VIP Checker





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2. Introduction

Inspection for vacuum leakages and insulation effectiveness for Vacuum Insulation Panel (it is made with polymer film with aluminum foil, which is vacuumed on a thermal resistance material; it is called as VIP in this text) used to be processed by heat-flow method (which is used on EKO HC-074) for measuring the thermal conductivity; however, it is not so efficient for managing quality control for mass quantity of VIP production since it would take about 1~2 hours to measure just one VIP. The VIP (Vacuum Insulation Panel) Checker HC-121 is now possible to measure one VIP within 1 minute because it checks the VIP's by simplified method.

1. Quick Evaluation for VIP

HC-121 measures the loss of the heat which is cased from the difference in thermal conductivity of VIP to evaluate the VIP performance by OK/NG. This measurement method takes much shorter time for evaluation compared to the traditional method. HC-121 has sensor head, which is the heat source with detector that measures the heat loss. With a most common method, it usually takes more than 1 hour for evaluation; however with HC-121, it only takes approximately 1 minute and is applicable for quality control process.

2. Up to 5 Sensor Head Connection

VIP is a high performance insulator; however, if any vacuum leakage occurs, it will lose its performance. HC-121 is developed to check the VIP vacuum leakage, and the VIP are evaluated by comparing against the reference VIPs that are already known for each OK, n-NG, and NG conditions. Up to 5 units of sensor units can be connected, and each of these sensor head can be operated individually.

3. Calibration and Determining Evaluation Threshold

HC-121 can be used by calibrating per individual sensor by reference VIPs which are produced in the identical configuration with the VIPs to be evaluated.

If there are three samples of VIPs, which are in same size, made from same material and their thermal conductivities are already known but different, the thermal conductivity of same type of VIP values can be estimated from the standard graph by giving value to the sensor using calibration function. The calibration software is used for such calibrations.

4. Easiest Solution for VIP Quality Control

As mentioned above, since HC-121 takes only about 1 minute per one sample to evaluate VIPs compared to the common stable method, which takes more than 1 hour, it is best suited for VIP quality control in production line.

5. Barcode Reader (Option)

The control software controls the sensor and used for measurement data managements. In order to register and identify all the VIP samples, the barcode reader can be connected.

3-1. Specifications

Table 3-1. Specifications

Characteris	stics	Details		
Test Sample Size	Width:	$\pm 50 \text{mm}$ difference against reference VIP (when the reference VIP is over 200x200 \text{mm})		
Requirements	Thickness:	± 5 mm difference against reference VIP (when the reference VIP is over 10mm)		
		Room temperature: Within 25+/-2°C, temperature controlled		
		Humidity: Within 40%+/-5%, stabilized		
Measurement Conditions		Air from air conditioner does not blow VIP samples directly.		
		No vibration, dust, high voltage equipment, high electro-magnetic and		
		electrostatic		

Table 3-2. Each Unit Specifications

Characteristics	Details			
HC-121 Measurement Unit				
Sensor Input	Differential Thermocouple (Thermopile type), Output in mV			
Input Range	10mV fixed			
Measurement Accuracy	±0.025mV			
Heater Current	160mA (per each Sensor Unit channel)			
Input Channels	5 channels			
Measurement Time	 60sec/1ch for standard: Standby Time: [Standard 20sec.] (Can be changed above 20 sec.) Cooling Time: [Standard 30sec.] (Can be changed above30 sec.) Heating Time: [Standard 10sec.] (Cannot be changed) 			
Buzzer	Beeps at completion of a measurement.			
Communication	RS-232C			
PC Connection Port	RS-232C			
Barcode Reader Connection Port	BAR CODE READER			
Size	320(W) x 120(H) x 220(D) mm			
Weight	3kg			
Power Source	AC100 - 240V, 50/60Hz, Fuse: 3A			

