Refining: H₂S in amine treatment unit outlet hydrogen recycle gas

Recycle hydrogen Sour gas Hydrogen make-up Α Rich amine Stripper / fractionator Prewater heater Light ends HDS feedstock Desulfurized Hydrogen product

Refinery hydrodesulfurization system

Benefits at a glance

- Fast response to H₂S concentration changes for process monitoring and control
- Laser-based measurement is highly selective and accurate for H₂S in hydrogen recycle gas
- Non-contact laser measurement avoids detector contact, corrosion and damage from H₂S and other contaminants
- Low maintenance and OPEX costs – no cylinders of carrier or combustion gases, UV lamps, or lead acetate tape

Hydrodesulfurization

Refers to catalytic processes (hydrotreating and hydrocracking) that use hydrogen to remove sulfur from naphtha feed to protect the platinum/rhenium catalyst in catalytic reformer units, and from vacuum gas oil and residuum feeds to fluid catalytic cracking units (FCCU) to reduce SO₂ levels in FCCU flue gas. Hydrotreating is also used to remove sulfur compounds from gasoline, diesel fuel, kerosene, jet fuel, and fuel oils to reduce SO₂ emissions from combustion of these fuels to comply with ultra-low sulfur fuel regulations.

On-line H₂S monitoring

In operation, liquid feed and hydrogen pass through a reactor packed with catalyst where sulfur compounds are converted to H_2S . Effluent from the reactor is cooled and sent to a high pressure separator, which separates liquid hydrocarbons from a gaseous mixture of hydrogen and H_2S . The hydrogen gas stream is sent to an amine treatment unit to remove H_2S

before it is recycled to the process. The $\rm H_2S$ concentration in gas exiting the amine treatment unit is monitored to ensure the scrubbing process is efficiently removing $\rm H_2S$ from the hydrogen before it is recycled and combined with make-up hydrogen.

Endress+Hauser's solution

Tunable diode laser absorption spectroscopy (TDLAS) is a SpectraSensors technology proven highly effective in this critical measurement. TDLAS analyzers have an exceptionally fast response to changes in H₂S concentration, an important performance characteristic for monitoring the efficiency of the amine treatment unit and quality of hydrogen being recycled to the hydrodesulfurization process. Laser and detector components are isolated and protected from the process gas and entrained contaminants, avoiding fouling and corrosion and ensuring stable long-term operation and accurate measurements in the field.

Application data				
Target component (analyte)	Hydrogen sulfide in amine treatment unit outlet hydrogen recycle gas			
Typical measurement range	0-50 ppmv, 0-100 ppmv, 0-200 ppmv*			
Repeatability for JT33	± 100 ppbv or ± 1% of reading, whichever is greater			
Repeatability for SS2100, SS2100	± 1 ppmv**			
Measurement response time	1 to ~60 seconds*			
Principle of measurement	Tunable diode laser absorption spectroscopy (TDLAS)			
Validation gas	Certified blend of H ₂ S in nitrogen			

^{*}Consult your local Endress+Hauser Sales Center for alternate ranges.

^{**}Typical repeatability listed.

Typical background stream composition				
Component	Minimum (Mol%)	Typical (Mol%)	Maximum (Mol%)	
Hydrogen (H ₂)	70	85	98	
Methane (C1)	2	10	15	
Ethane (C2)	<1	8	8	
Propane (C3)	<1	1	3	
Butanes (C4)	<1	<1	1	
Pentanes and heavier (C5+)	0	0	<1	

The background stream composition must be specified for proper assessment, calibration, and measurement performance. Specify the normal composition, along with the minimum and maximum expected values for each component, especially H_2S , the measured component. The composition of a hydrogen recycle gas stream may vary based upon the hydrotreater/ hydrocracker unit process design and feed.

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