

(3)

REACTION VESSELS

INTRODUCTION

Pressure vessels are used as reaction vessels for carry out operations such as blending, dispersion, gas absorption, desolubilisation, distillation etc. under controlled conditions. The vessel may be open or closed. If open it may have no cover at all. The reaction vessel may require a cover or head that can be secured tightly to the shell so that the reaction can be carried out under controlled pressure and temperature. If the closed vessel is capable of withstanding moderate pressure, it is called as reaction Kettle but if the vessel is required to withstand high pressure and temperature that must be maintained at constant values during the reaction process, vessel is called an "autoclave".

Depending on the process operation, the vessel may require cooling and agitation of the contents. Capacities of reaction vessels vary between 100 litres to as large as 10000 litres, with the shell diameter between 50 cm and 250 cm.

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION

The number of metals can be used for construction of reaction vessels. The more common metals are low carbon steel, stainless steel and other alloy steel. In special cases non-ferrous metals such as copper, nickel, aluminium, titanium, are also used. At moderate pressure and temperatures, vessels can be made of glass reinforced polyesters, glass filled furans, phenolics and polyvinyl chloride. A saving in cost can be achieved by fabricating vessels from a low cost metals with a corrosion resistant metals like stainless steel, nickel, Inconel, monel, copper etc. Vessel can also be lined with lead, rubber, glass and plastics to prevent corrosion.

CLASSIFICATION OF REACTION VESSELS

Reaction vessels may be divided into three main classes. batch reactor, continuous flow reactor and semi batch reactor.

(a) Continuous stirred tank reactor
 In this reactor, the reactants are continuously fed into the reactor from the top and the products are continuously removed from the bottom. The temperature and composition may vary along the length of the reactor.

(b) Continuous flow reactor
 In these reactors, the reactants flow continuously into the reactor and the products flow out continuously. Under steady conditions, the concentration of reactants and products is uniform throughout the reactor.

(c) Semi-batch reactors
 In these reactors, one of the reactants is initially charged into the reactor, while the other reactant is fed into the reactor continuously.

HEATING SYSTEMS

Chemical reactions are accompanied by absorption or liberation of heat. The reaction vessel must, therefore, be provided with the means of supplying or removing the heat of reaction. The rate of heat transfer is a function of the physical properties of the agitated liquid and

The rate of reaction is affected by the concentration of the reactants. The rate of reaction is directly proportional to the concentration of the reactants.

(a) Batch reactor
 In a batch reactor, the reactants are mixed together in a vessel and the reaction proceeds for a certain period of time before the products are removed. The concentration of the reactants decreases as the reaction proceeds.

(b) Continuous flow reactor
 In a continuous flow reactor, the reactants flow through a vessel and the reaction proceeds continuously. The concentration of the reactants remains constant throughout the reactor.

(c) Semi-batch reactor
 In a semi-batch reactor, one of the reactants is initially charged into the reactor continuously while the other reactant is added continuously.

HEATING SYSTEMS

Chemical reactions are accompanied by absorption or liberation of heat. The reaction vessel must, therefore, be provided with the means of supplying or removing the heat of reaction. The rate of heat transfer is a function of the physical properties of the reacting mass.

In heating and cooling systems, the vessels geometry, the material and the thickness of the vessel walls affect the degree of operation.

Heating systems for reaction vessels need special consideration. The devices used are either the direct or the indirect type. There are various electrical methods, which heat the vessel directly. The two most common methods are

resistance heating and induction heating.

These systems have a low overall efficiency and high operating costs. Indirect heat transfer systems are the most widely used. The heat is received from fluids such as steam, hot oil, hot water or air, molten salt mixtures, mercury and several organic compounds are high boiling point materials, so that the heat transfer systems can operate at low pressure. Both liquid and vapour phase heat transfer systems can be operated at low pressures,

are used. In liquid systems, the heat transferred is from sensible heat.