Table 3-3. Each Unit Specifications - Continued

Characteristics	Details		
Sensor Unit			
Heater	Approximately 85Ω (Approx. 10W)		
Insulator	EPS		
Differential Thermocouple	Copper-Constantan		
Cable	4-pin Shield Cable, 1.8m, D-sub9 pin (male) with connector		
Size	φ52 x 117 (H) mm		
Weight	1kg		
Display Unit			
	Illuminated pushbutton (Yellow when light, white when not light)		
Start Button	Lights up when starting measurements or cooling.		
	Push the button once to light off.		
OK Lamp	Lights up when inspection pass. (Green)		
NG Lamp	Lights up when inspection fail. (Red)		
Sensor Heat sink	Aluminum heatsink		
Cable	12-pin Shield Cable, 4.5m, Centronics 14pin (male) with connector		
Size	200(W) x 130(H) x 120(D) mm		
Weight	800g		
Barcode Reader (Optional)	Honeywell MS5145-RS or equivalent		
Interface	RS-232C		
Connector	D-sub 9 pins, Female		
Baud Rate	9600bps		
Data Bits	8 bits		
Parity	none		
Stop Bit	1 bit		
Terminator code	only CR (Carriage Return)		
Available Digits	Less than 13 digits		
Available Codes	JAN-8, CODE39, CODE128, ITF		
Power Supply	AC adaptor AC100V+/-10% (6VA)		
Volume	Approximately 160g (without cable)		

3-2. Software Specifications

	Details		
Software	Calibration Software: Ver. 3.4.x.x		
Versions	Measurement Software: Ver. 7.4.x.x		
Applicable OS	Windows 7 / 8 / 8.1 / 10		
Operation Environment	CPU:Pentium/Celeron equivalent, more than 100MHzMemories:64MByte or moreHHD Capacity:300MByte or moreDisplay Resolution:1024x768 dot or moreInterface:RS-232C Port (COM1 to 16); Make sure 1 port is available.* There should be no unnecessary resident software operating when using this software.* Turn OFF power management function and screen saver (may lead to unsuccessful data collection)		
Software Function	 Calibration Software (TCCal_V34xx.exe) This is software to calibrate the 5 sensors. Prepare 3 types of samples that thermal conductivities are known (each, Ok/nNG/NG in thermal conductivity) and perform calibration process. Take measurements, 5 channels for 3 times, total of 15 times. Seek for straight-line approximation in relationships between the differential thermocouple and output electric voltage. The calibration results will be saved in a file and read by the measurement software. Measurement Software (TCDac_V74xx.exe) This is software to control the Measurement Unit. This software can give signal for starting measurements, monitoring the measurements, displaying and saving the measurement results. It can easily manage the measurement results by using barcodes. The measurement results are saved as text files in the HDD. 		

Table 3-4. Software Specifications

1	2	3	4	5	6	\bigcirc	8	9	10	11
YYYY/MM/DD	hh/mm/ss	VIP Serial No,	Sensor ID	Rambda [mW/mK]	Output	Coefficient A	Coefficient B	R^2	Judge	
2023/4/20	16:10:34	S230420No0001	1	1068423.9	0.037	-6.15844	-6.42168	1	OK	
2023/4/20	16:10:40	S230420No0002	2	1068423.9	0.037	-6.15844	-6.42168	1	OK	
2023/4/20	16:10:46	S230420No0003	3	1016588.7	0.0373	-6.15844	-6.42168	1	OK	
2023/4/20	16:10:52	S230420No0004	4	1068423.9	0.037	-6.15844	-6.42168	1	OK	
2023/4/20	16:10:58	S230420No0005	5	1123356.8	0.0367	-6.15844	-6.42168	1	NG	
2023/4/20	16:11:04	S230420No0006	1	1068423.9	0.037	-6.15844	-6.42168	1	OK	

• Measurement Software CSV Data Format (TCDac_Vxxxx.exe)

