

Operating manual
Float Valves

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0 Einleitung

This manual is intended to assist users of a MANKENBERG float valve NV during installation, operation and maintenance. Read the manual thoroughly before installing or putting this valve into service.

 caution	<p>Failure to follow the following instructions – particularly the cautionary and warning notes – may lead to hazards and may invalidate the manufacturer's warranty.</p> <p>MANKENBERG is at your service for any assistance and queries. See Section 11 <Further information> for the addresses.</p> <p>Technical information is also available at www.mankenberg.de</p>
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1 Intended use

A **MANKENBERG float valve NV** for vessels and pipelines is intended for registering the liquid level by a float and to adjust its flow rate for regulation. As standard, the float is designed for non-foaming liquids of the density of water in pressureless vessels.

The use of the fitting with liquids of other density and the operation in a pressurized vessel need adjustment of the float and therefore must be checked with MANKENBERG.

MANKENBERG float valves for installation in vessels NV 12, NV 12P, NV 93, NV 94 or NV 98 are installed inside the vessel.

MANKENBERG float valves for installation on vessels NV 55, NV 55e, NV 56, NV 67e or NV 71 are installed at the outside of the vessel with inlet and/or outlet pipes.

MANKENBERG float valves for pipelines NV 16, NV 16e, NV 26 and NV 66e are installed in the pipeline. The float is positioned inside the vessel and controls the valve by a lever system or a cable pull.

MANKENBERG planning documents are available to give users precise assistance in selecting and designing the appropriate fitting, e.g.:

In the section <NV/NR: Level control valves>:

<Know-how on level controllers/float valves>

<Selection float valves>

<Data sheets NV... > with technical data and tables of the setting ranges and the dimensions.

 note	<p>A float valve is not a safety valve for the protection against overpressure. If an overpressure limitation is necessary, a suitable fitting must be present.</p>
 note	<p>These valves are no shut-off elements ensuring a tight closing of the valve. In accordance with DIN EN 60534-4 and/or ANSI FCI 70-2 they may feature a leakage rate in closed position in compliance with the leakage classes II – V:</p> <p>Leakage class II (metal sealing double seat cone) = 0.5% K_{VS} value Leakage class III (metal sealing cone) = 0.1 % K_{VS} value Leakage class IV (PTFE seal cone) = 0.01 % K_{VS} value Leakage class V (soft seal cone) = $1.8 \times 10^{-5} \times \Delta p \times D^*$ [l/h] *D=seat diameter</p>

MANKENBERG valves are supplied as standard for screw-mounted or flange-mounted pipeline/tank connections – also for special connections if required.

The upper limit of the permitted operating data for pressure and temperature is permanently marked on each fitting supplied.

In the following sections the different construction types are combined under the heading of “Float valves” apart from a few sections that only apply to the construction types mentioned.

2 Marking of the fitting

Each fitting bears the following markings as a minimum:

For	Marking	Remark
Manufacturer	MANKENBERG	See Section 11 <Further information> for the address
Fitting design	Float valve + type	Design name as per accompanying MANKENBERG data sheet
Nominal diameter	e.g. DN or G and numerical value	Numerical value for DN in [mm], for G in [inches]
Nominal pressure	PN or Class and numerical value	Numerical value for PN in [bar], for Class in [lbs/square inch] Pressure data are displayed as overpressure above the atmospheric pressure
Working pressure range	Operating pressure range and numerical values	Numerical value for the lower and upper limit
Max. permitted temp.	Temperature and numerical value	Temperatures above 50 °C entail a reduced pressure resistance. This must be considered for the corresponding material in accordance with the DIN EN 1092 standard
Body material	e.g. CrNiMo steel	CrNiMo steel = high-alloy austenitic steel
Flow direction	Indicated by an arrow	

The markings (in the case of fittings made of deep-drawn stainless steel, they are etched into the body) should neither be covered nor painted over, so that the fitting remains identifiable.

3 Safety instructions

3.1 General precaution

The same safety regulations apply to a fitting as to the system into which it is installed. These instructions only give those safety recommendations that have to be additionally observed for the fitting.

3.2 Special safety instructions for the plant operator

The following requirements for the intended use of a fitting are not the responsibility of the manufacturer but have to be guaranteed by the user:

- The fitting may only be employed for the purpose described in Section 1 <Intended use>.
- Only competent specialist personnel may install, operate and service the fitting. Competent as defined in these instructions refers to persons who, because of their training, specialist knowledge and professional experience, are capable of correctly assessing and properly executing the work with which they are entrusted and of recognizing and rectifying hazards.
- The pipeline system must be properly designed and installed so that the fitting can be mounted and operated without any tension.
- The fitting must be properly installed in the correct mounting position.
- The usual flow rates should not be exceeded in the pipeline section during continuous operation, and abnormal operating conditions such as vibrations, water shocks and cavitation should be avoided or – if unavoidable – clarified with the manufacturer in advance.
- The prevailing operating conditions must comply with the limits of the design data stated in the MANKENBERG order confirmation.
- Hard or sharp objects in the flowing medium could damage internal functional parts of the fitting. A strainer or filter should be installed upstream of the fitting.
- The corrosion protection for the fitting must be adapted to the local environmental conditions.
- The fitting must not be coated with thermal insulation.

