

Analytical Application Sets

Continuous monitoring of hydrogen-cooled generators

Set GGA

Overview



The standardized Set GGA (Generator Gas Analyzer) has been specially designed for monitoring hydrogen-cooled turbo generators.

Benefits

Standardized complete system

- Simple and fast to configure
- Field-proven, harmonized and reliable set
- Low purchase price and economic operation
- Suitable for optimizing the efficiency of H₂-cooled turbo generators

Field-proven, reliable technologies

- High-precision and reliable purity monitoring of hydrogen
- Microchip-based thermal conductivity measurement
- Redundant measuring system
- SIL 1 certificate for the analysis hardware

Simple operation

- Intuitive menu prompting
- Configuration on large displays with plaintext
- Use of CO₂ and AR as inert gas possible

Application

This set is used in power generation applications.

Turbo generators in power plants are cooled with gas in order to increase their efficiency. In spite of the strict safety requirements hydrogen is used as a cooling gas. This offers huge advantages over air. These include considerably better cooling properties, lower friction loss on rotating parts, and a higher electrical breakdown strength. These features enable hydrogen to satisfy the requirements for the turbo generator to reach an optimum level of efficiency.

However, mixtures of hydrogen and air with a hydrogen content of anything from 4 to 77 % are explosive. For safety reasons, it is imperative that this is prevented during operation filling and emptying of the turbo generators. International standards (EN 60034-3 and IEC 842) state that redundant safety monitoring with two independent operating systems must be used for this.

In addition, contamination of the hydrogen cooling gas reduces the efficiency of the turbo generator, as it leads to considerably higher friction loss. For a 970 MW generator, a difference of 4% is equivalent to a 0.8 MW difference in power. There are also good reasons related to cost-effectiveness why the cooling gas should be continuously monitored for contamination.

The Set GGA is a complete solution for monitoring hydrogen-cooled turbo generators, with the dual benefit of being simple to handle and having low initial investment costs.

Design

The Set GGA is available in the following versions:

- Generator Gas Analyzer (GGA)
- GGA with calibration gas skid
- GGA with calibration gas skid and mounting frame

Analyzers

The GGA contains two CALOMAT 6E analyzers (19" rack unit versions). From the gas sampling system right through to the gas outlet, these are completely separate from one another, thereby ensuring full redundancy.

The CALOMAT 6E is a continuous gas analyzer for determining H₂ and He in binary or quasi-binary gas mixtures.

To measure the hydrogen and inert gases continuously, the exact thermal conductivity of the sample gas mixture is measured and the concentration calculated from this. Only binary gas mixtures can be directly measured.

The CALOMAT 6E is used to measure 0 to 100% CO₂/Ar in air, 0 to 100% H₂ in CO₂/Ar or 80 to 100% H₂ in air, in the context of monitoring hydrogen-cooled turbo generators, on account of its high measuring range dynamics.

The devices are approved for use in ATEX Zone 2. Gas mixtures according to the definition of Zone 1 may also be discharged. In terms of leak tightness and pressure resistance, the measuring cell and entire physical structure of the gas path, from inlet to outlet, are certified up to 55 000 hPa. This is much higher than the pressure that arises with oxyhydrogen gas ignition.

A flame arrestor at the sample gas inlet provides additional safety.

The integrated LCD display shows the measured values, status bar and measuring ranges simultaneously.

The T90 time is less than 5 s. This means that the delay between the measurement and displaying the result is very short.

Tests carried out under harsh field conditions have indicated that the 3-week drift of the measurement results is less than 0.1%. Combined with a repeat accuracy of 0.1%, this ensures that the measurement results gathered will be both accurate and precise.

Analyzer cabinet

Another feature of the GGA is a protective cabinet for the analyzers. This provides a compact location where the system can be easily installed, and offers protection against dust and water. The system is approved in accordance with IP54 degree of protection.

The cabinet measures 616 x 615 x 600 mm (H x D x W) and is made from painted sheet steel.

A key advantage of this type of construction is that it eliminates the need for a restricted breathing enclosure, allowing maintenance to be carried out without any difficulty. If a restricted breathing enclosure is required, it must be ensured that the system is operated in an airtight room. Restoring the restricted breathing enclosure once maintenance procedures have been performed is a costly and time-consuming process.

To keep operating and maintenance costs low, the GGA set supports natural cabinet ventilation and a filter element provides protection against particles of dirt. Purging with instrument air is not necessary.

Calibration gas skid

The analyzers and analyzer cabinet are supplied as part of the basic configuration of the set. As an option, however, it is also possible to obtain a suitable calibration gas skid on a mounting plate.

The calibration gas skid is responsible for preparing the extracted sample ready for analysis. This ensures that the sample, calibration and inert gases are fed into the analyzers at the right pressure and flow rate, and without having been mixed with other gases.

Design (continued)

The skid is fully equipped with a flame arrestor, shut-off ball valve, stainless steel overflow regulator, single-stage pressure reducer, stainless steel 5-way ball valve, all-metal flowmeter for air, 1-channel isolation amplifier and mounting hardware. The flowmeters are designed to transmit a limit monitoring signal. The connection is made on-site.

