular interval for leakage rate testing, since some instrumentation yields instantaneous readings while others may require measurement over some definite time interval. However, final leakage rates could be converted from the various original units into the standard mg/s.

6. CLASSIFICATION

A useful system for classifying the range of any fluid leakage rate is based on the SI notation decade exponent. For example:

SAE Standard Leakage Rate Class	Decade Range of Class mg/s	Typical Leakage Rate in the Class mg/s
1	$10^1 \leq R < 10^2$	6.0 E+01
0	$10^0 \leq R < 10^1$	1.0 E+00
-1	$10^{-1} \leq R < 10^0$	2.5 E-01
-5	$10^{-5} \leq R < 10^{-4}$	9.9 E-05

7. CONVERSION METHODS

When converting leakage rates from various units to mg/s reference to the applicable documents of paragraph three (3) will be found useful. Conversion factors are listed, along with instructions for use.

Examples of typical conversion mathematics follow: