



**SLOVENSKI STANDARD**  
**oSIST prEN ISO 23251:2011**  
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**Petrokemična industrija ter industrija za predelavo nafte in zemeljskega plina -  
Sistemi za sproščanje in izravnavanje tlaka (ISO/DIS 23251:2011)**

Petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries - Pressure-relieving and  
depressuring systems (ISO/DIS 23251:2011)

Erdöl-, petrochemische und Erdgasindustrie - Druckentlastungs- und  
Druckausgleichssysteme (ISO/DIS 23251:2011)

Industries du pétrole, de la pétrochimie et du gaz naturel - Systèmes de dépressurisation  
et de protection contre les surpressions (ISO/DIS 23251:2011)

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NORME EUROPÉENNE  
EUROPÄISCHE NORM

**DRAFT**  
**prEN ISO 23251**

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Will supersede EN ISO 23251:2007

English Version

## Petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries - Pressure-relieving and depressuring systems (ISO/DIS 23251:2011)

Industries du pétrole, de la pétrochimie et du gaz naturel -  
Systèmes de dépressurisation et de protection contre les  
surpressions (ISO/DIS 23251:2011)

Erdöl-, petrochemische und Erdgasindustrie -  
Druckentlastungs- und Druckausgleichssysteme (ISO/DIS  
23251:2011)

This draft European Standard is submitted to CEN members for parallel enquiry. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 12.

If this draft becomes a European Standard, CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration.

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EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

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**Contents**

Page

Foreword.....3

**iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW  
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[oSIST prEN ISO 23251:2011  
https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/4897c4b4-3055-43f3-ab21-62d0b8d33fbd/osist-pren-iso-23251-2011](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/4897c4b4-3055-43f3-ab21-62d0b8d33fbd/osist-pren-iso-23251-2011)

## Foreword

This document (prEN ISO 23251:2011) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 67 "Materials, equipment and offshore structures for petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 12 "Materials, equipment and offshore structures for petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries" the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This document is currently submitted to the parallel Enquiry.

This document will supersede EN ISO 23251:2007.

### Endorsement notice

The text of ISO/DIS 23251:2011 has been approved by CEN as a prEN ISO 23251:2011 without any modification.

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ISO/TC 67/SC 6

Secretariat: AFNOR

Voting begins on  
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# Petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries — Pressure-relieving and depressuring systems

*Industries du pétrole, de la pétrochimie et du gaz naturel — Systèmes de dépressurisation et de protection contre les surpressions*

[Revision of first edition (ISO 23251:2006)]

ICS 75.180.20

## iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW (standards.iteh.ai)

### ISO/CEN PARALLEL PROCESSING

This draft has been developed within the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and processed under the **ISO-lead** mode of collaboration as defined in the Vienna Agreement.

This draft is hereby submitted to the ISO member bodies and to the CEN member bodies for a parallel five-month enquiry.

Should this draft be accepted, a final draft, established on the basis of comments received, will be submitted to a parallel two-month approval vote in ISO and formal vote in CEN.

**In accordance with the provisions of Council Resolution 15/1993 this document is circulated in the English language only.**

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## Contents

Page

Foreword .....	v
Introduction.....	vi
1 Scope.....	1
2 Normative references.....	1
3 Terms and definitions .....	1
4 Causes of overpressure and their relieving rates.....	10
4.1 General .....	10
4.2 Overpressure protection philosophy .....	11
4.3 Determination of individual relieving rates.....	14
4.4 Individual overpressure causes and their relieving rates.....	16
4.5 Guidance on vacuum relief .....	62
4.6 Vapour depressuring .....	64
4.7 Relief system design documentation.....	72
4.8 List of items required in flare-header calculation documentation .....	76
4.9 Special considerations for individual pressure-relief devices .....	77
5 Disposal systems.....	78
5.1 General .....	78
5.2 Fluid properties that influence selection and design of disposal systems .....	78
5.3 System design load.....	81
5.4 System arrangement.....	84
5.5 Piping.....	87
5.6 Disposal to a lower-pressure system.....	103
5.7 Disposal to flare.....	104
5.8 Disposal to atmosphere.....	147
5.9 Design details for seal and knockout drums.....	164
Annex A (informative) Determination of fire relief requirements .....	167
A.1 Nature of a fire .....	167
A.2 Background of the empirical method in 4.4.13.2.3.2 .....	167
A.3 Alternative Analytical Method.....	168
A.4 Data on latent heat of vaporization of hydrocarbons .....	186
Annex B (informative) Special system design considerations.....	188
B.1 Single pressure-relief device protecting several components in a process system .....	188
B.2 Description of a typical process system.....	188
B.3 Procedure to calculate the design pressure or MAWP of equipment components .....	188
Annex C (informative) Sample calculations .....	191
C.1 Flash calculation .....	191
C.2 Sizing a subsonic flare stack .....	193
C.3 Flare knockout drum.....	208
C.4 Sizing a vent stack .....	212
C.5 Noise calculation.....	213
C.6 The use of the Annex A analytical method to reproduce fire test data .....	215
Annex D (informative) Typical details and sketches .....	226
Annex E (informative) High integrity protection systems (HIPS).....	229
E.1 Introduction.....	229
E.2 Background.....	229
E.3 Relevant regulations and industry standards .....	230
E.4 Procedures for applying HIPS.....	233

ISO/DIS 23251

E.5	Test intervals for HIPS .....	234
E.6	Documentation.....	235
E.7	Training.....	235
E.8	Additional source material.....	235
	Bibliography .....	236

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**(standards.iteh.ai)**

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/4897c4b4-3055-43f3-ab21-62d0b8d33fbd/osist-pren-iso-23251-2011>

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 23251 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 67, *Materials, equipment and offshore structures for petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Processing equipment and systems*.

