

ENGINEERING DATA SHEET

<i>Net Positive Suction Head</i>		
Date	Supersedes	No.
04/01/99	06/01/66	7E

Net positive suction head available (NPSH_A) of a system is the absolute pressure available at pump suction (in feet) minus the vapor pressure of the liquid at pumping temperature (in feet). NPSH_A must be taken in to consideration at all times when selecting the proper pump. One must determine NPSH_A of system and then compare this with minimum NPSH_R required by the pump. If system NPSH_A is greater than minimum required by the pump, the pump will operate properly. However, if system NPSH_A is only slightly greater, equal to, or less than minimum pump requirement, pump should not be used without suction head being increased, or suction lift decreased to provide a reasonable factor of safety. Inducers are available on most Chempumps to reduce the NPSH_R of the pump. The following formula is used to determine the NPSH_A of a system:

$$\text{NPSH} = H_a \pm H_s - H_{vp}$$

Where H_a = Absolute ambient pressure (psia) above liquid at the source of supply, expressed in feet (psia x 2.31).

H_s = Dynamic head of liquid above (+) or below (-) centerline of pump suction. All losses (friction, exit velocity, etc.) must be figured in determining H_s .

H_{vp} = Vapor pressure (in feet) of liquid being pumped at pumping temperature.

In the example shown on sheet 6E:

$$\begin{aligned} H_a &= 30'' - 22'' = 8'' \text{ Hg absolute pressure.} \\ &= 8'' \times 1.13 = 9.04 \text{ feet.} \\ H_s &= \text{Static head - friction losses.} \\ &= 20 - (1.9 + .3) = 17.8 \text{ feet.} \\ H_{vp} &= 8.57 \text{ feet.} \\ \text{NPSH} &= 9.04 + 17.8 - 8.57. \\ &= 18.27 \text{ feet} = \text{head available at pump suction at a flow rate of 60 GPM.} \end{aligned}$$

Minimum Net Positive Suction Head (MNPSH) is the net head (absolute) required at the entrance or eye of the impeller to move and accelerate the liquid entering the eye. This minimum is required so that the pump will not pull a vacuum and cause liquid vaporization with resultant cavitation at the impeller.

MNPSH is a characteristic of the pump itself. The representative MNPSH or NPSH required curve for each Chempump model is shown on the performance curves (See EDS 3E).