

CLAS 12 DC GAS OPERATORS MANUAL

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I - Introduction	3
II - Controls Overview	4
III - Operator Training	5
IV- System Operation	6
Gas Supply	6
CO2 Dewar Operation	6
CO2 Dewar Change Out Procedure	7
Detector Pressure Protection Solenoids	8
Procedure for Emergency Manual Remote Bypass	8
Isolating the Gas System from The HP Gas Supply	9
Normal Operating Parameters	10
Responding to Problems Indicated by EPICS	11
V - Equipment Operation	12
Operating the OMEGA DP25-E Process Controllers	12
Calibration of the Panametrics Thermal Conductivity Units	13
Adjusting the Gas Mixture Ratio	14
Maintaining the Supply Buffer Tank Pressure	15
Adjusting flows to the Detectors	16
VI - List of Appedixes	17

I Introduction

The CLAS 12 Drift Chamber Gas System, DC GAS, supplies high purity gas mixtures to the detectors. The gas is mixed, stored, and a metered delivery is supplied. The system also maintains a constant differential pressure between the atmosphere and detectors by pumping the gas out of the detectors.

Gas is supplied via the boil off from liquid argon and liquid CO₂. The liquid argon bulk supply tank is located on the concrete pad next to the gas shed. The liquid CO₂ dewars are staged alongside the outside wall. Pressure is reduced to 160psig at the supply panel in the gas shed. It is then split into 2 identical circuits, each capable of supplying 350 slm of mixed gas.

Gas is mixed in each of the circuits by metering flow using Mass Flow Controllers, MFCs. The thermal conductivity of the mixed gas is constantly monitored using the Panametrics Thermal Conductivity Units (TCUs). Once the proper ratio of gases has been obtained by adjusting the mixture to produce the proper thermal conductivity, the MFCs are setup to operate in a master/slave mode. The Argon gas flow is the master and the CO₂ is the slave, maintain the correct ratio for varying flows.

The mixed gas flows to the supply buffer tanks. The supply buffer tanks have a combined volume of 50,000 liters. Gas is stored in these tanks at ~100psig. The tanks can supply gas for a period of time in case of a problem with the bulk supply or the mixing equipment.

The supply buffer tanks supply gas to the DC metering panels. Gas flows out of the tanks, pressure is reduced by a pressure regulator. A small portion of the gas is diverted to sensors, which measure the oxygen and moisture content to assure mixture purity. Gas is then metered to the hall by MFCs, Mass Flow Controllers.

Gas flows down several hundred feet of piping to the solenoid valve panel in the Hall. Here solenoid valves direct flow to the detectors during normal operation or bypass the gas flow to the exhaust piping in case of a control system fault. Pressure transducers monitor the pressures at the chamber exhaust manifolds. If this pressure exceeds the setpoint, relays open to de-energize the solenoids and isolate the detectors from the gas system.

During normal operation the gas flows to the supply manifolds where it is split up to supply each of the 6 detectors. The gas exits the individual detectors and enters the exhaust manifold. Pressure in the exhaust manifold is monitored by a capacitance manometer, which sends a control signal to a cRIO PID controller which operates a control valve on the inlet of the gas return vacuum pumps. This controls gas flow out of the detectors in order to maintain a constant differential pressure between the atmosphere and chambers. In case of equipment failure, power loss, or extraordinary transient the detectors are protected by oil filled bubblers which will vent the gas to atmosphere or break vacuum which exceeds 0.125 inch water column.

Gas exhausted from the return is exhausted to the atmosphere while a portion of the return gas is diverted to oxygen and moisture sensors to monitor contaminants. Contaminant levels indicate the leak levels in the system.

All parameters monitored are input to EPICS and the Alarm Handler. This allows for remote monitoring and alarm functions.

II Controls Overview

The DC gas system consists of 2 identical mixing systems, 3 individual supply, and 2 pressure control systems. Each of these subsystems has its own controls, monitoring, and protection system.