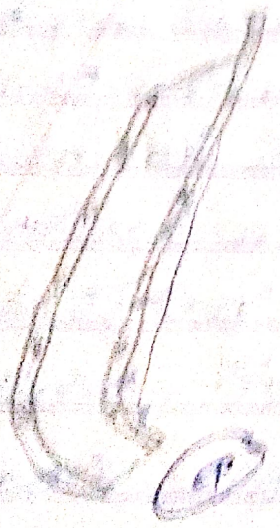
In indirect cooling systems, fluids employed are air, an evaporant

The space between the vessel wall and the jacket shell should be narrow for maximizing heat transfer rate. The dimpled construction shown helps to reduce the thickness of the shell. This construction is particularly suitable for large vessels.

JACKET

A jacket should be used for heating

The space between the vessel wall and the jacket shell should be narrow for maximizing heat transfer rate.



Smooth Jacket



Dimpled construction

The dimpled construction shown helps to reduce the thickness of the shell.

This construction is particularly suitable for large vessels.

Lowest resistance to flow, the design factor is generally used for determining various types of jackets.



Channel



Tube



Tube with copper strip support



Half coil

High velocities of circulating fluids can be obtained by use of different types of Jacket constructions such as channel or coiled Jacket.

COILS

Coils are used for heating or cooling by immersing them in contents of the vessel. Such coils are formed from a tubing by shaping them in the form of a helical or double helical coil. A pancake type of coil, which is a spiral rolled in a single plane so as to lie horizontally near the bottom of the vessel is also used to transfer heat by free convection. Tubes can

also designed vertically divided vessels which serve the dual purpose of heat transfer and baffling.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Design of the reaction vessel is based on pressure and temperature conditions. It is essentially a pressure vessel with heads and nozzles. A jacket construction is an additional feature, involving operation of external pressure on the vessel wall. The reaction vessel is therefore designed for both internal and external pressure operating independently and the higher value of the wall thickness is accepted as satisfactory. The vessel shell is subjected to external pressure and care must be taken in the design to prevent collapse.

The methods are adopted are

- (a) Making the shell thickness enough in proportion to its diameter and length so that it is self supporting.
- (b) Using stay bolts for attaching inner shell to the outer jacket.
- (c) Using stiffening ring or corrugations for the shell of the vessel.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Design of the vessel will be based on pressure and temperature conditions. It is necessary to determine the stress conditions under normal, the service conditions. An adequate factor of safety must be chosen at external pressure and temperature. Various vessels are designed for internal and external pressure conditions. Independence and non-interference of the wall thickness is essential. Satisfactory. The vessel shall be subject to external pressure and care must be taken in the design to prevent collapse.

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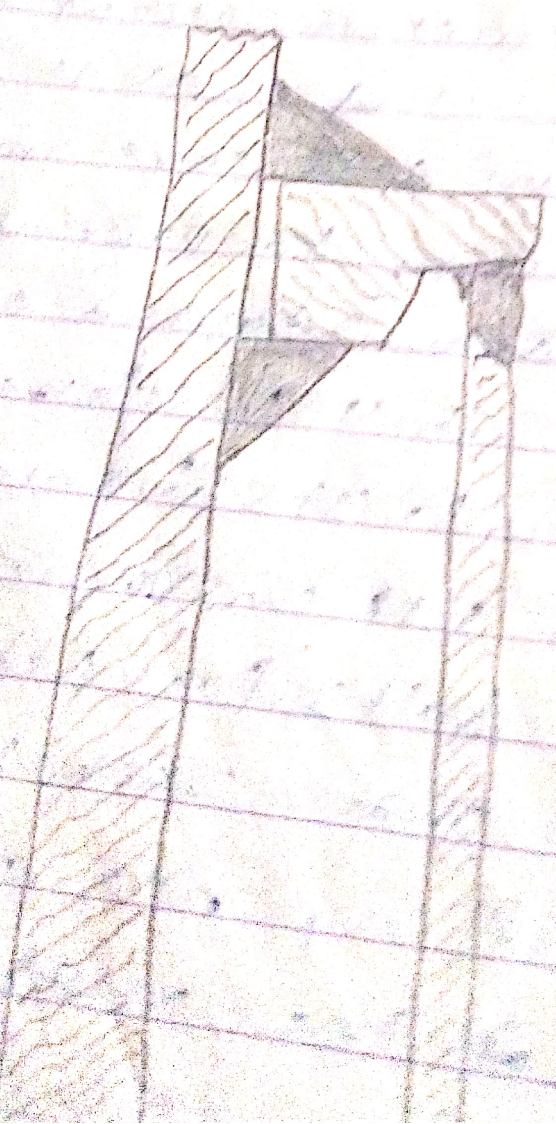
(a) Making the shell thickness even in proportion to its diameter and so that it is self supporting.

