

Operation Manual

Diaphragm Sensed Gas Pressure Regulators

(Models AP500, AP1000, AP10PA, AP1100, AP1200, AP12PA, AP1400T, AP14PAT, AP1500, AP15PA, AP1600, AP1700, AP1900, AP2700, AP9000, AP9100, AZ1000, AZ10PA, AZ1100, AZ1200, AZ12PA, AZ1300, AZ1400T, AZ14PAT, AZ1500, AZ15PA, SL5200, SL5400, SL5500, SL5800, AK1000, AK10PA, AK1200, AK12PA, AK1300, AK1400T, AK14PAT, AK1500, AK15PA, AK1700)

A. General information

AP Tech pressure regulators are used in gas delivery systems to reduce the source pressure to a lower delivery pressure. Many different models are available with many different operating characteristics (pressure ratings, flow capabilities, etc.) and porting configurations.

Refer to the appropriate catalog data sheet for specific product information.

B. Installation

1. Prior to installation, verify that the operating characteristics of the pressure regulator as described below are appropriate for the system in which it will be installed.
 - a. Verify the materials of construction are compatible with the intended process gas.
 - b. Verify the pressure and temperature ratings are acceptable for the intended application.
 - c. If the regulator is equipped with either a supply or delivery pressure gauge, verify that the pressure gauge range is suitable for application.
 - d. Verify that the flow capability of the regulator is appropriate for the application.
2. Inspect the regulator to determine the flow path through the regulator and how the regulator will need to be installed in the system.
 - a. The high pressure (inlet) port(s) is labeled with an “HP” marked into the body near the port. Arrows are sometimes used next to the HP to point toward a high pressure port.
 - b. The low pressure (outlet) port(s) is labeled with an “LP” marked into the body near the port. Arrows are sometimes used next to the LP to point toward a low pressure port.
 - c. Dual stage regulators such as the AP1700 and AP2700 may have a monitor (1st stage outlet) port. The monitor port is labeled with an “MP” marked into the body near the port. Arrows are sometimes used next to the MP to point toward a monitor port.
 - d. Always connect the gas source to the high pressure port. Never connect the gas source to the low pressure port or monitor port as the regulator will be damaged and leakage can result.
3. Install the regulator using the appropriate method described below. A large variety of porting options and connections are available.
 - a. For tube stub connections, weld connectors or other components to the tube stubs per standard industry practice (reference SEMI standard F78).

- b. For metal face seal connectors, assemble connections per standard practice described by fitting supplier (typically 1/8 turn past fingertight).
 - c. For NPT connections, apply PTFE (e.g. Teflon) tape to connector threads and install connector in regulator body wrench tight.
 - d. For compression tube fittings, insert the tubing until it bottoms out in the fitting. Assemble nut fingertight. Then tighten the nut 1-1/4 turns past fingertight for 1/4 inch to 1 inch tube connections. For remaking connections, only tighten the nut slightly past fingertight until a rise in torque is detected—this is typically 1/10 turn.
 - e. For pneumatic actuator regulators (AP/AK/AZ10PA, AP/AK/AZ12PA, AP/AK/AZ14PAT, and AP/AK/AZ15PA), a separate line will need to be plumbed to provide the pneumatic actuator control pressure. Note the label near the actuator 1/8 NPT denoting the maximum allowable control pressure to be used during regulator operation.
 - f. Most regulators have threaded holes on the bottom for mounting. Refer to applicable data sheet for details. However, for panel mount options, please refer to APTech instruction #12100000 for mounting procedures.
4. After installation, perform a leak test. A helium leak test, a pressure decay leak test, or a bubble leak test may be used depending on the application. A helium leak test is recommended for all face seal connections and welds per standard industry practice (reference SEMI standard F1).

C. Operation (preset regulators)

Note: Preset regulators are adjusted at the factory to deliver a specified outlet pressure with a specified inlet pressure at zero flow conditions. Instructions to adjust the preset outlet pressure can be found below.

