Mechanical Seal Piping Plans

- **Single Seals** plans 01, 02, 03, 11, 13, 14, 21, 23, 31, 32, 41
- **Dual Seals** plans 52, 53A, 53B, 53C, 54, 55
- **Quench Seals** plans 62, 65A, 65B, 66A, 66B
- **Gas Seals** plans 72, 74, 75, 76
Flowserve recognizes that one of the most effective ways to achieve long, uninterrupted mechanical seal life is to create a healthy environment around the seal faces. Piping plans help keep mechanical seals running cool and clean, promote safe handling of dangerous fluids, and extend the operational availability of rotating equipment. This reference book provides a concise summary of the most essential piping plans used successfully in today’s process plants.

Each plan shows all the standard and optional auxiliary components referenced in API Standard 682 and recommended by Flowserve. Consult your local Flowserve sales engineer to identify the right solution that satisfies your application requirements.
What
Pressurized barrier fluid circulation through reservoir. Fluid is circulated by a pumping ring in the dual seal assembly.

Why
Isolate process fluid. Zero process emissions.

Where

Preventative Maintenance
Reference Appendix B
Piping loop must self-vent to reservoir locate at highest elevation. Pressure reservoir at all times, maximum gas charge 10 - 14 bar (150 - 200 psi). Barrier fluid must be compatible with process. Reservoir level gage indicates both inboard and outboard seal leakage.
internal porting
What
Internal seal chamber flush from pump discharge.
Operates similar to Plan 11.

Why
Seal chamber heat removal.
Seal chamber venting on horizontal pumps.
Reduce risk of freezing/polymerizing fluid in exposed Plan 11 piping.

Where
Custom seal chamber, most likely an ANSI/ASME pump.
Clean, moderate temperature fluids.
Used with single seals, rarely with dual seals.

Preventative Maintenance
Flush typically can not be directed over seal faces and seal heat removal is limited.
Calculate flush flow rate based on head loss through internal porting.
**What**
Dead-ended seal chamber with no flush.

**Why**
No fluid recirculation needed.

**Where**
Cooling jacket seal chambers in high temperature services.
Clean fluids.
Top-entry mixers/agitators with dry seals.
Heating jacket seal chambers in fluids that solidify at low temperatures.

**Preventative Maintenance**
Process must have adequate boiling point margin to avoid vaporization.
Cooling fluid in seal chamber jacket may be needed at all times in hot services.
Horizontal equipment must be self-venting.
Often used in combination with steam quench, Plan 62.
tapered bore seal chamber shown
What
Circulation created by the design of the seal chamber.

Why
No external fluid recirculation needed.
Solids removal from seal chamber.

Where
Large bore/open throat seal chambers.
Dirty or contaminated fluids.

Preventative Maintenance
Proper seal chamber design helps prevent solids from collecting at the seal faces.
**What**
Seal flush from pump discharge through orifice.
Default single seal flush plan.

**Why**
Seal chamber heat removal.
Seal chamber venting on horizontal pumps.
Increase seal chamber pressure and fluid vapor margin.

**Where**
General applications with clean fluids.
Clean, non-polymerizing fluids.

**Preventative Maintenance**
Use an orifice with a minimum 3 mm (1/8 inch) diameter.
Calculate flow rates to size orifice for adequate seal chamber flow.
Increase boiling point margin with proper orifice and throat bushing sizing.
Flush should be directed over seal faces with piping at 12 O’clock position.
Typical failure mode is a clogged orifice - check temperatures at pipe ends.
**What**
Recirculation from seal chamber to pump suction through orifice. Standard flush plan on vertical pumps.

**Why**
Continuous seal chamber venting on vertical pumps. Seal chamber heat removal.

**Where**
Vertical pumps. Seal chamber pressure is greater than suction pressure. Moderate temperature fluids with moderate solids. Non-polymerizing fluids.

**Preventative Maintenance**
Vent piping loop prior to starting vertical pumps. Use an orifice with a minimum 3 mm (1/8 inch) diameter. Calculate flow rates to size orifice for adequate seal chamber flow. Reduce seal chamber pressure with proper orifice and throat bushing sizing. Typical failure mode is a clogged orifice - check temperatures at pipe ends.
Plan 14

- outlet
- inlet
- seal end view
- orifices
**What**
Seal flush from pump discharge and recirculation to pump suction with orifices. Combination of Plan 11 and Plan 13.

**Why**
Continuous seal chamber venting on vertical pumps.
Seal chamber heat removal.
Increase seal chamber pressure and fluid vapor margin.

