

T400-Series Technical Note

ME-PXN Inline Sensors Care Guidelines

Transonic® PXN Inline Flowsensors are designed for laboratory use. The smooth cylindrical flow channel will not trap air bubbles or particulate material and can be easily flushed to keep it clean and free from a build up of material deposits on the interior surfaces.

Sizes 4PXN and larger are made with a rigid Ultem plastic tube with barbed ends to mate with flexible laboratory tubing. A variety of clamps are commercially available for high pressure applications.

Sizes 1PXN – 3PXN are manufactured with a flexible Pebax® tubing channel that optimizes the ultrasound signal transmission for the highest accuracy and sensitivity for low flow applications. Pebax® is a polyether block amide plastic with strong physical and mechanical properties. The tubing ends are supplied approximately 45 mm long, but may be cut to a preferred length without compromising the integrity of the sensor. Plastic connectors are available for connecting the sensor or the Pebax® tubing ends may be expanded to fit over the system tubing. (Pebax® is a registered trademark of ARKEMA)

CLEANING AND STERILIZATION

Clean the outside surface and internal chamber of ME-PXN Inline Sensors with mild soap or detergent and warm water (55°C; 130°F). Remove any foreign material with a soft bristled brush. Avoid scratching the inner channel surface. A syringe with a plastic luer lock adapter, a pipe cleaner or small gauge covered wire may be used to mechanically clean the internal channel of the smaller Inline Sensors. The surfaces may be blown dry with compressed air to promote drying. Do not use alcohol or hydrogen peroxide on the internal Pebax® chamber or tubing ends as this will damage the plastic and the

Sensor. The electronic connector should be washed only when necessary; wipe with 90% ethanol or propanol, but do not immerse the connector. ME-PXN Sensors may be sterilized by cold ethylene oxide gas (< 60°C; 140°F.) Avoid subjecting Sensor housing to temperatures higher than 60°C. ME-PXN Sensors should not be boiled, autoclaved or sterilized by cold liquid sterilization.

MOUNTING AND USE

PXN Inline Flowsensors should be mounted into the tubing circuit so that they are supported on both ends. They should not be hung or supported by the Flowsensor cable. The arrow indicates direction of positive flow. Use the invert feature of the TS410 if the Sensor cannot be mounted in the positive position.

Larger sizes (4PXN and larger) have barbed ends to grip flexible laboratory tubing. The Ultem tubing edge is thin to provide a streamlined transition with circuit tubing. Protect these from sharp impact damage or dropping. Hard (high durometer) or thick walled tubes may slide onto the barbed ends more easily if the flexible tubing end is warmed prior to insertion. Nylon hose clamps are available to secure the junction for high pressure applications.

Smaller 1PXN - 3PXN Sensors are spliced into the flow circuit with short lengths of rigid plastic or metal tubing. Do not pull the flexible Pebax® tubing from the sensor housing: damage may result. The Pebax® tubing may be cut to a shorter desired length using a sharp blade. The ends may also be widened to mate with larger diameter tubing.

PEBAX® TUBING

Pebax® tubing becomes pliable at higher temperatures. To achieve larger diameter tubing ends to fit tightly over custom apparatus, the ends may be expanded by heating them over either a single gradually tapered rod or successively larger diameter rods. Transonic® recommends experimenting with this process on a sample of the Pebax® tube cut from one of the tubing ends or a sample obtained from Transonic® before altering the Sensor ends. Transonic® cannot be held responsible for damage made to the Sensor resulting from modification of the Pebax® tubing.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXPANDING PEBAX® TUBING ENDS

1. Mount the end of the tubing (approximately 5 mm) onto a metal rod that is slightly larger than the inner diameter of the Pebax® tube (or a rod that tapers down to the tubing ID). The rod should not have sharp edges or come to a point. Dip the end of the rod in soapy water, and grip the Pebax® tubing with a paper towel or cloth to make insertion easier. Expanding the Pebax® tubing within 2 cm of the sensor housing is not recommended.
2. Vertically submerge the rod, but not the Pebax® tubing in near-boiling water (about 95°C) for 30 seconds. The metal rod will transfer the heat to the tubing end.
3. Keeping the assembly vertical, submerge the rod and Pebax® tubing (but not the Sensor housing) into cold water for 30 seconds. Grip the Pebax® tubing with a paper towel and carefully remove the rod.

4. Repeat the process with successively larger diameter rods until the desired diameter is achieved. It is possible to expand the 1.2 mm diameter 1PXN tubing to 2.0 mm.

SENSOR STORAGE

PXN Inline Sensors should be stored dry in their plastic shipping cases.

CALIBRATION GUIDELINES

ME-PXN Flowsensors are precalibrated at the factory for use with customer specified fluid and temperature. This calibration is performed with equipment that has been calibrated traceable to the standards of National Institute of Standards and Technology and to Transonic Systems Inc.® equipment performance standards. A Calibration Certificate, valid for 1 year, will be supplied with each Flowsensor upon purchase. Up to 4 fluid/temperature combinations may be pre-programmed into the EPROM. ME-PXN Flowsensors may be recalibrated by the user for other fluid/temperature conditions using the gain adjustment program in the TS410 Module.

Please note, the ultrasound signal amplitude is also normalized for the fluid/temperature use specified. Using the Sensor at a different temperature or with fluid other than specified may show a significant reduction in the normalized received signal of the sensor. Ultrasonic transmission is affected by the density of the fluid. Accurate measurements can be made even with a low received signal indication if a careful calibration is performed to correct the flow gain of the Flowsensor.



Transonic Systems Inc. is a global manufacturer of innovative biomedical measurement equipment. Founded in 1983, Transonic sells "gold standard" transit-time ultrasound flowmeters and monitors for surgical, hemodialysis, pediatric critical care, perfusion, interventional radiology and research applications. In addition, Transonic provides pressure and pressure volume systems, laser Doppler flowmeters and telemetry systems.

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