Controls can be broken down as follows:

GAS MIXING AND STORAGE

Mix #1 Argon MFC

Mix #1 CO2 MFC

Mix #1 ratio - TCU #1

Mix #1 Pressure – Absolute Baratron

Mix #2 Argon MFC

Mix #2 CO2 MFC

Mix #2 ratio - TCU #2

Mix #2 Pressure – Absolute Baratron

DETECTOR GAS SUPPLY

R1 gas flow to detector – R1 Supply MFC

R2 gas flow to detector – R2 Supply MFC

R3 gas flow to detector – R3 Supply MFC

O2 Level

H2O Level

DETECTOR PRESSURE CONTROL

R1-R2 control pressure – cRIO

R1-R2 Differential Pressure - MKS 223B Baratron

R3 control pressure - cRIO

R3 Differential Pressure – MKS 223B Baratron

DETECTOR GAS RETURN

R1-2 gas return flow - R1-2 return flow MFT

R1-2 return O2 Level

R1-2 return H2O Level

R3 gas return flow - R3 return flow MFT

R3 return O2 Level

R3 return H2O Level

PROTECTION CIRCUIT

R1-2 differential pressure – R1-2 OMEGA DP25

R1-2 differential pressure transducer - Magnahelic

R1-2 under pressure relay – R1-2 OMEGA DP25 Relay 1

R1-2 over pressure relay - R1-2 OMEGA DP25 Relay 2

R3 differential pressure – R3 OMEGA DP25

R3 differential pressure transducer - Magnahelic

R3 under pressure relay – R3 OMEGA DP25 Relay 1

R3 over pressure relay - OMEGA DP25 Relay 2

III Operator Training

The DC gas system uses high pressure gas and cryogenic liquids. The Control system uses complex specialty electronics and instruments. There are personnel and equipment hazards associated with improper operation of this equipment. Because of this, only properly trained and authorized persons are permitted to operate this equipment. Only the Hall B Engineer can appoint an authorize operator.

The prospective operator must accomplish the following 3 steps

- 1) Operators must complete the proscribed training program
- 2) Operators must pass a final checkout with the SME
- 3) The Hall B Lead Engineer must certify the operator

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IV System Operation

Gas Supply

The DC Gas supply manifold is on the outside wall of the Hall B Gas Shed, Bldg. 96B. Argon and Nitrogen gases are supplied from bulk tanks which are filled by the vendor. The vendor monitors the bulk tank levels via a land line and schedules tankers to fill them. In an emergency or for maintenance purposes, portable dewars can be used to supply these gases under direct supervision of a system expert. CO₂ gas is supplied from high pressure dewars, the operator must monitor the dewars and change them out before they go dry. Experience with these containers allows one to determine if it is almost empty by its tilt weight. Also note that the CO₂ dewar supply pressure range is 175-200psig. This means that the supply should never exceed 200psig and that it should never fall below 175psig. Therefore, the on line dewar must deliver CO₂ at pressure above that of the backup dewar, but below 200psig. Similarly, the backup dewar must deliver CO₂ at pressure above 175psig, but below that of the on line dewar. The reasoning behind this is that in case the on line dewar goes empty, the backup dewar will be capable of supplying the system for normal ops. In theory, the backup dewar will never be needed because the operator will change out the on line dewar prior to it "going dry" .

CO₂ Dewar Operation

The CO₂ dewars must be ordered through the JLAB ecommerce system. At least 4 dewars should be on hand at all times. Dewars should be ordered on a 1-1 basis, as soon as one is removed from the manifold a replacement should be ordered. Extra dewars should be ordered ahead of time prior to holidays such that they are on hand when required. There is a 7 day delay between ordering and delivery. For example, if an order is placed on a Friday, delivery may not happen until the following Friday.

The CO₂ dewars must be monitored as necessary from the time they are delivered by the vendor. The pressure buildup circuits must be adjusted as required to produce an internal pressure >200psig and <350psig. Frequent monitoring of pressure and levels in the dewars is required in order to insure a dependable gas supply.

There are heaters installed between the dewar and the pressure regulators. These heaters prevent the pressure regulators from freezing up. CO₂ flow to the mixing system will be disrupted if the regulator freezes. These heaters should be operated from the period of Fall to Spring.

Care must be taken when attaching the supply line to the dewar such that only the gas supply connection is used. Connecting the regulator to the liquid supply connection will cause a disruption in the CO₂ gas supply and may cause equipment damage.

Improper CO₂ pressure is one of the most common issues an operator must resolve. This issue can always be traced back to either operator error or CO₂ dewar problem. Common operator errors are; improper pressure regulator setting, failure to open the dewar supply valve, failure to open the supply hose valve, failure to replace empty dewars, and improper operation of the dewar pressure buildup circuit. Common CO₂ dewar problems are; dewar pressure is too low, dewar empties due to excessive venting, and improper pressure buildup circuit operation.