**Where**
Vertical pumps.
Clean, non-polymerizing fluids at moderate temperatures.

**Preventative Maintenance**
Use an orifice with a minimum 3 mm (1/8 inch) diameter.
Calculate flow rates to size orifice for adequate seal chamber flow.
Increase boiling point margin with proper orifice and throat bushing sizing.
Flush should be directed over seal faces.
Vent piping loop prior to starting vertical pumps.
Typical failure mode is a clogged orifice - check temperatures at pipe ends.
Plan 21

- **inlet**
- **seal end view**
- **orifice**
- **temperature indicator**
- **drain, normally closed**
- **cooling out**
- **cooling coils**
- **cooler**
- **vents, normally closed**
- **cooling in**

Diagram of a flowserve component with labeled parts.
What
Seal flush from pump discharge through orifice and cooler. Cooler added to Plan 11 flush increases heat removal.

Why
Seal cooling.
Reduce fluid temperature to increase fluid vapor margin.
Reduce coking.

Where
High temperature service, typically less than 177°C (350°F).
Hot water over 80°C (180°F).
Clean, non-polymerizing fluids.

Preventative Maintenance
Seal cooler and piping must have air vents at highest elevation - vent before starting.
When using 682 Seal Cooler, pipe with series flow to maximize heat transfer.
Use an orifice with a minimum 3 mm (1/8 inch) diameter.
Calculate flow rates to size orifice for adequate seal chamber flow.
Increase boiling point margin with proper orifice and throat bushing sizing.
Regularly monitor cooler inlet and outlet temperatures for signs of clogging or fouling.
**What**
Seal flush from internal pumping device through cooler.
Standard flush plan in hot water services.

**Why**
Efficient seal cooling with low cooler duty.
Increase fluid vapor margin.
Improve water lubricity.

**Where**
High temperature service, hot hydrocarbons.
Boiler feed water and hot water over 80°C (180°F).
Clean, non-polymerizing fluids.

**Preventative Maintenance** - Reference Appendix A
Seal cooler and piping must have air vents at highest elevation - vent before starting.
When using 682 Seal Cooler, pipe with parallel flow to minimize head loss.
Seal chamber requires close clearance throat bushing to isolate process fluid.
Tangential seal gland taps should enter at bottom and exit at top.
Regularly monitor cooler inlet and outlet temperatures for signs of clogging or fouling.
Process fluids with iron should flow through magnetic separator before cooler.
Plan 31

inlet

cyclone separator
What
Seal flush from pump discharge through cyclone separator. Centrifuged solids are returned to pump suction.

Why
Seal chamber heat removal. Solids removal from flush and seal chamber.

Where
Dirty or contaminated fluids, water with sand or pipe slag. Non-polymerizing fluids.

Preventative Maintenance
Cyclone separator works best on solids with a specific gravity twice the process fluid. Seal chamber pressure must be nearly equal to suction pressure for proper flows. Piping should not include an orifice and is not expected to vent the seal chamber. Typical failure mode is clogged separator or pipes - check temperatures at pipe ends.
Plan 32

- Inlet
- Flow indicator (optional)
- Flow control valve
- Pressure indicator
- Check valve
- From clean source, normally open
- Strainer
- Temperature indicator (optional)
- Seal end view
**What**
Seal flush from an external clean source.

**Why**
Seal chamber heat removal.
Process and solids removal from seal chamber.
Increase seal chamber pressure and fluid vapor margin.

**Where**
Dirty or contaminated fluids, paper pulp.
High temperature service.
Polymerizing and/or oxidizing fluids.

**Preventative Maintenance**
Use throat bushing sized to hold pressure or maintain flow velocity.
To restrict dirty process fluid, regulate injection flow rate.
To increase fluid vapor margin, regulate injection pressure.
Injection fluid must be compatible with process fluid.
Regularly monitor control system for closed valves or signs of plugging.
Plan 41

inlet, normally closed vents, normally closed

cooler, cooling in cooling out

cyclone separator

temperature indicator

drain, normally closed

seal

end view
**What**
Seal flush from pump discharge through cyclone separator and cooler.
Combination of Plan 21 and Plan 31.

**Why**
Seal cooling.
Solids removal from flush and seal chamber.

**Where**
High temperature service, typically less than 177°C (350°F).
Dirty or contaminated fluids, water with sand or pipe slag.
Non-polymerizing fluids.

