

# External Pressure Relief Valve

## Instruction Manual

MEP170



MEV250VM/250



### Application:

Designed for use with large LPG & NH<sub>3</sub> storage containers as a primary pressure relief valve on ASME above and below ground bulk plant installations. All working components are external to the container connection away from possible product contaminants. Compatible with **ALL** 2-1/2" FNPT multiple head units including ME903S & ME904S Series Quad-Port Manifolds. Optional 2" MNPT tank adapter available for adapting to standard 2" FNPT tank openings.

### Features:

- Durable Ductile Iron Hex Base
- All Stainless Steel Internal Components
- Integral Break-Away Feature Leaves Seat and Seal Intact
- Supplied with Weep Hole Deflector and Hex Socket Plugs

Part No.	STD / PSIG	Container Connection	OAL	Wrench Hex	Flow Capacity SCFM/AIR **		Suitable for tanks w/ surface area up to: ***	Service	
					UL @ 120 % set pressure	ASME @ 120% set pressure		LPG	NH <sub>3</sub>
MEV250VM/250	250	2-1/2" MNPT	10-1/2"	4-1/8"	10,333		610 sq.ft.	Yes	No
MEV250CN/250*	250	2-1/2" MNPT	10-1/2"	4-1/8"	10,333		610 sq.ft.	Yes	Yes
MEV250VM/265	265	2-1/2" MNPT	10-1/2"	4-1/8"	10,948		610 sq.ft.	Yes	No
MEV250CN/265*	265	2-1/2" MNPT	10-1/2"	4-1/8"	10,948		610 sq.ft.	Yes	Yes

\* Seat Material not UL listed

\*\* Flow rates are shown as bare relief valves, pipe-aways will reduce flow.

\*\*\* Per NFPA pamphlet 58, table 5.7.2.5 area shown is for UL or ASME flow rating, which ever is larger.

### Accessories

Part No.	Description
MEV250-013	Replacement Vinyl Cap w/ Lanyard for MEV250 Series Relief Valves
MEV250-015	Replacement Stainless Steel Weep Hole Deflector for MEV250 Series Relief Valves
MEP170	External Relief Valve Tank Adapter Fitting 2-1/2" FNPT x 2" MNPT - Plated Ductile Iron



## **MEC Pressure Relief Valves**

---

### **Operation of Pressure Relief Valves**

Pressure relief valves are set and sealed by the manufacturer to function at a specific "start-to-discharge" pressure in accordance with UL 132. This set pressure is marked on the relief valve and depends on the design requirement of the container to be protected by the relief valve. If the container pressure reaches the start-to-discharge pressure, the relief valve will open a slight amount as the seat disc begins to move slightly away from the seat. If the pressure continues to rise despite the initial discharge through the relief valve, the seat disc will move to a full open position with a sudden "pop". This popping sound is from which the term "pop-action" is derived.

Whether the relief valve opens a slight amount or pops wide open, it will start to close if the pressure in the container diminishes. After the pressure has decreased sufficiently, the relief valve spring will force the seat disc against the seat tightly enough to prevent any further escape of product. The pressure at which the valve closes tightly is referred to as the "re-seal" or "blow-down" pressure. Generally, the re-seal pressure will be lower than the start-to-discharge pressure.

---

### **Requirements for Pressure Relief Valves**

Every container used for storing or hauling LP-Gas and anhydrous ammonia must be protected by a pressure relief valve. These valves are designed to protect the container against the development of hazardous conditions which might be created by any of the following:

- Hydrostatic pressures due to overfilling or the trapping of liquid between two points.
- High pressures resulting from exposure of the container to excessive external heat.
- High pressures due to the use of incorrect fuel.
- High pressures due to improper purging of the container.

Consult NFPA #58 for LP-Gas and ANSI #K61.1 for anhydrous ammonia, and/or any applicable local and state regulations governing the application and use of pressure relief valves.

---

### **Selection of MEC Pressure Relief Valves for ASME Containers**

The rate of discharge required for a given container is determined by the calculation of the surface area of the container as shown in "Chart A" for LP-Gas and "Chart B" for anhydrous ammonia.

The set pressure of a pressure relief valve depends upon the design pressure of the container. Refer to NFPA #58 "Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code" for more information.



## MEC Pressure Relief Valves

### Chart A - Minimum Required Rate of Discharge for LP-Gas Pressure Relief Valves Used on ASME Containers

Minimum required rate of discharge in cubic feet per minute of air at 120% of the maximum permitted start-to-discharge pressure relief valves to be used on containers other than those constructed in accordance with Interstate Commerce specification.

