



You have to measure it to control it

Tightening environmental rules spur the development of a more accurate vent-gas measuring tool

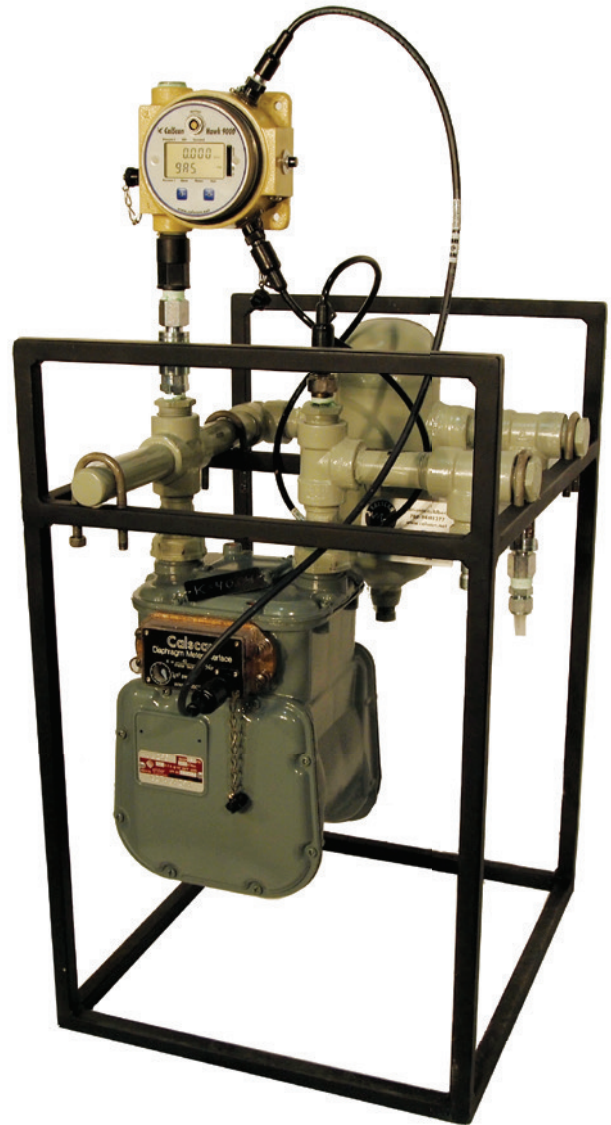
The publication of British Columbia's latest *Flaring and Venting Reduction Guideline* is another step in the tightening of environmental rules that will likely find its way to other jurisdictions. B.C. regulators want to know exactly how much gas is being vented into the atmosphere from all oil and gas operations, including fugitive emissions from equipment leaks and process instrumentation. This will require some accurate and easy-to-use measuring equipment.

"So we developed a new low-flow meter that is designed to measure any kind of vent gas to an accuracy of plus or minus two per cent," says Henri Tessier, president of CalScan Services Ltd., an Edmonton-based designer and manufacturer of down-hole and surface oilfield recorders and sensors.

A number of positive displacement meters are available on the market, but their accuracy doesn't compensate for pressure or temperature, according to Tessier. CalScan's meter adds a higher level of precision, making it suitable for the measurement of casing venting in separator packages and venting from wellsite instrumentation, which is typically driven by a small part of the gas production stream.

"Instead of guessing how much natural gas escapes into the atmosphere from these low-intensity emission sources, we can now measure it," Tessier says. "Another advantage is that we actually provide an audit trail through a data logger so you can send a chart to someone and they can see the 24-hour flow rates on that site based on a quick measurement over an hour, which is then extrapolated over time. That piece was missing in the marketplace."

CalScan sells and rents these low-flow meters. ■



A new low-flow meter developed by CalScan Services helps control fugitive emissions and leaks from process instrumentation.

PHOTO: CALSCAN SERVICES