The calibration gas skid guarantees that all the requirements in terms of safety, quality and simplicity are satisfied when connecting sample, calibration and inert gases.

Mounting frame

The mounting frame is a supplementary feature of the set. It enables free-standing installation of the analyzer cabinet and calibration gas skid.

The mounting frame is supplied in a fully assembled state, including feet. Its overall height is 2 000 mm.

Function

There are three distinct processes involved in monitoring hydrogen-cooled turbo generators: normal operation, filling and emptying. The measuring task entails:

- Preventing a gas mixture of hydrogen and air outside the specified thresholds, or detecting the risk of this happening in good time.
- Monitoring the hydrogen purity.

Normal operation

During normal operation, the purity of the generator cooling gas is monitored. If the purity falls below a specific threshold (e.g. < 95% H₂), a message is output. The monitored range is 80 to 100% H₂ in air.

Filling the generator

Filling the generator is a two-step procedure: first, the air in the generator is replaced by inert gas (argon or CO₂). The inert gas is then replaced by hydrogen. During this procedure, the concentration trends of the gases are measured, and the replacement processes monitored.

To ensure that no potentially explosive mixtures arise:

- In the first step, the measuring range of 0 to 100% inert gas in the air must be monitored.
- In the second step, the measuring range of 0 to 100% H₂ in the inert gas must be monitored.

Emptying the generator

The procedure is performed in reverse when emptying the generator: The hydrogen is first replaced with inert gas and the generator is then filled with air. The measuring tasks remain unchanged in this case. Here it is necessary to monitor the measuring ranges of 0 to 100% H₂ in the inert gas first, and then 0 to 100% inert gas in the air.

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Selection and ordering data

	Article No.
Set GGA	7MB1950- ● ● ● 0 ● - ● ● ● ●
Click on the Article No. for online configuration in the PIA Life Cycle Portal.	
<i>Unavailable combinations are shown in PIA Life Cycle Portal as "not permitted".</i>	
Gas connection	
6 mm pipe	0
1/4" pipe	1
Version	
H ₂ monitoring (turbo generators)	G A
Add-on electronics	
Without	0
Auxiliary power	
100 ... 120 V AC, 48 ... 63 Hz	0
200 ... 240 V AC, 48 ... 63 Hz	1
Device design	
Set GGA, cable glands M20 x 1.5, power supply with cable diameter of 6 ... 12 mm	A
Set GGA, with calibration gas skid, cable glands M20 x 1.5, power supply with cable diameter of 6 ... 12 mm (sample preparation on stainless steel plate), delivery batch in 2 shipments	B
Set GGA, cable glands M25 x 1.5, power supply with cable diameter of 14 ... 18 mm	C
Set GGA, with calibration gas skid pre-mounted on frame, cable glands M20 x 1.5, power supply with calibration gas kit (PA on stainless steel plate), pre-mounted on frame, delivery batch in 1 shipment	E
Explosion protection	
Certificate: ATEX II 3G, flammable and non-flammable gases	B
Documentation	
German	0
English	1
French	2
Spanish	3

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Technical specifications

Set GGA	
Climatic conditions	
Ambient temperature	5 ... 50 °C
Relative humidity	70%, non-condensing
Corrosive atmosphere	No
Gas inlet conditions	
Calomat 6E	
• Sample gas pressure	800 ... 1 100 hPa (absolute)
• Sample gas flow	30 ... 90 l/h (0.5 ... 1.5 l/min)
Calibration gas skid	
• Sample gas pressure	55 000 hPa (absolute)
• Sample gas flow	30 ... 90 l/h (0.5 ... 1.5 l/min)
Power supply	
Supply 1	200 ... 240 V AC, 48 ... 63 Hz
Supply 2	100 ... 120 V AC, 48 ... 63 Hz
Supply 3	24 V DC for isolation amplifiers
Type of connections	
Pipe material	Stainless steel
Connections/components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metric (6 mm) Imperial (1/4")
Cabling	
Electrical design	According to IEC
Type of cables	Non-armored cables
Cable ID	No single core labeling
Installation	
Place of installation	Interior
Hazardous zone analyzer	ATEX II, 3G
System design	
Version	Cabinet
Degree of protection	IP54
Set GGA	
Automatic calibration	No
Signal outputs	4 ... 20 mA/floating contact; max. 24 V AC/DC 1 A
With sample gas return flow	On request
Measuring response	
Output signal fluctuation	< ± 0.75% of the smallest possible measuring range according to nameplate, with electronic damping constant of 1 s (s = 0.25%)
Zero point drift	< 1%/week of the smallest possible measuring span according to nameplate
Measured value drift	< 0.5%/of the smallest possible measuring span according to nameplate
Repeatability	< 1% of the current measuring range
Detection limit	1% of the current measuring range
Linearity error	< ± 1% of the current measuring range
Influencing variables	
Ambient temperature	Based on sample gas pressure 1 013 hPa absolute, 0.5 l/min sample gas flow and 25 °C ambient temperature
Accompanying gases	< 1%/10 K referred to smallest possible measuring span according to nameplate
Sample gas flow	Deviation from zero point
Sample gas pressure	< 0.1% of the smallest possible measuring span according to nameplate with a change in flow of 0.1 l/h within the permissible flow range
Auxiliary power	< 1% of the current measuring range with a pressure variation of 100 hPa
	< 0.1% of the current measuring range with nominal voltage ± 10%

