



How Advanced Hydrogen Fueling Protocols can Improve Fueling Performance & H₂ Station Design

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Presented at Mission Hydrogen Webinar July 15, 2020

NREL/PR-5400-77368

How to Optimize Hydrogen Refueling Stations

Part 1: June 3rd Webinar (Dr. Elgowainy)



- Excellent big picture assessment with longer term outlook
- Focused on impacts of on-board storage and gaseous vs liquid H₂ stations
- Analysis focused on HD vehicles and infrastructure

Part 2: Today's Webinar



- Nearer term & focused on today's compressed H₂ storage systems
- Focused on impacts of the hydrogen fueling protocol on fueling performance and H₂ station design
- * Analysis is applicable to both HD & LD vehicles and infrastructure

U.S. DOE EERE – HD Long-Haul FC Truck Targets

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**Office of ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office

- Published Technical Targets for Long-Haul Heavy-Duty Fuel Cell Trucks in October 2019 *
 - ▶ Fast Fueling \rightarrow 10 kg/min ultimate
 - ▶ Long Range \rightarrow 750 miles ultimate



- Technologies needs to achieve targets:
 - a) High Flow HD Fueling Components
 - b) Optimal H₂ Fueling Protocols

Characteristic	Linite	Targets for Class 8 Tractor-Trailers	
Characteristic	Units	Interim (2030)	Ultimate ⁹
Fuel Cell System Lifetime ^{1,2}	hours	25,000	30,000
Fuel Cell System Cost ^{1,3,4}	\$/kW	80	60
Fuel Cell Efficiency (peak)	%	68	72
Hydrogen Fill Rate	kg H2/min	8	10

cycles

cycles

\$/kWh

(\$/kg H₂ stored)

5,000

11,000

9

(300)

5,000

11,000

8

(266)

Table 1. Technical System Targets: Class 8 Long-Haul Tractor-Trailers (updated 10/31/19)

5.5 Hydrogen Long-Haul Truck Range

Storage System Cycle Life⁵

Pressurized Storage System Cycle Life⁶

Hydrogen Storage System Cost^{4,7,8}

Table 10. Long-Haul Range for Hydrogen Trucks, Interim and Ultimate Assumptions

	Status	Tractor-Trailer Trucks		
	Estimate	Interim	Ultimate	
Vehicle Range [miles]	300 ¹	600	750	

Based on Toyota Project Portal for drayage applications.

3 Target Tables for Hydrogen Fueled Long-Haul Trucks

* https://www.hydrogen.energy.gov/pdfs/19006_hydrogen_class8_long_haul_truck_targets.pdf

NREL at a Glance

2,307

Employees, plus more than 460 early-career researchers and visiting scientists

World-class

┛₽₽

facilities, renowned technology experts

Partnerships

about 900

AREA AND

with industry, academia, and government

Campus

operates as a living laboratory

Key FCHT Research Areas

Program Key Areas Strategy Summary: Over the next five years, NREL's efforts will improve the economic viability of transforming, transporting, and storing hydrogen technologies in conjunction with key government and industry partners who will accelerate their adoption



Make

- Electrochemical
- Photoelectrochemical
- Biological
- Thermochemical
- Grid integration
- Power electronics
- Direct connect renewable integration



Move

- Pressure
- Form
- Quantity
- Mode



Store

- On-board
- Carriers
- Bulk



Use

- Fuel cells
- Electrons to Molecules
- Fuel upgrading*
- Combustion*
- Metal reductant*



Crosscuts

- Foundational decision science
- Manufacturing
- Safety
- People

Vision: Hydrogen will be a ubiquitous means of transporting, storing, and transforming energy at the scale necessary to enable a clean and vibrant economy

*future

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NREL

NREL's H₂ Systems Experimental Capabilities



"Innovating Hydrogen Stations" Research Project



Advance hydrogen station capabilities

DOE HFTO funded H2@Scale CRADA Project with Industry Partners: Shell, Air Liquide, Toyota, Honda A research and industry partnership for an experimentally validated high flow rate fueling model and near-term hydrogen station innovations that benefits multiple markets and stakeholders

Fueling Protocol Overview

What is a fueling protocol?

A set of procedures that dictate the process which a station follows to safely fuel a compressed hydrogen storage system (CHSS)



Fueling Protocol

US

Why is a fueling protocol needed?

- > To ensure that the CHSS stays within its operational boundaries (pressure and temperature)
- > A fueling protocol can dictate the **fueling speed** $\left(\frac{dP}{dt}, t_{end}\right)$ & end pressure P_{end}
- Currently, SAE J2601 is the worldwide recognized fueling protocol standard for light duty fueling
- A new revision to J2601 was just published in May 2020 -- https://saemobilus.sae.org/content/J2601_202005/

Currently No Federal

Regulation

Based on SAE J2601

History of SAE H₂ Fueling Protocols



• There are a family of SAE J2601 fueling protocol standards to address the needs of light duty, H35 heavy duty, and forklifts

• Current SAE ITF activities aim to standardize a high flow fueling protocol for HD vehicles in conjunction with the ISO.

