Automatic Twist Flow Strainer ATF

Automatic Twist Flow Strainer

The Schroeder Automatic Twist Flow Strainer (ATF) is designed for the filtration of solid particles from water or fluids similar to water. With filtration ratings between 200 μm and 3,000 μm, the ATF is particularly well suited for separating suspended solid particles, up to several grams per liter, from low-viscosity fluids. In order to filter higher flow rates, the ATF can be supplied as a skid solution (call factory for details).

Construction and Function

This filter is a hybrid system consisting of a centrifugal separator and an inline filter. The fluid to be cleaned enters the housing tangentially, similar to a centrifugal separator, and accelerates down as a result of the tapered housing. The resulting spiral flow with its centrifugal force carries the coarsest contamination first (its density is obviously higher than that of the fluid) to the inner wall of the housing.

Filtration

When pressed against the filter wall, the higher density particles settle at a higher rate in the lower part of the filter, where they are finally carried out. The remaining smaller, less dense particles are filtered as the fluid passes through the element and exits the filter.

The conical filter element ensures optimum flow characteristics. On one hand it makes possible continual self-cleaning of the filter during operation. While on the other, it makes the pressure drop of the whole filter much lower than compared with a centrifugal separator of a similar size.

Cleaning Procedure

Both the sediment particles and those separated by the filter element finally collect at the bottom of the housing and are discharged periodically from the system by opening the contamination flap. During this cleaning procedure (depending on the installation of the ATF), part of the untreated fluid flow is used for a few seconds to flush the elements and clean the filter. Because partial flow is used, continuous filtration occurs.

In addition, the ATF is an excellent choice for bypass flow applications which are able to do without a partial flow for short periods of time.

Depending on the application and the amount of solid particles, the cleaning function can be adjusted via a timer function.

Special Features of the ATF

The ATF is well suited to high levels of contamination and large fluctuations in the solid particle content of the untreated water.

Due to the use of conical slotted tube and sintered wire meshes, a precise selectivity and therefore a constant filtrate quality is ensured – independent of fluctuations in operating pressure or flow rate.

Due to special flow conditions resulting from the element geometry and their arrangement, the pressure drop on the overall unit is relatively low at ≤ 14.5 psi (1.0 bar).

The pre-filtration of solid particles of a higher density implies that the filter surface area can take a correspondingly higher load and the filter size can therefore be comparatively smaller.
The filter elements are cleaned solely by flushing with untreated fluid.

The ATF saves on space in comparison to conventional separating units, such as lamellar separators or sand filters.

Several ATF’s can be integrated into systems, and as a result, can adapt to the required flow rates.

The filter element of the ATF is maintenance-friendly, as it is equipped with a flange cover. On sizes 2 to 4, it is also possible to replace the filter element without needing to open the filter.

The ATF is sized based on the pressure drop curve. A further factor in the calculation is the flow velocity through the inlet flange. It should not exceed 13.12 feet/minute (4 m/s).

In order to be able to size the ATF correctly, the following design data should be available:

- Flow rate
- Type of medium
- Materials / resistance
- Viscosity
- Required filtration rating
- Particulate loading in the fluid
- Solid particle type and density / densities
- Operating pressure
- Operating temperature