(b) Using stay bolts for attaching inner shell to the outer jacket.

(c) Using stiffening ring or Combinations the shell of the vessel.

JACKETING

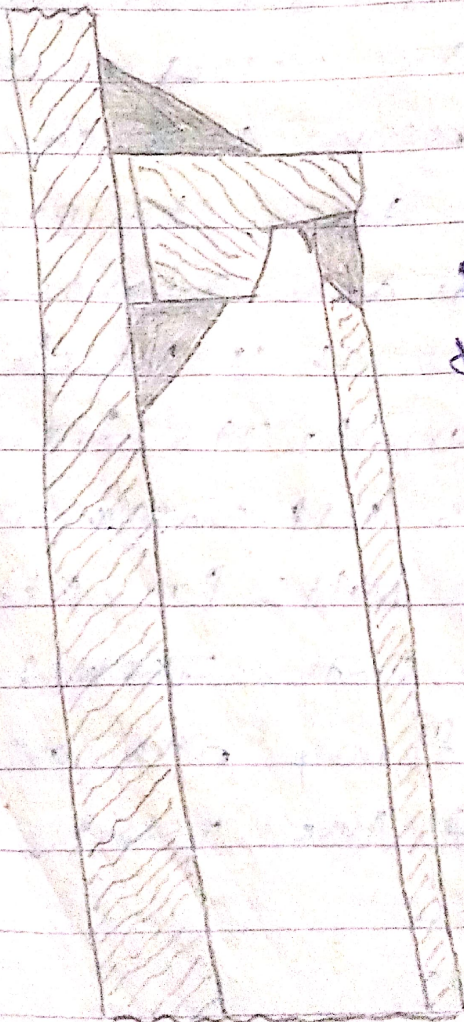
A plain jacket is a protective arrangement for heating or cooling. It is generally made of steel. It is designed for horizontal vessels. The jacket is made of two layers of the heating fluid. The inner layer is at a higher temperature. The jacket is attached to the vessel by means of a common neck. A common neck is a square or rectangular piece of metal at the top and the bottom. The neck is welded to which jacket and the vessel. Security welded.



Plain Jacket welded to shell by neck

JACKET DESIGN

A plain jacket is the simple arrangement for heating or cooling. The jacket is generally made of low carbon steel & is designed for internal operating pressure of the heating fluid at the appropriate temperature. Various methods are adopted to attach the jacket to the vessel wall. A common method is to use two rings of square or rectangular section, one at the top and the other at the bottom to which jacket and the vessel shells are securely welded.

