# Hydrogen Device Design with Safety in Mind



## How looks the transition to hydrogen?

Who are the potential users of hydrogen? Natural gas suppliers Petrochemical and chemical companies Energy companies Iron producers

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## What's different in design of hydrogen equipment?



#### **Materials**

Selection of appropriate materials for hydrogen storage and transport

Explosion risk

Potential hazards and safety measures

Leakage and leakage detection

Methods to detect and prevent hydrogen leaks

Energy density of hydrogen Efficiency and storage capacity considerations



### Steel and Hydrogen Attack

#### Material: Steel

Used in hydrogen service Subject to hydrogen attack

#### Reference

Publication: API 941

Title: Steel for Hydrogen Service at Elevated Temperatures and Pressure in Petroleum Refineries and Petrochemical Plants Publisher: American Petroleum Institute Location: Washington DC Date: April 1990



Production of methane inside the wall

Increase of pressure inside the wall





Décarburization of the wall Dissolution of less stable carbides Migration of carbone from inside-> untface

2H2 + Custon → CH4

Production of methane out of the wall

(c) Wall of pressure environment. vessel

H2 rich



Diffusion of hydrogen in the wall Diffusion of carbone near the reaction size Dissolution of carbides

2Hj+Centra + CH+

Production of methane inside the wall

increase of pressure inside the wall

(e)

### **Steel and Hydrogen** Attack

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Increase of pressure inside the wall



Decarburization of the surface Migration of carbone from inside? ourface

Production of methane out of the wall



Décarburization of the wall Dissolution of less stable carbides Migration of carbone from inside→ surface 2H2 + Cantan → CH4 Production of methane out of the wall

CH4

2H:

Wall of pressure

M.Ca

vetsel





Diffusion of hydrogen in the wall Diffusion of carbone near the reaction site Dissolution of carbides

2H1+Centra + CH4

#### Production of methane inside the wall

increase of pressure inside the wall

(e)

### Neslson diagram



"Steel for Hydrogen service at Elevated Temperatures and Presure in Petroleum Refineries and Petrochemical Plants", American Petroleum Institute, Publ. 941, Washington DC, April 1990.



### **Steel and Welds**









- Rapid gas decompression (RGD)
- Permeation rate

#### Flat gasket



 For the same material is the leakage for hydrogen 2,5 – 10 times higher then by nitrogen

### Non-metallic materials

#### Greases



- For some greases a change in viscosity can accrue

Lutz S, Strauß A. Entwicklung von Prüfgrundlagen für Wasserstoffanwendungen von Elastomeren, Kunststoffen, Schmier- und Dichtmitteln in der Gasinfrastruktur. DVGW-Workshop Sicherheit und Dichtheitsanforderungen unter Wasserstoffanwendung; 2024-06-11; Bonn, Germany



### **Explosion Risk**

Hydrogen Classification Hydrogen is in gas group IIC

Paint Thickness Requirements Maximum paint thickness is 0.2 mm Comparison with A or B where thickness is 2 mm

Seal Requirements

One additional independent seal needed

### Product Color

Determination of product color complient to ATEX

Ventilation Requirements Assessment of ventilation necessity





### Leakage and Leakage Detection

#### Hydrogen vs Methane

Hydrogen has a 48% higher flow rate Hydrogen's lowest explosion limit is 28% lower

#### Propane vs Methane

Propane's lowest explosion limit is 72% lower

#### Butane vs Methane

Butane's lowest explosion limit is 80% lower

Dalsass K. Guidance on hydrogen specific risk assessments in relation to NG and LPG. DVGW-Workshop Sicherheit und Dichtheitsanforderungen unter Wasserstoffanwendung; 2024-06-11; Bonn, Germany

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### Detection Methods for Hydrogen Leaks

Leakage and Detection Techniques

Importance of detecting hydrogen leaks Various methods available for detection

#### Analyzers

Devices used to analyze hydrogen presence

### **Optical Methods**

Techniques using light to detect leaks

Laser Methods

Advanced methods using lasers for precise detection





### Comparison of Energy Density with Methane

	Methane	Hydrogen
Density [g/L]	0.657	0.0899
Molar mass [g/mole]	16.043	2.0157
Heating value [MJ/kg]	50.0	119.5
Heating value [MJ/m3]	33.8	10.7



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