Generator gas analyzer

Analysis	Measuring point designation			Unit	Measured component	Generator gas analyzer		
	Concentration					Small	Large	
Component	Min.	Typical	Max.					
Ar/CO ₂ in air	0	-	100	Vol.%	Yes	0	100	
H ₂ in Ar/CO ₂	0	-	100	Vol.%	Yes	0	100	
H ₂ in air	80	-	100	Vol.%	Yes	80	100	
Sample temperature	-	50	-	°C	-	-	-	
Dust content	-	0	-	mg/m ³	-	-	-	
H ₂ O dew point	-	-50	-	°C	-	-	-	
Aggregate state, sample ¹⁾	Gaseous	-	-	-	-	-	-	

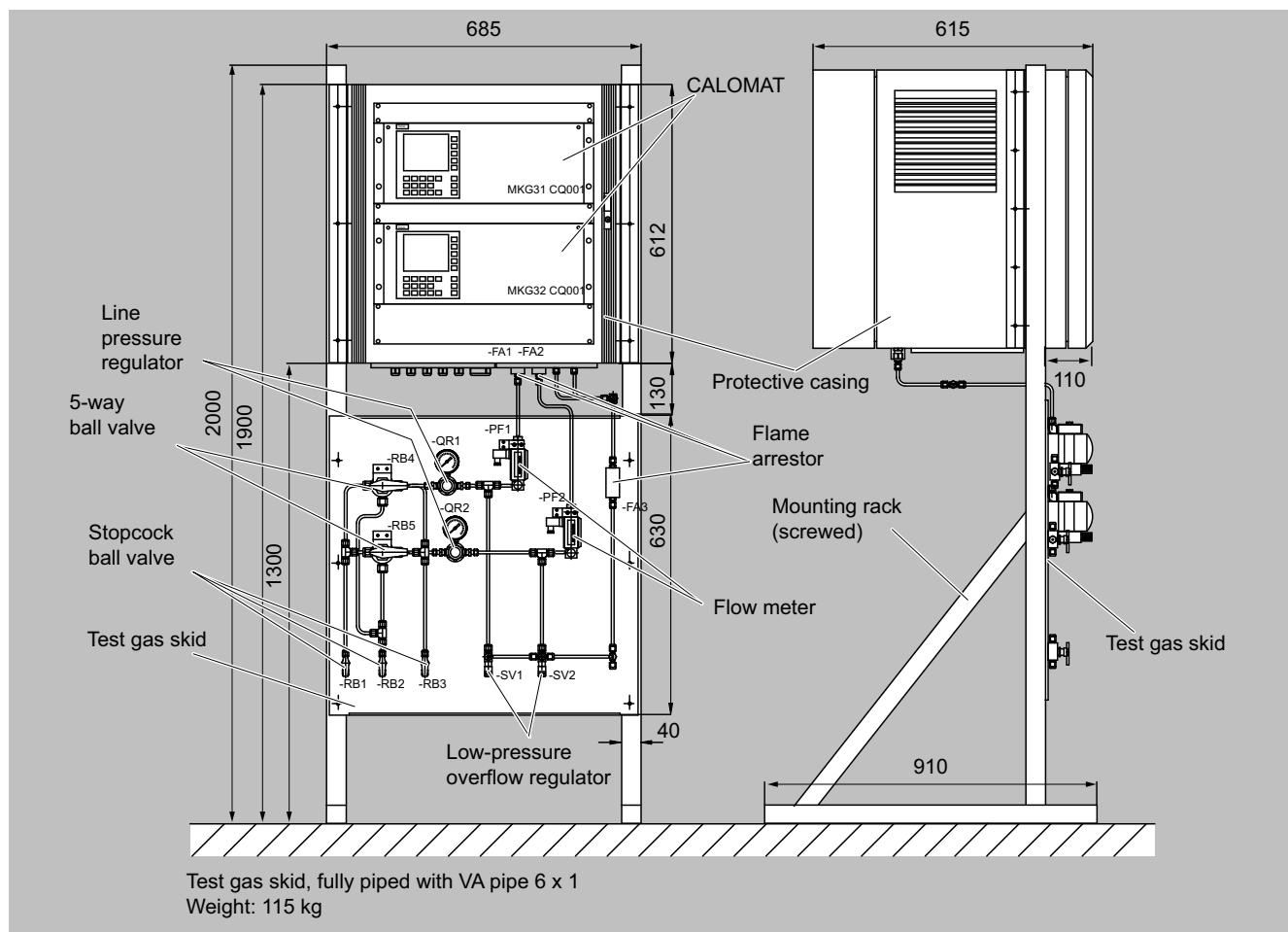
1) Standard state at 20 °C, 101.3 kPa.

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Dimensional drawings



Set GGA, dimensions in mm, figure corresponds to 7MB1950-0GA00-1EB0