CO2 Dewar Change Out

Liquid CO2 Dewar Characteristics

CO2 is delivered in standard 180 liter dewars.

A full dewar contains 400 lbs (182 kg) of liquid CO2.

The gross weight of a full CO2 dewar is ~730 lbs (331 kg).

The pressure relief on the dewar is set at 350 psi.

A dewar will vent gas out the relief valve as it warms up.

Excessive gas venting from the relief valve is not uncommon during the summer months.

Procedure

- 1) Close the gas supply valve on the dewar you are going to remove from service.
- 2) Close the supply hose valve for that same dewar.
- 3) Remove the supply hose from that dewar using a wrench.
- 4) Move the empty dewar to the designated part of the concrete pad.
- 5) Move a full dewar to the place the one you removed was.
- 6) Connect to the gas line to the dewar after verifying the gasket is in place.
- 7) Open the gas supply valve on that dewar.
- 8) Open the supply line valve.
- 9) Adjust the pressure regulator to 175 psig on the backup supply dewar.
- 10) Adjust the pressure regulator to 200 psig on the main supply dewar.

Detector pressure protection solenoid Valves

Solenoid valves are installed in the system to isolate the drift chambers from the gas system in case of a component failure or power outage. A Dwyer Magnahelic indicating differential pressure transmitter monitors pressure at the exhaust manifold of each region. The 4-20ma signal sent by the transmitter is received by an Omega DP25-E process controller with dual alarm relays and analog output in the Hall B Gas Shed.

The DP25-E unit has a digital display that reads out directly in inches of water column. The relays are controlled by set points programmed into the controller by the expert. All relays are normally open (NO); under fault conditions the relays open, and are active between the high pressure limit and the low pressure or negative pressure limit. These relays control the safety solenoid valves in the hall via the solenoid valve control unit, DC GAS Master Control box, in the gas shed. The DC GAS Master Control box permits either automatic or manual control of the solenoid valves. Manual control is sometimes needed to recover the system from an over or under protection isolation.

If the protection system fails and the control system is unable to maintain detector pressure within limits, the solenoids must be de-energized manually in order to isolate the detectors from the gas system to prevent a catastrophic gas window failure.

Procedure for Emergency Manual Remote Bypass

- 1) Determine if there is actually a problem by observing the display of the DP25-E.
- 2) If the digital display shows a negative value or a value $>0.225''\text{wc}$, the respective detectors should already be bypassed.
- 3) Check to see that the green solenoid status light is off for that respective detector on the DC GAS Master Control.
- 4) If the green solenoid status light is on, the solenoids are energized and the protection system has failed.
- 5) If the protection system has failed turn off the power to the DC GAS Master Control. This will place the system in a safe condition by de-energizing the solenoids and bypass the detectors.
- 6) The DC gas system expert must be alerted to this action.
- 7) The Run Coordinator must be alerted to this action.
- 8) Only a system expert can recover the system from bypass operation.

Isolating the Gas system from the high pressure gas supply

Preliminary Discussion

The bulk gas supply tanks, the supply buffer tanks, and/or supply dewars, hold a large supply of gas at high pressure. It is possible that a failure could occur resulting in the uncontrolled escape of gas. It would be dangerous to enter the gas shed if such a failure had occurred. All high pressure supplies of gas would have to be secured from outside the gas shed.

Procedure for Isolating the HP Gas Supply

- 1) Close all 8 supply valves on the gas supply manifold on the outside wall of the gas shed.
- 2) Close the inlet and outlet valves on each of the 4 gas supply buffer tanks located between the gas shed and Hall C. This is a total of 8 valves. MV403, MV404, MV407, MV408, MV307, MV308, MV303, and MV304.
- 3) The uncontrolled escape of gas will decrease as the lines vent to atmosphere through the fault.
- 4) Inform the DC gas system expert.
- 5) Inform the Run Coordinator.

Normal Operating Parameters

The gas system can be seen as a number of components connected together in series. If any one component fails or malfunctions the system will not perform its function. Parameters such as pressure and flow are used to describe the inputs and outputs of these components. A fault anywhere in system can be located by checking these parameters.