From NFPA Code #58, Table 5.7.2.5 (2008 Edition)

Surface Area Sq. Ft.	Flow Rate CFM Air	Surface Area Sq. Ft.	Flow Rate CFM Air	Surface Area Sq. Ft.	Flow Rate CFM Air	Surface Area Sq. Ft.	Flow Rate CFM Air	Surface Area Sq. Ft.	Flow Rate CFM Air	Surface Area Sq. Ft.	Flow Rate CFM Air	Surface Area Sq. Ft.	Flow Rate CFM Air
20 or less	626	85	2050	150	3260	230	4630	360	6690	850	13540	1500	21570
25	751	90	2150	155	3350	240	4800	370	6840	900	14190	1550	22160
30	872	95	2240	160	3440	250	4960	380	7000	950	14830	1600	22740
35	990	100	2340	165	3530	260	5130	390	7150	1000	15470	1650	23320
40	1100	105	2440	170	3620	270	5290	400	7300	1050	16100	1700	23900
45	1220	110	2530	175	3700	280	5450	450	8040	1100	16720	1750	24470
50	1330	115	2630	180	3790	290	5610	500	8760	1150	17350	1800	25050
55	1430	120	2720	185	3880	300	5760	550	9470	1200	17960	1850	25620
60	1540	125	2810	190	3960	310	5920	600	10170	1250	18570	1900	26180
65	1640	130	2900	195	4050	320	6080	650	10860	1300	19180	1950	26750
70	1750	135	2990	200	4130	330	6230	700	11550	1350	19780	2000	27310
75	1850	140	3080	210	4300	340	6390	750	12220	1400	20380		
80	1950	145	3170	220	4470	350	6540	800	12880	1450	20980		

**Surface area** = Total outside surface area of container in square feet.

When the surface area is not stamped on the name plate or when the marking is not legible, the area can be calculated by using one of the following formulas:

1. Cylindrical container with hemispherical heads. Area (in sq. ft.) = overall length (ft.) x 3.146
2. Cylindrical container with other than hemispherical heads. Area (in sq. ft.) = [overall length (ft.) + .3 outside diameter (ft.)] x outside diameter (ft.) x 3.1416.
3. Spherical container. Area (in sq. ft.) = outside diameter (ft.) squared x 3.1416.

**Flow Rate CFM Air** = Required flow capacity in cubic feet per minute of air at standard conditions, 60°F. and atmospheric pressure (14.7 psia).

The flow rate discharge may be interpolated for intermediate values of surface

area. For containers with total outside surface area greater than 2000 square feet, the required flow rate can be calculated using the formula. Flow Rate in CFM Air =  $53.632 A^{0.82}$ . Where A = total outside surface area of the container in square feet.

Valves not marked "Air" have rate marking in cubic feet per minute of liquefied petroleum gas. These can be converted to ratings in cubic feet per minute of air by multiplying the liquefied petroleum gas ratings by the factors listed below. Air flow ratings can be converted to ratings in cubic feet per minute of liquefied petroleum gas by dividing the air ratings by the factors listed below.

#### Air Conversion Factors

Container Type	100	125	150	175	200
Air Conversion Factor	1.162	1.142	1.113	1.078	1.010

### Chart B - Minimum Required Rate of Discharge for Anhydrous Ammonia Pressure Relief Valves Used on ASME Containers

Minimum required rate of discharge in cubic feet per minute of air at 120% of the maximum permitted start-to-discharge pressure for pressure relief valves to be used on containers other than those constructed in accordance with United States Department of Transportation cylinder specifications.