1. Perform the following to adjust the regulator set point
 - a. Close the source valve.
 - b. Open a downstream valve to vent the inlet and outlet side of the pressure regulator to atmospheric pressure.
 - c. Remove the acorn nut from the stem.
 - d. If present on the stem, loosen any hex nuts.
 - e. Using a hex wrench, rotate the stem fully counterclockwise to close the regulator.
 - f. Close the downstream valve.
 - g. Slowly open the source valve to pressurize the regulator high pressure port.
 - h. Using a hex wrench, rotate the stem clockwise to increase the delivery pressure to the desired set point.
 - i. In order to obtain a precise set point under flowing conditions, the regulator stem should be adjusted at the desired flow conditions before reaffixing the acorn nut.
 - j. If present on the stem, tighten the bottom hex nut to 75 in-lb. If there is a second hex nut on the stem, tighten it against the first nut.
 - k. Thread the acorn nut onto the stem and tighten against the hex nut (or cap if there are no hex nuts on the stem).

D. Operation (non-PA model regulators)

Note: A pressure regulator should not be used as a positive shut-off device.

Caution: Do not rotate the wheel counterclockwise under no flow conditions as damage to the regulator internal parts or leakage may result.

Caution: Do not pressurize the regulator outlet except by rotating the adjustment wheel clockwise as damage to the regulator internal parts or leakage may result.

1. Perform the following to open or increase the regulator set point.
 - a. Before opening the source valve, verify that the regulator adjustment wheel is turned fully counterclockwise (closed position).
 - b. Slowly open the source valve to pressurize the regulator high pressure port.
 - c. Rotate the wheel clockwise to increase the delivery pressure to the desired set point.
 - d. In order to obtain a precise set point under flowing conditions, the regulator wheel should be adjusted at the desired flow condition.
2. Perform the following to decrease the regulator set point.
 - a. Open a downstream valve to initiate a flowing condition.
 - b. Slowly rotate the wheel counterclockwise to reduce the delivery pressure.
 - c. In order to obtain a precise set point under flowing conditions, continue to rotate the wheel counterclockwise to reduce the delivery pressure below the desired set point. Then, rotate the wheel clockwise to increase the delivery pressure to obtain the set point at the desired flow condition.
3. Perform the following to close the regulator.
 - a. Close the source valve.
 - b. Vent to atmospheric pressure on both sides of the pressure regulator.
 - c. Rotate the wheel fully counterclockwise.

E. Operation (PA model regulators)

Note: A pressure regulator should not be used as a positive shut-off device.

Caution: Do not vent or otherwise reduce the actuation control pressure under no flow conditions as damage to the regulator internal parts or leakage may result.

Caution: Do not pressurize the regulator outlet except by slowly increasing the actuation control pressure as damage to the regulator internal parts or leakage may result.

1. Perform the following to open or increase the regulator set point.
 - a. Before opening the source valve, verify that the actuation control pressure is at atmospheric pressure.
 - b. Slowly open the source valve to pressurize the regulator high pressure port.

- c. Slowly increase the actuation control pressure to increase the delivery pressure to the desired set point.
 - d. In order to obtain a precise set point under flowing conditions, the actuation control pressure should be adjusted at the desired flow condition.
2. Perform the following to decrease the regulator set point.
 - a. Open a downstream valve to initiate a flowing condition.
 - b. Slowly reduce the actuation control pressure to reduce the delivery pressure.
 - c. In order to obtain a precise set point under flowing conditions, continue to decrease the actuation control pressure to reduce the delivery pressure below the desired set point. Then, increase the actuation control pressure to increase the delivery pressure and obtain the set point at the desired flow condition.
3. Perform the following to close the regulator.
 - a. Close the source valve.
 - b. Vent to atmospheric pressure on both sides of the pressure regulator.
 - c. Vent or otherwise reduce the actuation control pressure to atmospheric pressure.

Please contact the factory or your local representative to answer questions or for further information.