Gas Supply

Argon bulk storage tank supply pressure 175-200 psig

CO2 dewar supply pressure 175-200 psig

Nitrogen supply pressure 30-40 psig

Gas Mixing

Argon supply - 160-165 psig

CO2 supply - 160-165 psig

#1 conductivity meter - 10% set to match reference calibration gas

#2 conductivity meter - 10% set to match reference calibration gas

Storage Buffer Tanks - All 4 tanks - 100 +/- 20 psig

Gas Metering

Region 1 and 3 metering supply 30 psig

Region 2 metering supply 30 psig

R1 flow varies; 0.5X=2slm, 1X=4slm, 2X=8slm

R2 flow varies; 0.5X=9slm, 1X=18slm, 2X=36slm

R3 flow varies; 0.5X=15slm, 1X=30slm, 2X=60slm

X=volume exchange per day

Pressure Control Setpoints

R1-2 PID Loop Pressure Setpoint – 0.075"wc

R3 PID Loop Pressure Setpoint – 0.075"wc

Pressure Safety Interlock Setpoints

Pressure Safety Interlocks Low Pressure Trip 0.010"wc

Pressure Safety Interlocks High Pressure Trip 0.150"wc

Responding to problems indicated by EPICS

The EPICS alarm handler monitors the analog outputs of system sensors and transducers. These controls and instruments provide inputs to EPICS for use as a remote monitoring and warning system. EPICS cannot be used for control of any component in the gas system.

There are multiple components between the alarm handler's computer screen and the analog input signal coming out of the instrument being monitored. The first step in responding to an alarm is to verify the actual operating condition of the system.

There are only a few conditions that require immediate action. The following procedures are designed to prevent equipment damage and data loss.

Procedures

- 1) Check actual system operating parameters to verify the problem. If the problem is real continue. If the problem only shows up on the alarm handler, it is an EPICS or IOC problem. No further action is needed.
- 2) If detector pressure is out of the normal operating band and the system did not automatically go to bypass, manually switch to bypass. (Call the DC gas system expert)
- 3) If the mixing ratio is incorrect, check the gas supply pressures. If the CO₂ pressure is low, change out the supply dewar. Call the DC gas system expert if the problem cannot be solved by changing out an empty dewar.
- 5) If an automatic bypass condition has occurred call the DC gas system expert.
- 6) Refer to the appropriate section of the DC GAS System Operators manual for further guidance.

Equipment Operation

Refer to the DC Gas section of the Hall B Gas System Controls Operating Procedures

Operating the OMEGA DP25-E Process Controllers

These units have a menu system. All functions can be setup using the controls on the front panel. The operators manual should be used as a guide to operations.

These units are the heart of the Pressure Safety Interlock System for the detectors.

Each unit has 2 relays.

----The under pressure protection relay is configured to be active, closed, above the setpoint.

----The over pressure protection relay is configured to be active, closed, below the setpoint.

Both relays must be active in order for the bypass control solenoids to be energized. If either relay trips, the solenoids will be de-energized and the chambers will be bypassed.

(SEE NORMAL OPERATING PARAMETERS)

WARNING

Improper use could cause gas system malfunction and detector damage. Only properly trained and authorized personnel are permitted to operate these controllers.

Calibrating the Panametrics TCUs

The Panametrics TCUs tend to slowly drift over time and are temperature sensitive. We use the units to maintain a 10.0% mixture of CO₂ in Argon. These units use a reference leg of Argon to compare to the mixed leg. The gas flow through each leg must be equal. There is a large piping volume which must be purged through the unit before an equilibrium reading can be obtained from the unit. A 10-12 minute time lag to equilibrium in unit readout is typical.

The following procedure is used to perform the Weekly calibration checks.

Preliminary Discussion

This procedure compares the 10% calibration standard to the mix. This procedure must be performed prior to any adjustment to the mix.

Procedure

- 1) Switch the TCU selector valve to calibration gas 10%
- 2) After a 10-12 minute window record the TCU outputs.
- 3) Switch the TCU selector to the mix
- 4) Adjust the mix to match the 10% standard
- 5) Switch to calibration gas buffer 1 and compare the result to the calibration value
- 6) Switch to calibration gas buffer 2 and compare the result to the calibration value
- 7) Repeat the above steps as necessary

Adjusting the Argon CO2 Gas Mixture Ratio

The gas mixture composition directly effects detector operation. The gas mix is controlled to maintain a 10% +/-0.2% drift of CO2 in Ar gas mixture. The Ar-CO2 mix ratio is controlled by varying the CO2 flow rate. The CO2 MFC operates in slave mode to the Ar MFC. The CO2 MFC will adjust CO2 flow to maintain a set ratio of flows.

