
**Hydrometry — Measurement of
liquid flow in open channels —
Determination of the stage–discharge
relationship**

*Hydrométrie — Mesurage du débit des cours d'eau — Détermination
de la relation hauteur–débit*



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Contents

Page

Foreword	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms, definitions and symbols	1
3.1 Terms and definitions	1
3.2 Symbols	1
4 Principle of the stage–discharge relationship	2
4.1 General	2
4.2 Controls	3
4.3 Governing hydraulic formulae	3
5 Stage–discharge calibration of a gauging station	5
5.1 General	5
5.2 Preparation of a stage–discharge relationship	5
5.2.1 General	5
5.2.2 List of discharge measurements	5
5.2.3 Arithmetic plotting scales	7
5.2.4 Logarithmic plotting scales	8
5.2.5 Commercially available software	10
5.2.6 Rating-curve shape	11
5.3 Curve fitting	12
5.3.1 General	12
5.3.2 Hydraulic-formula curves	12
5.3.3 Mathematical rating curves	13
5.3.4 Software packages to aid the determination of the rating curve	13
5.4 Combination-control stage–discharge relationships	13
5.5 Stable stage–discharge relationships	13
5.6 Unstable stage–discharge relationships	14
5.7 Shifting controls	14
5.8 Variable-backwater effects	15
5.8.1 General	15
5.8.2 Downstream backwater influences	15
5.8.3 Hysteresis effects or loop rating curves	15
5.9 Extrapolation of the stage–discharge relationship	18
6 Methods of testing stage–discharge relationships	18
7 Uncertainty in the stage–discharge relationship	19
7.1 General	19
7.2 Definition of uncertainty	19
7.3 Statistical analysis of the stage–discharge relationship	20
7.3.1 General	20
7.3.2 Standard error of estimate	20
7.3.3 Standard uncertainty	21
7.4 Uncertainty of predicted discharge	22
Annex A (informative) Types of control	23
Annex B (informative) Complexities of stage–discharge relationships	24
Annex C (informative) Software packages available to evaluate the stage–discharge relationship	25
Annex D (informative) Examples of a hypothetical rating curve	29
Annex E (informative) Example of how hydraulic properties of a river channel properties vary with stage	31
Annex F (informative) Use of shift controls	37

Annex G (informative) Extrapolation of a stage–discharge relationship	39
Annex H (informative) Uncertainty in the stage–discharge relationship and in a continuous measurement of discharge	41
Bibliography	44

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 113, *Hydrometry*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Velocity area methods*.

This first edition of ISO 18320 cancels and replaces ISO 1100-2:2010, which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows.

- Major revisions have been made to [Clause 5](#), including a new figure of a stage–discharge relationship and shift curves.
- [Clause 7](#) has been revised to be consistent with new standards on uncertainty.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Hydrometry — Measurement of liquid flow in open channels — Determination of the stage–discharge relationship

1 Scope

This document specifies methods of determining the stage–discharge relationship for gauging stations. It specifies an accuracy for defining the stage–discharge relationship based on a sufficient number of discharge measurements, complete with corresponding stage measurements.

This document considers stable and unstable channels and includes brief descriptions of the effects on the stage–discharge relationship of the transition from inbank to overbank flows, shifting controls, variable backwater and hysteresis. Methods of determining discharge for twin-gauge stations, ultrasonic velocity-measurement stations and other complex rating curves are not described in detail.

NOTE These types of rating curves are described separately in other International Standards, Technical Specifications and Technical Reports, which are listed in the Bibliography.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 748, *Hydrometry — Measurement of liquid flow in open channels using current-meters or floats*

ISO 772, *Hydrometry — Vocabulary and symbols*

3 Terms, definitions and symbols

3.1 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.2 Symbols

For the purposes of this document, the symbols given in ISO 772 and the following apply.

Symbol	Definition
A	wet cross-sectional area
B	cross-sectional width
β	power-law exponent (slope on logarithmic plot) of the rating curve
C_D	coefficient of discharge

^a Some reference texts use a characteristic dimension of four times the hydraulic radius, because it gives the same value of Re for the onset of turbulence as in pipe flow^[16]. Other texts use the hydraulic radius as the characteristic length-scale, with consequently different values of Re for transition and turbulent flow.