**Preventative Maintenance**
Seal cooler and piping must have air vents at highest elevation - vent before starting.
When using 682 Seal Cooler, pipe with series flow to maximize heat transfer.
Cyclone separator works best on solids with a specific gravity twice the process fluid.
Seal chamber pressure must be nearly equal to suction pressure for proper flows.
Typical failure mode is clogged separator or pipes - check temperatures at pipe ends.
**What**
Unpressurized buffer fluid circulation through reservoir.
Fluid is circulated by a pumping ring in the dual seal assembly.

**Why**
Outboard seal acts as a safety backup to the primary seal.
Zero to very low process emissions.
No process contamination is allowed.

**Where**
Used with dual unpressurized seals.
High vapor pressure fluids, light hydrocarbons.
Hazardous/toxic fluids.
Heat transfer fluids.

**Preventative Maintenance** - Reference Appendix B
Piping loop must self-vent to vapor recovery/flare system near atmospheric pressure.
Process vapor pressure is generally greater than reservoir pressure.
Buffer fluid must be compatible with process leakage.
Primary seal leakage is indicated by increased vent pressure.
Reservoir level indicator shows outboard seal leakage.
Plan 53A

- Outlet
- Inlet
- Pressure source, normally open
- Orifice
- Pressure transmitter
- Liquid fill, normally closed
- Level indicator
- Level transmitter
- Reservoir
- Cooling coils
- Cooling in
- Cooling out
- Drain, normally closed
What
Pressurized barrier fluid circulation through reservoir.
Fluid is circulated by a pumping ring in the dual seal assembly.

Why
Isolate process fluid.
Zero process emissions.

Where
Used with dual pressurized seals.
High vapor pressure fluids, light hydrocarbons.
Hazardous/toxic fluids.
Heat transfer fluids.
Dirty/abrasive or polymerizing fluids.
Mixers/agitators and vacuum service.

Preventative Maintenance - Reference Appendix B
Piping loop must self-vent to reservoir located at highest elevation.
Pressurize reservoir at all times, maximum gas charge 10 - 14 bar (150 - 200 psi).
Barrier fluid must be compatible with process.
Reservoir level indicator shows both inboard and outboard seal leakage.
**What**
Pressurized barrier fluid circulation with bladder accumulator.
Fluid is circulated by a pumping ring in the dual seal assembly.

**Why**
Isolate process fluid.
Zero process emissions.
Higher pressure than Plan 53A.

**Where**
Used with dual pressurized seals.
High vapor pressure fluids, light hydrocarbons.
Hazardous/toxic fluids.
Heat transfer fluids.
Dirty/abrasive or polymerizing fluids.

**Preventative Maintenance** - Reference Appendix B
Piping loop must be fully vented before starting.
Accumulator must be pressurized at all times, usually by gas charge.
Barrier fluid must be compatible with process.
Regularly monitor barrier pressure - manually add barrier fluid when pressure decays.
**What**
Pressurized barrier fluid circulation with piston accumulator.
Fluid is circulated by a pumping ring in the dual seal assembly.

**Why**
Isolate process fluid.
Zero process emissions.
Higher pressure than Plan 53A.
Dynamic tracking of system pressure.

**Where**
Used with dual pressurized seals.
High vapor pressure fluids, light hydrocarbons.
Hazardous/toxic fluids.
Heat transfer fluids.

**Preventative Maintenance** - Reference Appendix B
Piping loop must be fully vented before starting.
Reference line must tolerate process contamination without plugging.
Barrier fluid must be compatible with process.
Reservoir level indicator indicates both inboard and outboard seal leakage.
Plan 54

outlet

inlet

from / to external pressurized barrier circulating system

seal
end view
**What**
Pressurized barrier fluid circulation by external system.

**Why**
Isolate process fluid.
Zero process emissions.
Seal cannot induce circulation.

**Where**
Used with pressurized dual seals.
High vapor pressure fluids, light hydrocarbons.
Hazardous/toxic fluids.
Heat transfer fluids.
Dirty/abrasive or polymerizing fluids.
Mixers/agitators.

**Preventative Maintenance**
Piping loop must be fully vented before starting.
Circulating system must be pressurized and energized at all times.
Barrier fluid must be compatible with process.
Circulating system level indicator shows both inboard and outboard seal leakage.
Plan 55

Outlet in from / to external unpressurized buffer circulating system

Inlet
What
Unpressurized buffer fluid circulation by external system.

Why
Outboard seal acts as a safety backup to the primary seal.
Zero to very low process emissions.
No process contamination is allowed.
Additional heat removal from the inner seal.
Seal cannot induce circulation.

Where
Used with unpressurized dual seals.
Hazardous/toxic fluids.
Fluids that may solidify in contact with atmosphere.

