

ISO 6416:2017-10 (E)

Hydrometry - Measurement of discharge by the ultrasonic transit time (time of flight) method

Contents		Page
Foreword		v
1 Scope	1	1
2 Normative references		1
3 Terms and definitions		1
4 Applications		1
4.1 Types of applications		1
4.2 Attributes and limitations		2
5 Method of measurement		2
5.1 Discharge		2
5.2 Calculation of discharge from the transit-time measurement		3
6 Flow velocity determination by the ultrasonic (transit time) method		3
6.1 Principle		3
6.2 Sound propagation in water		5
6.2.1 General		5
6.2.2 Speed of sound in water		6
6.2.3 Propagation losses		6
6.2.4 Signal path bending		8
6.2.5 Reflection		9
7 Gauge configuration		10
7.1 General		10
7.2 Single-path systems		10
7.3 Multi-path systems		11
7.4 Crossed-path systems		11
7.5 Reflected-path systems		13
7.6 Systems using transponders		14
7.7 Wireless systems (if a cable crossing is not possible)		15
7.8 Systems using divided cross-sections		16
7.9 Sloping paths		16
8 Determination of discharge		17
8.1 Single-path systems		17
8.2 Multi-path systems		18
8.2.1 General		18
8.2.2 Mid-section method		19
8.2.3 Mean-section method		20
8.3 Systems with transducers in the channel		21
9 System verification and calibration		22
10 Site selection		23
11 Site survey -- Before design and construction		23
11.1 General		23
11.2 Visual survey		23

11.3	Survey of the cross-section	24
11.4	Survey of velocity distribution	24
11.5	Survey of signal propagation	24
12	Operational measurement requirements	24
12.1	General	24
12.2	Basic components of flow determination	25
12.3	Water velocity determination	25
12.4	Determination of water stage or depth	25
12.5	Determination of mean bed level	26
12.6	Channel width	27
13	Gauging station equipment	27
13.1	General	27
13.2	Design and construction of equipment	28
13.2.1	Transducers	28
13.2.2	Transducer cables	29
13.3	Reflectors	29
13.4	Civil engineering works	32
13.5	Signal timing and processing	32
13.5.1	General	32
13.5.2	Signal-to-noise ratio	32
13.5.3	Signal maintenance (gain control)	33
13.5.4	Signal detection	33
13.5.5	Post-detection filtering	34
13.6	System self-checking	34
13.7	Site-specific data (or site parameters)	35
13.8	Clock and calendar	35
13.9	System performance criteria	35
13.9.1	General	35
13.9.2	Operating environment	36
13.9.3	Water environment	36
13.9.4	Mechanical environment	36
13.9.5	Extreme environmental conditions	36
13.9.6	Power source	36
13.9.7	Measurement uncertainty	36
13.10	System output	37
13.10.1	Local display	37
13.10.2	Local record	37
13.10.3	Remote record	37
13.10.4	Diagnostic information	37
13.11	Installation	37
13.12	Commissioning	38
13.13	Operating manual	38
13.14	Maintenance	39
14	Measurement uncertainties	40
14.1	General	40
14.2	Definition of uncertainty	40
14.3	Uncertainty in discharge	41
14.3.1	Uncertainty equation	41
14.3.2	Effective number of paths	42
14.3.3	Uncertainty in the line velocity, U_{L1}	42
14.3.4	Uncertainty in the channel width estimation, U_w	42
14.3.5	Examples of uncertainty estimation	43
14.3.6	Uncertainty estimate at low flow	44
14.3.7	Uncertainty estimate at high flow	45
	Annex A (informative) Principle of measurement uncertainty	47

Annex B (informative) Performance guide for hydrometric equipment for use in technical standard examples	54
Bibliography	58