

## Leak rate calculation

This formula is valid for the throughput of a compressible fluid (gas) thru a leak in a pressurized vessel.

It is:

Mass flow: 
$$\dot{m} = A \cdot \Psi \cdot \sqrt{2 \cdot p_i \cdot \rho_i}$$

Volume flow: 
$$\dot{V} = \frac{\dot{m}}{\rho_a}$$

Leak rate: 
$$\rho_a \cdot \dot{V} = \frac{p_a \cdot V}{t} = \dot{m} \cdot R \cdot T_a$$

- A: Leak area
- $\Psi$ : throughput function
- $p_i$ : pressure inside
- $\rho_i$ : density inside
- $p_a$ : pressure outside
- $\rho_a$ : density outside
- R: specific gas constant (air: 287, Helium: 2078 [J/(kg\*K)])
- $T_a$ : Temperature outside

Where the throughput function  $\Psi$  is:

$$\Psi = \sqrt{\frac{\kappa}{\kappa-1} \left[ \left( \frac{p_a}{p_i} \right)^{\frac{2}{\kappa}} - \left( \frac{p_a}{p_i} \right)^{\frac{\kappa+1}{\kappa}} \right]}$$

$\kappa$ : Adiabatic exponent of test gas (1,4 for air, 1,66 for Helium)

With correction due to friction:

Mass flow: 
$$\dot{m} = \mu \cdot A \cdot \Psi \cdot \sqrt{2 \cdot p_i \cdot \rho_i}$$

$\mu$ : coefficient of friction

### Example:

Water bath leak testing at 1350mbar (19,6psi) pressure inside and 1043mbar (15,1psi) pressure outside (considering the hydraulic pressure of the water too):

leak diameter in $\mu\text{m}$	leak rate in mbar·l/s
1	1,4E-04
5	3,5E-03
10	1,4E-02
15	3,1E-02
20	5,5E-02
50	3,5E-01
100	1,4E+00

**MACEAS GmbH**  
Königstrasse 2  
26676 Harkebrügge  
Germany

Contact person:  
Dipl.-Physiker Jürgen Steck  
Fon +49 (4497) 92190-17  
Fax +49 (4497) 92190-19  
Mobil +49 (172) 6823421  
steck@maceas.com