SAE J2601 Philosophy

Philosophy for SAE J2601 Fueling Protocols:



- H₂ Station is fully responsible for safe fueling of the vehicle
- No safety critical information from vehicle is used *
- Worst case boundary conditions are assumed

Storage Vessel Operational Window **



** Figure 3 from 2020 version of SAE J2601

Fueling Can be Conducted With or Without Communications



- * Communicated data is not used for **safety related functions** – it is **only used for fill quality**
- The current SAE J2601 is based on this philosophy which dictates the higher level structure of the fueling protocols
- This philosophy was chosen after much discussion in the SAE ITF

J2601 Protocol Structures



- MC Formula uses feedforward control to dynamically adapt to actual fueling conditions
- Table-based protocol uses static control based on an assumed range of fuel delivery temperatures (i.e. T40, T30, T20)

Fueling Performance - Potential

Initial Pressure = 2 MPa (~ 4% SOC)



Assumptions → 2020 SAE J2601 Standard, Vehicle CHSS size = 122.4 L (Toyota Mirai), Fuel Delivery Temperature = -36 °C, End of Fill SOC = 98%

- The MC Formula fueling protocol is currently the state-of-the-art
- With sufficiently cold pre-cooling temperatures, the majority of fills take less than 4 minutes

Initial Pressure = 10 MPa (~ 20% SOC)

J2601 Real World Fueling Data (35,000 + MC-F fills*)



• T40 fueling times look to be acceptable. Ending gas temperatures show quite a bit of margin below 85 °C limit

How can fueling protocols be improved?

Develop approaches which can reduce the gas temperature margin

Current

Pre-cool Temperature



Gas Temperature Margin



How can fueling protocols be improved?

Develop approaches which can reduce the gas temperature margin



How can fueling protocols be improved?

Develop approaches which can reduce the gas temperature margin















Margin comes from real world components and conditions being less conservative than the worst case assumptions in J2601

How can this margin be reduced?

Current SAE J2601 Philosophy (station responsible)			Revised philosophy (vehicle & station share responsibility)		
 Improve the protocol by eliminating or reducing the embedded worst-case assumptions Incremental improvements Difficult to fully eliminate the margin 		 Utilize new approaches which allow vehicle specific information to be communicated to the station and incorporated into the fueling protocol Although benefits are high there are some trade-offs that need to be considered 			
inding Gas Temperature Margin	Current Assumption 2 e.g. station thermal mass e.g. tempera	Assumption 4	Current	Change in Philosophy	

J2601 Philosophy Margin Reduction – Station Components

Options:

 Utilize the actual thermophysical properties of station components in the protocol development (instead of assuming the worst-case) *

* This approach is currently being researched under a NEDO funded project in Japan – see reference below:

T. Kuroki, M. Peters, K. Nagasawa, D. Leighton N. Sakoda, K. Handa, S. Mathison, "Development of Hydrogen Fueling Model through Collaboration between Kyushu University and NREL,", International hydrogen infrastructure workshop 2020



J2601 Philosophy Margin Reduction – Station Components

Options:

- Utilize the actual thermophysical properties of station components in the protocol development (instead of assuming the worst-case) *
- 2. Measure the fuel delivery temperature at the nozzle instead of upstream of the breakaway **



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- Japan Patent 6602829 B2, K. Handa, "Gas Filling Method"
- US Patent Application US 20200173607 A1, S. Mathison,
 "Method and system for tank refueling using dispenser and nozzle readings"

J2601 Philosophy Margin Reduction – Station Components

Options:

- Utilize the actual thermophysical properties of station components in the protocol development (instead of assuming the worst-case) *
- 2. Measure the fuel delivery temperature at the nozzle instead of upstream of the breakaway

Option 2 solves two issues:

- a. Only nozzle component properties considered
- b. No assumption about component soak temperature

Because most stations use components with lower thermal mass and most fills start with components already cooled from a previous fill, this approach can reduce the margin and improve fueling

□ There are two options for reducing margin due to the effects of station component assumptions

- ✓ Option 1 requires no changes to current component design
- ✓ Option 2 would require adding a temperature measurement either in the nozzle or just upstream of the nozzle



J2601 Philosophy Margin Reduction – Increase Gas Temp Limit

Current:

SAE J2601 protocols are designed not to exceed 85 °C when all worst-case assumptions are present
 This temperature limit is based on CHSS qualification testing where 85 °C is the maximum temperature – i.e. UN GTR 13 and SAE J2579

