



## Two-Wire pH & ORP Transmitters

Two-wire transmitters are widely used for process control in industry. These instruments are particularly useful in industrial conditions where electrical interference is an important factor. By galvanically isolating the signals, any interference created is prevented from reaching the transmitter. Industrial environments are often associated with corrosive conditions, therefore any instrumentation used must be resistant to liquids and corrosion. Hanna transmitters meet all of these criteria and they only use two wires which reduces costs and eliminates the need for an expensive coaxial cable. Two-wire transmitters are ideal when used in remote applications that do not have AC power available.

As technology advances it is becoming more important to monitor certain processes closely, particularly from remote locations. Computers are commonly used to receive signals from transducers that have travelled a great distance (up to 300 meters, 1000'). When transmitting signals over such a distance, it is likely that a substantial portion of the signal will be absorbed by the resistance of the lines. Considerable differences in ground potentials and between the signal source and load, are inherent to long lines.

Powering the system with an AC supply is beneficial in eliminating this problem. One of the two wires is power ground return, while the other is the power supply. The power supply line acts in a dual manner, as a power supply, and as a signal carrier. This allows the transmitter to operate with 2 wires.

The signal current from the process controller is normally 4 to 20 mA. When the load is connected with the power supply return line, the signal current will be proportional in the range of 4 to 20 mA.

The ability to use a thinner gauge of wire greatly reduces the costs associated with the wiring of remote transmitters. Typically, a heavy gauge of shielded cable is required in order to minimize the ambient electrical noise from AC power sources, interference from electrical equipment, or various other sources of noise.

Thin wire will also provide better operation when the transmitter current output is a 4 to 20 mA signal. All of these features and many more, give Hanna transmitters the versatility to be used over long distances in almost any process control application.

## Conductivity, Four-Ring Technology

Hanna conductivity transmitters use four-ring Potentiometric probes. As opposed to the more widely used 2-electrode Amperometric method, the four-ring Potentiometric method provides the highest accuracy and repeatability attainable. When measuring liquids that have a high conductivity, the 2-electrode system is susceptible to polarization. This condition makes it exceptionally difficult to obtain measurements with any accuracy. The polarization is directly related to the electrode's current load, and will cause a considerable, nonlinear drop in the voltage. As a result, the solution around the electrode simulates a low conductivity condition.

Four-ring electrodes eliminate the polarization effect by splitting the four rings into 2 current and 2 voltage electrodes. When placed in a conductive liquid, the 2 current electrodes take the alternating voltage and create a current. This alternating current produces a buffer field from which polarization is absent. The voltage is then measured in this field assuring no altered readings.