Selecting the Right Pump for Chemical Applications

Chemical Equipment's e-Update
Products, Systems & Services for the Global Chemical Processing Industry
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FEATURE

The chemical industry places high demands on pumps which are vital to uninterrupted production and to the assurance of health and safety compliance that are simply not present in other industries. By their very nature, chemicals create a wide-ranging set of circumstances that are unique and which make specifying and selecting the right pump a very complex and essential step in the production process.

As there are nearly a limitless number of applications in the chemical industry, it would be impossible to review each one in-depth. However, outlined below are several critical factors that should be carefully considered when selecting pumps for any type of chemical processing.

Compatibility: Pumps must be able to stand up to potentially harmful and corrosive chemicals. In most cases, pumps will be called upon to transfer or meter several different types of chemicals over their lifetime and this needs be factored into the equation when specifying a pump. Any compromises in pump material selection will result in pitting and corrosion which can lead to rapid reduction in performance and eventual pump failure.

Fluid Containment: Fluid containment and control of emissions is vital in the processing of chemicals. Pumps which contain no seals and that are completely self-contained are optimal in chemical applications as dry-running and abrasives or solids can cause failure in mechanical seals.

Accuracy: Pumps for use in chemical metering applications should be positive displacement pumps with no back-flow, siphoning or slip...

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