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Utilize 85 °C as the target for Protocol Design



• SOC is good

J2601 Philosophy Margin Reduction – Increase Gas Temp Limit

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• SOC is good

• SOC should still be acceptable

J2601 Philosophy Margin Reduction – Increase Gas Temp Limit



~ 10% of fills

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- Margin can be reduced by increasing the temperature limit used in the SAE J2601 protocol design
- This means that warmer pre-cooling temperatures could be used while keeping the fueling times the same as today

Implications of Increase in Gas Temperature Limit

Communications:

□ To ensure backwards compatibility, vehicle may need to communicate to station the CHSS gas temperature limit → this may require a communication system with a higher functional safety than current IRDA (also changes philosophy)

CHSS Qualification Standards / Regulations:

□ To incorporate this approach, it is likely that changes to some GTR 13 requirements would be needed.

□ These **changes may include**:



5.1.2.6. Extreme temperature pressure cycling: The storage container is pressure cycled at and at +85°C and 95 per cent relative humidity to 125 per cent NWP for 20 per cent number of Cycles.....

6.2.4.1. Gas pressure cycling:

.....However, the pressure ramp rate should be decreased if the gas temperature in the container exceeds +85°C.....

- Changes to the temperature specs in these clauses may result in higher cost of the CHSS
- A cost-to-benefit analysis may be needed to assess this approach to reducing margin

• This approach to reducing margin would need deep discussion between key industry stakeholders and SDOs

Change Philosophy – Vehicle CHSS Characteristics used for Control³¹

□ The vehicle communicates unique thermodynamic characteristics of the CHSS + Max Gas Temp

Example: A unique set of coefficients used in the MC Formula protocol

□ The protocol calculates the pressure ramp rate based on these unique coefficients

Current
$$\rightarrow$$
 T, **P**, **V** + **T**_{gas_max} + (a, b, c, d) NEW

Note that this approach may require an advanced communications protocol with higher functional safety than the current SAE J2799 IR-based protocol



Communicating unique CHSS thermodynamic coefficients to the station can reduce margin

New

Concept:

This approach may be especially useful for HD vehicles where it is difficult to make assumptions about worst-case designs

Change Philosophy $\rightarrow T_{gas_{veh}}$ used for Control

Current Approach:



- **T**_{gas_veh} **not used for fueling control**, only end of fill quality
- □ T_{gas_veh} reliability is unknown to station
- Communications has limited value
- **Communications cannot be used to reduce the margin**

Change Philosophy \rightarrow T_{gas_veh} used for Control

Current Approach:



Possible Future Approach:



• appropriate ASIL rank determined by OEM

- **T**_{gas_veh} **not used for fueling control**, only end of fill quality
- **T**_{gas_veh} reliability is unknown to station
- Communications has limited value
- **Communications cannot be used to reduce the margin**
- **T**_{gas veh} is used for fueling control
- □ T_{gas_veh} reliability needs to be sufficient (fully trustworthy)
 - This includes high system level functional safety
 - Temperature measurement AND *communications*
- Communications adds value can utilize feedback control
- □ Margin can be nearly fully reduced, resulting in faster fueling or warmer pre-cooling
- □ The **downside** of this approach is:
 - added cost to the vehicle (due to functional safety)
 - some liability is shifted from the station to the vehicle

• Margin can be nearly fully reduced by utilizing T_{gas} in the fueling control with a fundamental change in philosophy

$\mathsf{T}_{\mathsf{gas_veh}}$ used for Control ightarrow Two Options

Option A (pure feedback control)

 T_{gas_veh} , $T_{gas_veh_Max}$, P, V, GTR13 $_{compliance}$, etc



- Station uses only T_{gas_veh} for feedback control
- Positives:
 - Very simple, non-prescriptive fueling protocol
- Negatives:
 - If T_{gas_veh} has a fault, gas temp could greatly exceed 85 °C
 - High reliability required for vehicle or CHSS robust to faults
 - Vehicle takes on significant liability

$\mathsf{T}_{\mathsf{gas} \ \mathsf{veh}}$ used for Control imes Two Options

Option A (pure feedback control)

T_{gas_veh}, T_{gas_veh_Max}, P, V, GTR13_{compliance}, etc



Option B (Hybrid - feedback control w/ back-stop)



- Station uses only T_{gas_veh} for feedback control
- Positives:
 - Very simple, non-prescriptive fueling protocol
- Negatives:
 - If T_{gas_veh} has a fault, gas temp could greatly exceed 85 °C
 - High reliability required for vehicle or CHSS robust to faults
 - Vehicle takes on significant liability



$\mathsf{T}_{\mathsf{gas} \ \mathsf{veh}}$ used for Control imes Two Options

Option A (pure feedback control)