Preventative Maintenance
Piping loop must be fully vented before starting.
Buffer fluid must be compatible with process leakage.
Accumulated process leakage should be routed to a recovery system.
Plan 62

- **Inlet**
- **Drain**
- **Seal**
- **End View**

Drain, see end view for proper orientation

Quench, normally open

Check valve
**What**
External quench on atmospheric side of seal.
Quench fluids typically steam, nitrogen, or water.

**Why**
Prevent solids buildup on atmospheric side of seal.
Prevent icing.

**Where**
Used with single seals.
Oxidizing fluids or fluids that coke, hot hydrocarbons.
Crystallizing fluids or fluids that salt out.
Caustic.
Cold fluids less than 0°C (32°F).

**Preventative Maintenance**
Quench inlet should be on top of gland with outlet/drain on bottom.
Quench pressure should be limited to 0.2 bar (3 psi) or less.
Use throttle bushing on atmospheric side of seal to direct quench flow to seal drain.
Monitor regularly, checking for closed valves, blocked lines, and steam trap condition.
Plan 65A

- orifice bypass line
- block valve, normally open level transmitter
- overflow chamber
- drain, normally open

Drain - see end view for proper orientation
**What**
External drain with leakage detection on atmospheric side of seal.

**Why**
Safety indicator for primary seal detects failure.

**Where**
May be used alone or with Plan 62 quench.
Used with close clearance throttle bushing.
Useful with single seals in remote locations and critical services.

**Preventative Maintenance**
Drain must be on bottom of gland with downward-sloped piping.
Continuously drain to liquid recovery system.
Orifice downstream of level switch transmitter 5 mm (1/4 inch) must be oriented vertically.
Bypass line from overflow chamber must re-enter below orifice.
Piping may require heat tracing when used with solidifying fluids.
Monitor regularly, checking for closed valves, blocked lines, and working level transmitter.
Plan 65B

drain

bypass line

level transmitter

overflow chamber

block valve, normally open

drain valve, normally closed

drain

drain - see end view for proper orientation

seal end view

Drain - see end view for proper orientation

Plan 65B
**What**
External drain with leakage detection on atmospheric side of seal.

**Why**
Leakage collection to detect for process leakage.
Safety indicator to detect seal failure.
Continuous monitoring of leakage rates to atmosphere.

**Where**
Use with close clearance throttle bushing.
Use with non-flashing, condensing fluids.
Useful with seals in remote locations and critical services.

**Preventative Maintenance**
Drain must be on bottom of gland with downward sloped piping.
Empty collection vessel when level transmitter indicates the vessel is full.
Bypass line from collection vessel must re-enter below drain valve.
Piping may require heat tracing when used with solidifying fluids.
Monitor regularly, checking for closed valves, blocked lines, and working level transmitter.
Plan 66A

- PIT
- Seal end view
- Drain
- Pressure indicator transmitter (PIT)
- Drain, see end view for proper orientation
**What**
Leakage detection on atmospheric side of seal utilizing two throttle bushings in series.

**Why**
Safety indicator for primary seal to detect failure.
Minimize leakage from seal gland in case of seal failure.

**Where**
May be used alone or with Plan 65A or Plan 65B.
Used with flashing or non-flashing fluids.
Useful with single seals in remote locations and critical services.
Used with close clearance throttle bushings.

**Preventative Maintenance**
Drain must be on bottom of gland with downward sloped piping.
Continuously drain to a liquid recovery system.
Monitor for high pressure.
Plan 66B

- PIT
- orifice plug
- drain
- pressure indicator transmitter (PIT)
- seal end view
- drain, see end view for proper orientation
- orifice plug
**What**
Leakage detection on atmospheric side of seal utilizing a throttle bushing and orifice plug.

**Why**
Safety indicator for primary seal detects failure.

**Where**
May be used alone or with Plan 65A or Plan 65B.
Used with close clearance throttle bushing.
Used with flashing or non-flashing fluids.
Useful when adding atmospheric side leakage detection to an existing seal.
Useful with single seals in remote locations and critical services.

**Preventative Maintenance**
Drain must be on bottom of gland with downward sloped piping.
Continuously drain to a liquid recovery system.
Monitor for high pressure.
Check orifice regularly for build up and plugging.
**What**
Unpressurized buffer gas control system.
Containment seal support typically with nitrogen buffer gas.

**Why**
Zero to very low process emissions.
Safety backup to primary seal.

**Where**
Used with dual unpressurized containment seals.
High vapor pressure fluids, light hydrocarbons.
Hazardous/toxic fluids.
Clean, non-polymerizing, non-oxidizing fluids.
Used in combination with Plan 75 and/or Plan 76.