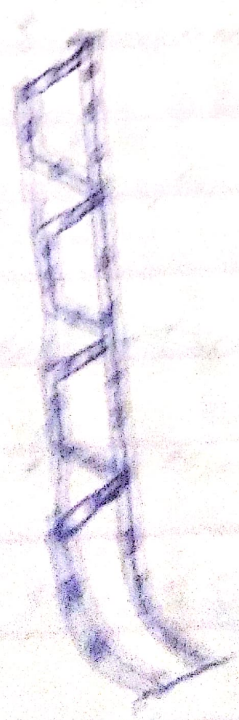


Plain Jacket welded to shell by ring

various applications and forms of the coil and channel
 may be used. The channel bar is the most common
 and is usually made of mild steel. It is often used for
 making brackets, frames, etc. It is also used for making
 structural members. The channel bar is made of
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COIL AND CHANNEL DESIGN

The half coil or channel connection shown in fig. 10.1



Channel



Half coil

It is found that the maximum stress in the pipe is around 1.5 times greater than the stress in the longitudinal direction. Therefore, when the pipe is subjected to internal pressure, the stress in the circumferential direction is considerably more than the stress in the longitudinal direction. The stress in the circumferential direction is also higher than the stress in the longitudinal direction. The stress in the circumferential direction is also known as hoop stress.

DESIGN OF VESSEL SHELL WITH HALF COIL

A half coil is a part of a torus for which the circumferential stress occurs at the junction, with the shell, and is given by

$$f_{pc} = \frac{P d_i}{2 t_c} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

and the longitudinal stress is given by

$$f_{ac} = \frac{P d_i}{4 t_c + 2.5 t_s}$$

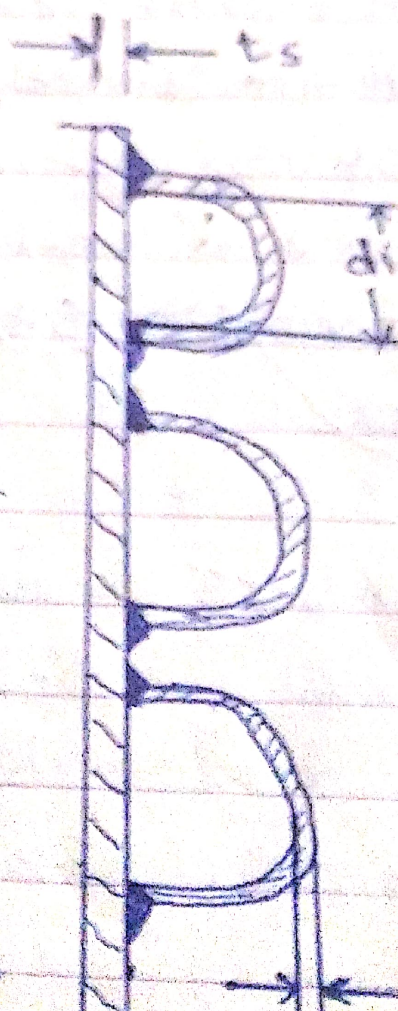
- When
- P → design pressure inside the half coil
 - d_i → Internal diameter of the half coil
 - t_c → thickness of half coil
 - t_s → thickness of shell

The total stress in the shell is the sum of the circumferential stress f_{ps} due to internal pressure P_i and the longitudinal stress f_{ps} in the shell caused by coil pressure.

The total circumferential stress f_{ps} in shell is the sum of the circumferential stress f_{pi} due to internal pressure P_i and the longitudinal stress f_{ps} in the shell caused by coil pressure.

$$f_{ps} = P_i + P_{ac}$$

$$= \frac{P_i d_i}{2t_s} + \frac{P_{ac} d_i}{4t_c + 2.5t_s}$$



Coil jacket
welded to shell

The total longitudinal (axial) stress, f_{as} in the vessel shell is made up of

- ① Longitudinal stress due to pressure in the vessel
- ② Longitudinal stress f_{ac} due to coil pressure
- ③ The bending stress caused by the distortion of the shell at the junction with the coil

$$f_{as} = f_a + f_{ac} + f_b$$

$$= \frac{p d_i}{4 t_s} + \frac{p d_i}{2 t_c} + \frac{2 \Delta p d_o^2}{3 t_s^2}$$

When p - Internal pressure in the shell

d_i → Internal diameter of shell

Δp → maximum differential pressure between coil and shell.

d_o → External diameter of half coil.

DESIGN OF VESSEL SHELL