 T_{gas_veh} , $T_{gas_veh_Max}$, P, V, GTR13 $_{compliance}$, etc



Option B (Hybrid - feedback control w/ back-stop)



- Station uses only T_{gas_veh} for feedback control
- Positives:
 - Very simple, non-prescriptive fueling protocol
- Negatives:
 - If T_{gas_veh} has a fault, gas temp could greatly exceed 85 °C
 - High reliability required for vehicle or CHSS robust to faults
 - Vehicle takes on significant liability
- Station uses T_{gas_veh} for feedback control, but with protective backstop in case T_{gas_veh} is wrong (has a fault condition)
- Positives:
 - Benefits of pure feedback control, but if there is a fault, the max gas temperature is limited due to back-stop function
 - Much lower functional safety requirements on vehicle
 - Lower liability for vehicle
- Negatives:
 - Must qualify CHSS to higher temperature rating > 85 C which could result in higher cost

Two Options: A (direct feedback control) requires very high reliability of gas temperature measurement and communication B (hybrid approach) where vehicle provides parameters to station for a "backstop" in case T_{gas veh} is wrong

Benefits of Margin Reduction

Warmer Pre-cooling Temperatures

- □ Computer fueling simulations show that for every 1 °C increase in CHSS gas temperature, the pre-cooling temperature can be increased by approximately 1.5 °C
- U With the various approaches discussed, CHSS gas temperature can be increased by up to 10 °C with the same fueling times
- □ Therefore, for Light Duty fueling, pre-cooling temperatures can be increased by up to + 15 °C (from current T40 to T20)

□ For Heavy Duty fueling, it may be possible to increase pre-cooling temperatures to T10 (- 10 °C) due to multi-tank CHSS

Benefits

- **Capital and operating cost reductions, higher component reliability, improved station up-time**
 - A study by Dr. Elgowainy * shows the total pre-cooling systems costs (capital + operating) can be 25% lower at T20 vs T40
 - A dispenser reliability testing program ** conducted by Peters et al at NREL demonstrated that the reliability of components exposed to cold gas (valves, breakaways, nozzles) are significantly higher at T20 temperatures than at T40
 - Over the testing period: **20 component failures at T40** vs only **8 component failures at T20**

* Analysis of Incremental Fueling Pressure Cost, A. Elgowainy, K. Reddi, 2015 DOE AMR Presentation

** Dispenser Reliability Project Report, M. Peters, N. Menon, M. Ruple, A. Winkler, K. Hartmann, E. Hecht, 2020 DOE AMR Presentation

- Pre-cooling temperatures can be increased by up to 15 °C (to T20) while keeping same fueling performance as today
- Alternatively, fueling times can be significantly reduced to accommodate stations with very high throughput requirements

Summary

- □ Using the MC Formula fueling protocol, today's fueling performance looks to be acceptable
- □ However, there is about 10 °C of temperature margin embedded, causing pre-cooling to be colder than necessary
- □ With current J2601 philosophy, incremental reductions in margin can be made such as those shown
- Using a revised philosophy, or by using a higher ending gas temp limit, most of this margin can be eliminated
- New fueling protocol approaches are especially appealing for high flow HD fueling due to the nascent market and higher fuel cost sensitivity

Potential Future Work

- **Rigorously assess** these fueling methods, focusing on high flow HD fueling due to nascent market and high fuel cost sensitivity
- Utilize a techno-economic based Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) analysis
 - Some approaches will cause costs on vehicle to increase but costs on station to decrease need to understand the balance
- □ T40 → T20: Holistic assessment of costs, including implications on compression and storage due to higher ending gas pressures
 - Especially with higher gas temp limits, it may be possible to go to T10 or even T0 pre-cooling again assess with TCO
- □ NREL has the capabilities and tools to assess these approaches
 - Modeling and testing of new fueling methods, component testing, reliability testing, techno-economic assessments, etc.

Acknowledgement:

The development of the MC Formula fueling protocol, and the research into many of the advanced concepts explored in this presentation, were supported by Honda R&D Americas LLC and the U.S. Department of Energy's Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office, within the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

I would also like to acknowledge Wenger Engineering for supporting the R&D of the MC Formula protocol via computer based fueling simulations.

And finally, I would like to acknowledge the members of the SAE Fuel Cell Standards Committee Interface Task Force, which I have had the privilege to chair, for volunteering their time and expertise towards the development of the SAE J2601 standard.

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Notice:

This work was authored by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, operated by Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC, for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under Contract No. DE-AC36-08GO28308. Funding provided by U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office. The views expressed in the article do not necessarily represent the views of the DOE or the U.S. Government. The U.S. Government retains and the publisher, by accepting the article for publication, acknowledges that the U.S. Government retains a nonexclusive, paid-up, irrevocable, worldwide license to publish or reproduce the published form of this work, or allow others to do so, for U.S. Government purposes.