From ANSI K61.1-1999, Appendix A

Surface Area Sq. Ft.	Flow Rate CFM Air	Surface Area Sq. Ft.	Flow Rate CFM Air	Surface Area Sq. Ft.	Flow Rate CFM Air	Surface Area Sq. Ft.	Flow Rate CFM Air	Surface Area Sq. Ft.	Flow Rate CFM Air	Surface Area Sq. Ft.	Flow Rate CFM Air	Surface Area Sq. Ft.	Flow Rate CFM Air
20 or less	626	85	2050	150	3260	230	4630	360	6690	850	13540	1500	21570
25	751	90	2150	155	3350	240	4800	370	6840	900	14190	1550	22160
30	872	95	2240	160	3440	250	4960	380	7000	950	14830	1600	22740
35	990	100	2340	165	3530	260	5130	390	7150	1000	15470	1650	23320
40	1100	105	2440	170	3620	270	5290	400	7300	1050	16100	1700	23900
45	1220	110	2530	175	3700	280	5450	450	8040	1100	16720	1750	24470
50	1330	115	2630	180	3790	290	5610	500	8760	1150	17350	1800	25050
55	1430	120	2720	185	3880	300	5760	550	9470	1200	17960	1850	25620
60	1540	125	2810	190	3960	310	5920	600	10170	1250	18570	1900	26180
65	1640	130	2900	195	4050	320	6080	650	10860	1300	19180	1950	26750
70	1750	135	2990	200	4130	330	6230	700	11550	1350	19780	2000	27310
75	1850	140	3080	210	4300	340	6390	750	12220	1400	20380		
80	1950	145	3170	220	4470	350	6540	800	12880	1450	20980		

**Surface area** = Total outside surface area of container in square feet.

When the surface area is not stamped on the name plate or when the marking is not legible, the area can be calculated by using one of the following formulas:

1. Cylindrical container with hemispherical heads. Area (in sq. ft.) = overall length (ft.) x 3.146
2. Cylindrical container with other than hemispherical heads. Area (in sq. ft.) = [overall length (ft.) + .3 outside diameter (ft.)] x outside diameter (ft.) x 3.1416.
3. Spherical container. Area (in sq. ft.) = outside diameter (ft.) squared x 3.1416.

**Flow Rate CFM Air** = Required flow capacity in cubic feet per minute of air at standard conditions, 60°F. and atmospheric pressure (14.7 psia).

The rate of discharge may be interpolated for intermediate values of surface area. For containers with total outside surface area greater than 2,500 square feet, the required flow rate can be calculated using the formula, Flow Rate in CFM Air =  $22.11 A^{0.82}$  where A = outside surface area of the container in square feet.

Conversion Factor

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ft}^2 \times 0.092903 &= \text{m}^2 \\ \text{CFM} \times 0.028317 &= \text{m}^3/\text{min} \\ \text{ft} \times 0.3048 &= \text{m} \end{aligned}$$



## Installation

**WARNING:** Failure to follow these instructions or to properly install and maintain this equipment could result in an explosion and/or fire causing property damage and personal injury or death. Marshall Excelsior Company equipment must be installed, operated and maintained in accordance with all federal, state and local codes and Marshall Excelsior Company instructions. The installation in most states must also comply with NFPA standards 58 and 59, and ANSI K61.1.

Only personnel trained in the proper procedures, codes, standards and regulations of the LP-Gas and NH<sub>3</sub> industries should install, maintain and service this equipment.

Be sure all instructions are read and understood before installation, operation and maintenance. These instructions must be passed along to the end user of the product.

**CAUTION:** Contact or inhalation of liquid propane, ammonia and their vapors can cause serious injury or death! NH<sub>3</sub> and LP-gas must be released outdoors in air currents that will insure dispersion to prevent exposure to people and livestock. LP-Gas must be kept far enough from any open flame or other source of ignition to prevent fire or explosion! LP-Gas is heavier than air and will not disperse or evaporate rapidly if released in still air.

Consult NFPA Codes 58 and 59 / ANSI K61.1 and/or any applicable regulations governing the application and use of pressure relief valves. Make sure you are thoroughly trained before you attempt any valve installation, inspection or maintenance.

Proper installation is essential to the safe operation of pressure relief valves. Install MEC pressure relief valves using the following steps:

1. Check that the valve is clean and free of foreign material in the valve inlet and outlet.
2. Verify that the relief valve start-to-discharge setting and flow rate is correct for the application.
3. Apply a suitable PTFE thread sealant compound to the external NPT threads.
4. Inspect the relief valve inlet and valve seat to ensure no thread sealant or foreign material is present.
5. Install relief valve into container port or manifold using appropriate wrench until leak tight joint is achieved.
6. Check for damage and proper operation after valve installation.
7. After the container is charged with product, check joints for leakage using "Marshall Excelsior" leak detector.
8. After installation is complete, replace protective cap onto relief valve.

Pipeaways and deflectors may be required by local codes, laws and regulations depending on the installation. Use only MEC adapters on MEC relief valves. Adapters not designed specifically for piping away MEC relief valves, such as those with 90° turns will reduce internal diameters, and decrease flow dramatically. These should never be used as they can cause the relief valve to chatter and eventually destroy itself.

