

# Measuring Gas Cylinder Temperature During Filling

with Calex infrared temperature sensors

Infrared temperature sensors from Calex Electronics have been used with success for over 10 years by leading providers of packaged gas for measuring the temperature of gas cylinders as they are filled.

When a gas cylinder is filled and the pressure increases, the cylinder will warm up. The temperature of the surface is monitored for several reasons:

The target pressure is compensated so the amount of gas filled is corrected at a standard temperature, typically 15°C.

The temperature is monitored as the cylinder valves are opened. If the valve is opened correctly, a drop in pressure, and therefore temperature, is observed, before rising again as the cylinder is filled. If the temperature drop is not detected, then filling is stopped as there could be a problem in opening the valve.

If multiple cylinders are filled simultaneously, the highest and lowest filling temperatures of the batch are monitored and if the difference between these two temperatures is too great, filling can be stopped.



The PyroCouple is most commonly used in this application. The cylinders are painted, and sometimes icy, so satisfactory results can be obtained with the low-cost, fixed-emissivity PyroCouple series.

One PyroCouple (model PC151MT-0) sensor is typically aimed at the side of each gas cylinder. This model has a 4-20 mA output, a temperature range of 0°C to 250°C, and 15:1 optics to measure a small spot on the side of the cylinder.

The customer previously used magnetic probes to measure steel cylinder temperatures, however problems were encountered when non-magnetic aluminium alloy and composite wrapped cylinders were used.

Infrared temperature measurement was investigated and found to be successful due to the sensor's fast response time (240 ms), analogue output for connection to the customer's PLC, and the ability to measure the temperature of the surface of wrapped cylinders through the plastic wrapping.

If the sensor needs to be repositioned frequently, the gooseneck mount (below) can be a useful accessory. It can be supplied pre-assembled with the sensor or ordered separately.

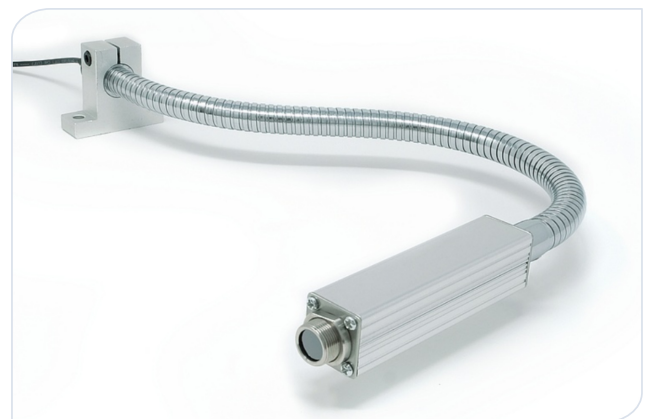
## APPLICATION TIPS

An emissivity setting of 0.95 usually gives good results due to the high emissivity of painted, plastic-wrapped or composite fibre-wrapped cylinders. For these reasons, the same sensor can be used for any of these types of cylinder with no need to change any settings.

The measured spot size should be no more than half the diameter of the cylinder. A sensor with 15:1 optics, positioned at a distance of 200 mm will measure a spot of diameter 25 mm (approx).

Handheld infrared temperature sensors can also be used to determine temperature gradients over the height of the cylinder.

For more information or assistance, please contact Calex.



Issue B - May 26

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