**Preventative Maintenance**
Clean, reliable, low pressure gas must be supplied to seal at all times.
Bottled gas supply is not recommended except as part of emergency backup system.
Primary seal leakage is indicated by pressure in the vent line.
Vent or drain are usually connected to low pressure vapor recovery/flare system.
**What**
Pressurized barrier gas control system.
Gas seal support typically with nitrogen barrier gas.

**Why**
Isolate process fluid.
Zero process emissions.

**Where**
Used with dual pressurized gas seals.
High vapor pressure fluids, light hydrocarbons.
Hazardous/toxic fluids.
Services that do not tolerate liquid barrier seals.
Clean, non-polymerizing fluids.
Moderate temperature fluids.

**Preventative Maintenance**
Clean, reliable, pressurized gas must be supplied to seal at all times.
Barrier pressure is typically at least 1.75 bar (25 psig) above seal chamber pressure.
Flow indicator shows both inboard and outboard seal leakage.
Bottled gas supply is not recommended except as part of emergency backup system.
Plan 75

- Drain
- Pressure transmitter
- Normally open orifice
- Level transmitter
- Reservoir located below seal drain port
- Isolation valve
- Vent, normally open
- Orifice
- Level indicator
- Test connection

Drain - see end view for proper orientation
Plan 75

What
Drain from containment seal cavity to liquid collector and vapor recovery.

Why
Leakage collection for zero to very low process emissions.
Safety indicator for primary seal.

Where
May be used alone or with Plan 72 on containment seals.
Fluids that condense at ambient temperature.
High vapor pressure fluids, light hydrocarbons.
Hazardous/toxic fluids.
Clean, non-polymerizing, non-oxidizing fluids.

Preventative Maintenance
Collection reservoir must be located below seal drain and downward-sloped piping.
Continuously vent collection reservoir to low pressure vapor recovery/flare system.
Drain collection reservoir to liquid recovery system as needed.
Primary seal leakage is indicated by increased vent pressure.
Monitor regularly for liquid level, valve settings, and low vent pressure.
Plan 76

- **Vent**, normally open
- **Drain**, normally closed
- **Orifice**
- **Pressure transmitter**

End view
What
Vent from containment seal cavity to vapor recovery.

Why
Leakage collection for zero to very low process emissions.
Safety indicator for primary seal.

Where
May be used alone or with Plan 72 on containment seals.
Fluids that do not condense at ambient temperature.
High vapor pressure fluids, light hydrocarbons.
Hazardous/toxic fluids.
Clean, non-polymerizing, non-oxidizing fluids.

Preventative Maintenance
Continuously vent to low pressure vapor recovery/flare system.
Vent piping should include a condensate drain.
Primary seal leakage is indicated by increased vent pressure.
Monitor regularly for valve settings, blocked lines, and low vent pressure.
**What**
Minimize restrictions in piping systems

**Why**
Optimum flow rate for best piping plan performance

**Where**
Closed loop auxiliary systems with internal flow induction, good practice everywhere

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**Single Seals** - Plan 23 shown

- Horizontal Equipment
  - 0.45 - 0.6 m (1.5 - 2 ft.)
- Vertical Equipment
  - 0.9 m (3 ft.) max
  - high point vent
  - low point drain
**Good Piping Practices**

- Minimize line losses
- Use large diameter tubing
- Only upward sloping lines (slope shall be 40 mm/m [0.5 in/ft])
- Use long radius bends
- Minimize component losses
- Optimize for thermosyphon
- Check rotation direction
- Test for leaks

**Dual Seals - Plan 53A shown**

- Vertical Equipment
- 0.91 m (3 ft.) normal liquid level
- Horizontal Equipment
- 1.2 m (4 ft.) max
- Low point drain
- Minimize line losses
- Use large diameter tubing
- Only upward sloping lines (slope shall be 40 mm/m [0.5 in/ft])
- Use long radius bends
- Minimize component losses
- Optimize for thermosyphon
- Check rotation direction
- Test for leaks
### Accessories

**Airfin Coolers**
Forced air or natural convection seal coolers

**NX Seal Cooler**
Compact design dual coil seal cooler

**682 Seal Cooler**
Seal cooler for complete API 682 specifications

**Reservoirs**
General duty and API 682 compliant reservoirs

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Plan 53B

Plan 53C

Plans 54

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Plan 32

Plans 11, 13, 14, & 21

Plan 23

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