Development and Commercialization of a Non-Invasive Continuous Level Gauge for LP Gas Stationary and Mobile Tanks: How This Technology is to be Transferred to LNG Applications

For: The American Society of Gas Engineers

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Challenges to Develop a Better Liquid Level Gauge

Environmental Issues

Cost Effectiveness

Accuracy

Ease of Use



Continuous Level Gauge (CLG)

Applications in LP Gas

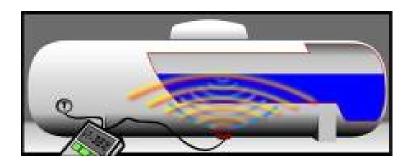


The Maximus™ CLG

- The Maximus[™] Continuous Level Gauge (CLG) for bulk tanks is commercially available today.
- The CLG uses a proprietary ultrasonic technology to measure liquid level.



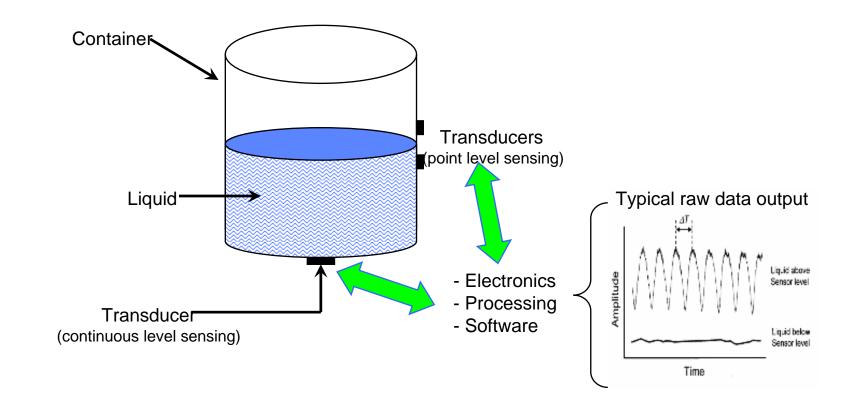




How the Maximus™ CLG Works

- From the sensing head mounted on the bottom surface of the tank the signal moves up through the liquid to the liquid-vapor boundary from where it bounces back to the sensor head.
- The CLG then calculates the height of the liquid.
- Based on operator-entered data about the tank's wall thickness, tank diameter, and shape of the caps, the liquid volume is calculated and displayed in "percent full", or in gallons.
- The gallons reading can be normalized to 60°F.

CLG Diagram



Successful Applications of the Maximus™ CLGs

SchagrinGAS, Elkton, MD







Successful Applications of the Maximus™ CLGs

North Hollywood School District, Los Angeles, CA







Successful Applications of the Maximus CLGs

GenPak, Cedar City, UT:

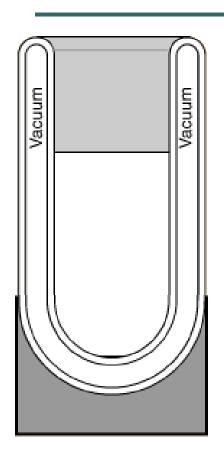


Converting the Maximus™ CLG for LNG Applications

The Challenge is a Major Difference in Wall Structure (2 Walls + Insulation Space)



LNG Storage: Dewar Flasks & Current Methods of Volume Measurement



- Dewar flasks are used to store LNG.
- These flasks are simply evacuated or otherwise insulated containers, used to store liquids at low temperatures.
- Currently, volume within these tanks are measured by differential pressure gauges and/or floaters.
- Servo motor based gauging systems (Archimedes' Principle) too expensive and complex.
- Capacitance gauges can freeze and provide false readings.

CLG's Could Be Built Into Newly Manufactured Dewar Flasks

The Maximus CLG can be built into newly manufactured Dewar flasks by installing the transducer within the insulated volume.

Maximus CLG Electronic Processor

Advantages and Benefits to the LNG Industry

- Less expensive to buy and operate
- Accurate (+/- 1%) and easy to use
- Safer
- Reads down to 2.5% full
- Readily adapts to remote monitoring systems
- Electronic box can be portable and can be shared among several Dewar flasks
- Environmentally friendly (no releases to atmosphere)