The addition of deflectors, pipeaway adapters and piping will restrict the flow. To properly protect any container, the total system flow must be sufficient to relieve pressure at the pressure setting of the relief valve in accordance with all applicable codes.

## Inspection

A pressure relief valve discharges when some extraordinary circumstance causes an over pressure condition in the container. If a pressure relief valve is known to have discharged, the relief valve, as well as the entire system, should be immediately and thoroughly inspected to determine the reason for the discharge. In the case of discharge due to fire, the valve should be removed from service and replaced.

Relief valves should be inspected each time the container is filled but no less than once a year. If there is any doubt about the condition of the valve, it must be replaced.

**WARNING:** Eye protection must be worn when performing inspection on relief valves under pressure. Never look directly into a relief valve under pressure or place any part of your body where the relief valve discharge could impact it. In some cases a flashlight and small mirror are suggested to assist when making visual inspections.

In the case of a pressure relief valve that has opened due to a pressure beyond its start-to-discharge setting, the chances of foreign material lodging between the seat and the disc is low, however the possibility is always present. If the relief valve continues to leak at pressure below its start-to-discharge setting it must be replaced.

If there is any doubt about the condition of the relief valve, or if the relief valve has not been protected by a cap for some time, it should be replaced before refilling the container.

### Inspection Checklist:

1. **Cap:**  
Check that the protective cap is in place over the valve or pipeaway stack outlet and has a snug fit.  
The protective cap helps protect the relief valve against possible malfunction caused by rain, sleet, snow, ice, sand, dirt, pebbles, insects, other debris and contamination.  
**REPLACE DAMAGED OR MISSING CAPS AT ONCE AND KEEP A CAP IN PLACE AT ALL TIMES.**
2. **Weep Holes:**  
Inspect and clear debris from the relief valve weep holes. Dirt, ice, paint, and other foreign particles can prevent proper drainage from the valve body.  
**IF THE WEEP HOLES CANNOT BE CLEARED, REPLACE THE VALVE.**
3. **Relief Valve Spring:**  
Exposure to high concentrations of water, salt, industrial pollutants, chemicals and contaminants could cause metal parts to fail including the relief valve spring  
**IF THE COATING ON THE RELIEF VALVE SPRING IS CRACKED OR CHIPPED, REPLACE THE VALVE.**
4. **Physical Damage:**  
Ice accumulations and improper installation could cause mechanical damage.  
**IF THERE ARE ANY INDICATIONS OF DAMAGE, REPLACE THE VALVE.**
5. **Tampering or Readjustment:**  
Pressure relief valves are factory set to discharge at specified pressures.  
**IF THERE ARE ANY INDICATIONS OF TAMPERING OR READJUSTING, REPLACE THE VALVE.**



## MEC Pressure Relief Valves

### Inspection Checklist Cont...

6. **Seat Leakage:**  
Check for leaks in the seating area using Marshall Excelsior leak detection solution.  
**IF THERE IS ANY INDICATION OF LEAKAGE REPLACE THE VALVE.**  
Never force a relief valve closed and continue to leave it in service. This could result in damage to the valve and possible rupture of the container or piping on which the valve is installed.
7. **Corrosion: REPLACE THE VALVE IF THERE ARE ANY SIGNS OF CORROSION OR CONTAMINATION.**
8. **Moisture, Foreign Particles or Contaminants in the Valve:**  
Foreign material such as paint, tar or ice in relief valve parts can impair the proper functioning of the valves. Grease placed in the valve body may harden over time or collect contaminants, thereby impairing the proper operation of the relief valve.  
**DO NOT PLACE GREASE IN THE VALVE BODY; REPLACE THE VALVE IF THERE ARE ANY INDICATIONS OF MOISTURE OR FOREIGN MATTER IN THE VALVE.**
9. **Corrosion or leakage at container connection:**  
Check container to valve connection using Marshall Excelsior leak detector solution.  
**REPLACE THE VALVE IF THERE IS ANY INDICATION OF CORROSION OR LEAKAGE AT THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE VALVE AND CONTAINER.**

**CAUTION:** Never plug the outlet of a pressure relief valve. Any device used to stop the flow of a properly operating pressure relief valve that is venting an over pressurized container can cause severe consequences.

### Replacement of Pressure Relief Valves

**WARNING:** Under normal conditions, the useful safe service life of a pressure relief valve is 10 years from the original date of manufacture. However, the safe useful life of the valve may be shortened and replacement required in less than 10 years depending on the environment in which the valve lives. Inspection and maintenance of pressure relief valves is very important. Failure to properly inspect and maintain pressure relief valves could result in personal injuries or property damage.