The Panametrics TCU is used to maintain the proper gas mix. The Panametrics TCU has a 4-20ma output. This is read out on an Omega process controller. The reading units are ma (milli-amps). Weekly calibrations are performed. Calibration gas is flowed through the TCU. The mixture of the gas is then adjusted to match the calibration gas immediately following the calibration procedure.

PROCEDURE

Refer to the DC Gas section of the Hall B Gas System Controls Operating Procedures to Make these Adjustments

--To increase the percentage of CO2 in the mix, the current output signal must be increased. To increase the current output signal, the CO2 MFC must be adjusted to flow more gas.

--To decrease the percentage of CO2 in the mix, the current output signal must be decreased. To decrease the current output signal, the CO2 MFC must be adjusted to flow less gas.

--Small incremental adjustments work best. A 5% change in CO2 flow will change the mix by ~ 0.5%. That is a large change. A very good estimate of the change required can be easily calculated as follows. The difference between the calibration gas TCU reading and that of the mixed gas determine the change required. After each adjustment, 20-40 minutes should be allowed for the TCU to stabilize. Then the mix can be adjusted again in a similar manner. This process is repeated until the mix is exactly 10% CO2 in Ar as indicated by the Panametrics TCU.

Maintaining Buffer Tank Pressure

The detector gas supply mass flow controllers meter gas from the supply buffer tanks to the detectors. If the mixing supply input to the buffers exactly matches the output flow, the pressure in the buffer is constant. Whenever the output from the buffers to the detectors is changed, the input to the buffers from the mixing system must also be changed in order to maintain buffer pressure. The Ar-CO₂ ratio is manually controlled to match a reference value determined by a calibration gas. The total flow into the buffer must equal the total flow out over time or the pressure will either increase or decrease outside of the normal operational range.

One purpose of the supply buffer tanks is to average out any fluctuation in the mix over time and to minimize the effect of any short term error in the mix. If detector flow is increased without also increasing the mixing flow, pressure in the buffers will begin to decrease. As the pressure decreases, the amount of gas in the buffers is reduced, and the efficiency of the buffer to buffer out fluctuations in the mix is reduced. At some point the pressure will decrease below that required to maintain flow to the detectors.

The solution is to program the cRIO to automatically control buffer tank pressure by varying the gas mixing flow at the high, 100 psi, and low, 80 psi, buffer tank pressure setpoints.

For Buffer #1 (R1-R3), The cRio is programmed to mix gas as follows;

R1 supply flow + R3 supply flow = R1-3 Current Flow

@ 80 psi mixed gas flow rate = 1.1 x Current Flow

@ 100 psi mixed gas flow = 0.9 x Current Flow

For Buffer #2 (R2), The cRio is programmed to mix gas as follows;

R2 supply flow = R2 Current Flow

@ 80 psi mixed gas flow rate = 1.1 x Current Flow

@ 100 psi mixed gas flow = 0.9 x Current Flow

Refer to the DC Gas section of the Hall B Gas System Controls Operating Procedures to Make These Adjustments

CAUTION

IMPROPER OPERATION OF THIS SYSTEM CAN RESULT IN CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE TO THE DETECTOR.

ONLY PROPERLY TRAINED AND AUTHORIZED INDIVIDUALS ARE PERMITTED TO OPERATE DC GAS FLOW AND PRESSURE CONTROL SYSTEMS.

Adjusting gas Flow to the Detectors

Each of the 3 DC Regions is supplied by it's own MFC.

R1 MFC

R2 MFC

R3 MFC

Gas Flow must be increased for DC operation with beam.

Gas Flow must be decreased during non beam operation in order to conserve gas.

(SEE NORMAL OPERATING PARAMETERS)

Refer to the DC Gas section of the Hall B Gas System Controls Operating Procedures to Increase or Decrease Gas Flow

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VI – List of Appendixes

Hall B CLAS12 DC GAS System Block Diagram page A 1

DC GAS Mixing, Storage, and Supply page A 2

DC GAS System Piping Diagram page A 3

DC GAS Pressure Controls page A 4

DC GAS Pressure Safety Interlocks page A 5

DC GAS EPICS Monitoring Parameters page A 6

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