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## Introduction

The portions of this International Standard dealing with flares and flare systems are an adjunct to ISO 25457)<sup>[10]</sup>, which addresses mechanical design, operation and maintenance of flare equipment. It is important for all parties involved in the design and use of a flare system to have an effective means of communicating and preserving design information about the flare system. To this end, ISO and API has developed a set of flare data sheets, which can be found in ISO 25457 Annex E. The use of these data sheets is both recommended and encouraged as a concise, uniform means of recording and communicating design information.

The Bibliography lists the documents that are referenced informatively in this International Standard, as well as other documents that are not cited in this International Standard but that contain additional useful information. Some of the content of the documents listed might not be suitable for all applications and therefore needs to be assessed for each application before use.

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# Petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries — Pressures-relieving and depressuring systems

## 1 Scope

This International Standard is applicable to pressure-relieving and vapour-depressuring systems. Although intended for use primarily in oil refineries, it is also applicable to petrochemical facilities, gas plants, liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities and oil and gas production facilities. The information provided is designed to aid in the selection of the system that is most appropriate for the risks and circumstances involved in various installations.

This International Standard is intended to supplement the practices set forth in ISO 4126 or API RP 520-1 for establishing a basis of design.

This International Standard specifies requirements and gives guidelines for examining the principal causes of overpressure; and determining individual relieving rates; and selecting and designing disposal systems, including such component parts as piping, vessels, flares, and vent stacks. This International Standard does not apply to direct-fired steam boilers.

Piping information pertinent to pressure-relieving systems is presented in 5.5.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 4126 (all parts), *Safety devices for protection against excessive pressure*

API STD 520-I:2008, *Sizing, Selection and Installation of Pressure-Relieving Devices in Refineries — Part I: Sizing and Selection*<sup>1)</sup>

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

### 3.1

#### **accumulation**

pressure increase over the maximum allowable working pressure of the vessel allowed during discharge through the pressure-relief device

NOTE Accumulation is expressed in units of pressure or as a percentage of MAWP or design pressure. Maximum allowable accumulations are established by pressure-design codes for emergency operating and fire contingencies.

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<sup>1)</sup> American Petroleum Institute, 1220 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20005-4070, USA.

## ISO/DIS 23251

**3.2 administrative controls**  
procedures intended to ensure that personnel actions do not compromise the overpressure protection of the equipment

**3.3 assist gas**  
fuel gas that is added to relief gas prior to the flare burner or at the point of combustion in order to raise the heating value

NOTE In some designs, the assist gas can increase turbulence for improved combustion.

**3.4 atmospheric discharge**  
release of vapours and gases from pressure-relieving and depressuring devices to the atmosphere

**3.5 availability**  
fraction of time that a system (e.g. safety instrumented system, atmospheric relief system or flare relief system) is able to perform the designated service if required for use

**3.6 back pressure**  
pressure that exists at the outlet of a pressure-relief device as a result of the pressure in the discharge system

NOTE The back pressure is the sum of the superimposed and built-up back pressures.

**3.7 balanced pressure-relief valve**  
spring-loaded pressure-relief valve that incorporates a bellows or other means for minimizing the effect of back pressure on the operational characteristics of the valve

**3.8 blowdown drum**  
knockout drum with or connected to a stack open to atmosphere

NOTE 1 The term blowdown drum is sometimes also used for knockout drums connected to flare or other disposal systems, but it is not used in this context in this International Standard.

NOTE 2 The term blowdown is sometimes used in the context of emergency depressuring of a plant or part of a plant, but it is not used in this context in this International Standard.

**3.9 blow-off**  
loss of a stable flame where the flame is lifted above the burner, occurring if the fuel velocity exceeds the flame velocity

**3.10 breaking-pin device**  
pressure-relief device actuated by static differential or static inlet pressure and designed to function by the breakage of a load-carrying section of a pin that supports a pressure-containing member

**3.11 buckling pin device**  
pressure-relief device actuated by static differential or static inlet pressure and designed to function by the buckling of an axially-loaded compressive pin that supports a pressure-containing member

**3.12****built-up back pressure**

increase in pressure at the outlet of a pressure-relief device that develops as a result of flow after the pressure-relief device opens

**3.13****buoyancy seal**

dry vapour seal that minimizes the amount of purge gas needed to protect against air infiltration

NOTE The buoyancy seal functions by trapping a volume of light gas in an internal inverted compartment; this prevents air from displacing buoyant light gas in the flare.

**3.14****burnback**

internal burning within the flare tip

NOTE Burnback can result from air backing down the flare burner at purge or low flaring rates.

**3.15****burning velocity****flame velocity**

speed at which a flame front travels into an unburned combustible mixture

**3.16****burn-pit flare**

open excavation, normally equipped with a horizontal flare burner that can handle liquid as well as vapour hydrocarbons

**3.17****burst pressure**

value of the upstream static pressure minus the value of the downstream static pressure just before a rupture disk bursts

NOTE If the downstream pressure is atmospheric, the burst pressure is the upstream static gauge pressure.

**3.18****closed disposal system**

disposal system capable of containing pressures that are different from atmospheric pressure

**3.19****cold differential test pressure****CDTP**

pressure at which a pressure-relief valve is adjusted to open on the test stand

NOTE The cold differential test pressure includes corrections for the service conditions of back pressure or temperature or both.

**3.20****combustion air**

air required to combust the flare gases

**3.21****confined fire**

fire inside a building or a compact process module where the walls and/or surrounding equipment can re-radiate and preheat the combustion air causing higher heat fluxes than an unconfined (i.e., open) fire