	 YYYY/MM/DD 	Measured Date	
	② hh/mm/ss	Measured Time	
	③ VIP Serial No,	Always 13 characters, in upper scale alphabets and arabic numerals Scan the barcode and read this value	
	④ Sensor ID	1 to 99 (Prepared with 2 digits for considering the future expansion)	
	⑤ Rambda [mW/mK]	0.0 to 99.9[mW/mK]	
	⑥ Output	0.0001~9.9999	
	⑦ Coefficient A	Slope value of thermal conductivity conversion formula -99.99 to 99.9	
	⑧ Coefficient B	Intercept value of thermal conductivity conversion formula 000.000 to 999.999	
	③ R^2	Determination Coefficient	
	10 Judge	Passed: OK Failed: NG	
	1 CR LF	Carriage Retrun + Line Feed	
* All data is separated by comma (,)			

• The CSV Data format for Calibration Software (TCCal_Vxxx.exe) is in same format as Measurement Software CSV format, but without the item (10) Judge.

3-3. Cables Specifications

Table 3-5. Cable Specifications

Cables	Details
Dower Ookle	7A-125V 2.5m
Power Cable	3-pin Plug $\leftarrow \rightarrow$ IEC60320 C13 type socket
Communication Coble	RS-232C Cross cable, 1.5m
Communication Cable	Dsub9pin Female ←→ Dsub9pin Female

3-4. Dimensions

1. Measurement Unit



Figure 3-1. Measurement Unit Dimension

2. Display Unit



Figure 3-2. Display Unit Dimension

3. Sensor Unit



Figure 3-3. Sensor Unit Dimension

4. Standard Items & Accessories

Table 4-1. Package Contents

Standard Items	Qty.	Remarks
Measuring Unit	1	With power supply cable, RS-232C cable
Display Unit	5	
Sensor Units	5 sets	5 sets of Weight and Sensor Head
Barcode Reader	1	Optional: with power adapter and RS-232C cable
Computer	1	Optional
PC software & Instruction Manual	1	CD-ROM
Instruction Manual	1	
Inspection Report	1	Inspection results of sensor heads

Table 4-2. Accessories List

Option Items	Remarks
Computer	
Barcode Reader	MS-5145-RS (Honeywell) With set of power supply adapter and RS-232C cable for barcode reader
RS-232C Extension Cable	for Barcode Reader 4m Dsub9pin (Female)
AC Cable (Corresponding plugs for each country)	Power Supply Cable for AC100V to 240V

5. APPENDIX

5-1. Warranty and Liability

For warranty terms and conditions, contact EKO or your distributor for further details.

EKO guarantees that the product delivered to customer has been verified, checked and tested to ensure that the product meets the appropriate specifications. The product warranty is valid only if the product has been installed and used according to the directives provided in this instruction manual.

In case of any manufacturing defect, the product will be repaired or replaced under warranty. However, the warranty does not apply if:

- Any modification or repair was done by any person or organization other than EKO service personnel.
- The damage or defect is caused by not respecting the instructions of use as given on the product brochure or the instruction manual.

5-2. Environment

1. WEEE Directive 2002/96/EC (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment)

This product is not subjected to WEEE Directive 2002/96/EC however it should not be mixed with general household waste. For proper treatment, recovery and recycling, please take this product(s) to designated collection points.

Disposing of this product correctly will help save valuable resources and prevent any potential negative effects on human health and the environment, which could otherwise arise from inappropriate waste handling.

2. RoHS Directive 2002/95/EC

EKO Instruments has completed a comprehensive evaluation of its product range to ensure compliance with RoHS Directive 2002/95/EC regarding maximum concentration values for substances. As a result all products are manufactured using raw materials that do not contain any of the restricted substances referred to in the RoHS Directive 2002/95/EC at concentration levels in excess of those permitted under the RoHS Directive 2002/95/EC, or up to levels allowed in excess of these concentrations by the Annex to the RoHS Directive 2002/95/EC.



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