The safe useful life of pressure relief valves can vary greatly depending on the environment in which they live.

Relief valves are required to function under widely varying conditions. Corrosion, aging of the resilient seat disc and friction all proceed at different rates depending upon the nature of the specific environment and application. Gas impurities, product misuse and improper installations can shorten the safe life of a relief valve. The LP-Gas dealer must observe and determine the safe useful life of relief valves in his systems.

#### For Additional Information Read:

1. NFPA # 58, "Storage and Handling of Liquefied Petroleum Gases".
2. NFPA # 59, "LP-Gases and Utility Gas Plants"

Relief valves in service beyond their service life can exhibit the following degradation in function:

- They may leak at pressures below the set pressure.
- They may open and fail to properly reseal.
- They may open at higher than set pressure.

These failures to function properly are due primarily to four "environmental" conditions:

1. Corrosion of metal parts (particularly springs) which result in the component parts failing to perform.
2. Deterioration of synthetic rubber seat disc material.
3. Clogging or "cementing" of the movable relief valve components so that their movement is restricted.
4. Debris on the valve seat after the relief valve opens, effectively preventing the valve from resealing.

Corrosion is caused by water, corrosive atmospheres of salt and high industrial pollutants, chemicals, and contaminants. High concentrations can attack the metal parts vigorously. No suitable metals are totally resistant to such corrosion.

Synthetic rubber and seat disc materials can also be attacked by impurities in the gas and corrosive atmospheres, particularly those with sulphur dioxide. There are no suitable rubber materials which resist all contaminants.

"Cementing" of relief valve parts can be caused by normal industrial atmospheres containing particles of dirt, iron oxide, metal chips, etc. combined with water, oil, or grease. Ice collecting in recessed valves could cause failure to open. Paint and tar in relief valves also cause failure to function properly.

## Relief Valve Safety Information

### Repair and Testing

MEC Pressure Relief Valves are tested and listed by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., in accordance with UL 132 and NFPA Code #58. Construction and performance of MEC Pressure Relief Valves are consistently checked at the factory by UL and ASME audits. Therefore, testing of MEC Pressure Relief Valves in the field is not necessary.

**WARNING:** Never attempt to repair or change the setting of MEC Pressure Relief Valves. Any changes in settings or repairs in the field will void the MEC warranty and product listings, and may create a serious hazard.

While the functioning of a pressure relief valve appears to be relatively simple, the assembly and test procedure used to manufacture these MEC products is rather complex. Highly specialized test fixtures and specially trained personnel are necessary to attain proper relief valve settings. These fixtures and personnel are available only at the factory.

**Any pressure relief valves which shows evidence of leakage, other improper operation or is suspect as to its performance must be replaced immediately using approved procedures.**

### Pipe-Away Adapters

Pipe-away adapters are available for most MEC Pressure Relief Valves, where it is required or desirable to pipe the discharge above or away from the container. Each adapter is designed to sever if excessive stress is applied to the vent piping—thus leaving the relief valve intact and fully operative.



---

## Deflector Kit for Pressure Relief Valves

Relief valve deflectors are important components of relief valves. They are responsible for the deflection of any liquid or vapor that may be discharged from a relief valve. They also contribute to properly draining the relief valve body of accumulated water. It is therefore very important that they be installed properly. NFPA #58 requires the deflector design to protect the container from flame impingement that could result from ignited product escaping from the drain opening. Adjacent containers and equipment should be protected from flame impingement. MEC relief valve deflectors have three openings: the inlet, outlet and drain. (See Figure Below)

**THE OUTLET MUST ALWAYS FACE UPWARD WHEN INSTALLED.**

### Installation:

1. Remove the existing plug on the relief valve body, if necessary, by turning counterclockwise.
2. Verify that the other drain holes on the relief valve body are either plugged or have deflectors installed.
3. Apply PTFE pipe joint compound on the first three male threads of the deflector.
4. Install the deflector by turning clockwise. Do not exceed 250 in/lbs. of torque when installing.
5. Align the deflector into the relief valve body with the deflector outlet facing upward when fully tightened.



### Maintenance:

Verify that the deflector's openings are unobstructed every six months.

---

## Marshall Excelsior Company

Phone: 269-789-6700,

Fax: 269-781-8340

E-mail: [sales@marshallexcelsior.com](mailto:sales@marshallexcelsior.com)

[www.marshallexcelsior.com](http://www.marshallexcelsior.com)