Detailed notes are provided on some of these prerequisites in the following sections.

3.3 Special hazards

 danger of fatalities	<p>Before a fitting is removed from the system or before a fitting is dismantled but partially remains in place, the pressure in the system on both the inlet and outlet side must be completely reduced so that there is no uncontrolled flow of the medium out of the system.</p> <p>In the case of toxic or hazardous media, the system must be completely drained before the fitting is removed.</p> <p>Caution is required with residues that might continue flowing.</p>
 caution	<p><i>If a fitting is removed from a system with a toxic medium and is taken out of the plant:</i></p> <p>it must be properly decontaminated before repair.</p>

4 Transport and storage

A fitting must be handled, transported and stored with care:

- The fitting must be transported and stored in its protective packaging until it is installed.

 caution	<p>The fitting has moving internal parts and external floats and lever systems.</p> <p>Even packaged fittings should be transported smoothly without any shocks.</p>
 caution	<p>In the case of a fitting that can no longer be transported by hand, the lifting gear must be attached to a suitable position on the housing (branches).</p> <p>Under no circumstances may the lifting gear be affixed to any attachments or external floats or float lever.</p>

- When the fitting is stored prior to installation, it should be kept in closed rooms and protected against harmful influences such as dirt, moisture and frost.
- In special cases, the fitting is supplied free of oil, grease or silicone and is marked accordingly. A fitting such as this must not come into contact with oil/grease/silicone during storage and handling (particularly when subsequently unpacked).
- A MANKENBERG fitting generally has functional and/or sealing parts made of elastomer materials. These cannot be stored for an unlimited period.

 note	<p>ISO 2230 describes the storage conditions for elastomers in detail and specifies the permissible storage period.</p> <p>Functional and sealing parts must be replaced well before the storage period expires. They are available from MANKENBERG as a “service set”. See also Section 10 <Troubleshooting help>.</p>
 note	<p>MANKENBERG fittings of small and medium nominal diameters are largely made of stainless steel (high-alloy CrNiMo steel).</p> <p>If, under exceptional circumstances, fittings are stored in a unpacked state, they must be protected against ferritic dust to avoid corrosion.</p>
 note	<p><i>The fitting is generally not capable of standing alone:</i></p> <p>Handle with care so that the fitting does not tip over during transport/storage.</p>

5 Installation

5.1 General notes

The same installation regulations apply to a fitting as to the system into which it is installed. The following **additional notes** apply:

- Section 4 <Transport and storage> should also be observed during transport to the installation site.
- In some cases, depending on the installation situation, guiding assemblies for the float have to be provided by the customer.

 note	<i>If a float is positioned below the lever and no special guidance with parallel bars has been ordered and delivered:</i> the float must be guided vertically and smooth-running by the customer.
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- The installation site to allow perfect functioning of a fitting should be a section of pipe without any flow disruptions, without any angles and without any restrictors or shut-off devices close to the fitting, either upstream or downstream (optimum distance = 10 x DN). If this does not apply, the installation situation should be checked with the plant operator and/or MANKENBERG.
- The statics of the pipeline must be designed so as to take account of the weight of the fitting – particularly those with an eccentric mass. If required, the pipeline may have to be properly supported on both sides next to the fitting (or at the fitting itself) – particularly in the case of fittings with a substantial mass and especially if vibrations are to be expected in the system.

When the fitting is supported, it is important to check that all functioning parts (levers, floats) remain capable of moving freely and are not blocked.

- The fitting must not be coated with thermal insulation.

 caution	A fitting that is operated at a medium temperature above 130°C needs undisrupted removal of heat if it is to function perfectly. Failure to observe this instruction may cause damage to the fitting and hence in the pipeline system as well.
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- To protect internal functional parts (e.g. the seat) against damage and/or blockages, it may be necessary to install a strainer and/or filter upstream of the fitting.

 note	The mesh size of the sieve/filter for protecting against aggregates in the pipe section should be selected by the plant operator according to the operating conditions. Failure to observe this instruction may impair the function of the fitting and lead to damage.
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5.2 Installation preparations

- It is necessary to ensure that a fitting is not installed unless it matches the operating conditions in terms of function, pressure and temperature, range, body material as well as connection type and dimensions.

 danger of fatalities	No fitting may be operated that does not have a sufficient pressure and temperature range for the operating conditions – see Section 1 <Intended use> and markings on the fitting. The manufacturer MANKENBERG should be consulted in the case of any applications outside of this range. Failure to observe this regulation may mean danger to life and limb and may cause damage to the pressure-regulating valve.
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- Newly installed tanks and pipeline sections must be thoroughly rinsed and cleaned before commissioning.

- The corrosion protection for the fitting must be adapted to the local conditions:

 important note	<p>Float valves should be installed so that the float lever lies horizontal in its centre position. The direction of the flow must correspond with the marking on the fitting.</p> <p>In the MANKENBERG data sheets <NV...> are additional notations for most of the designs according to <u>function and installation situation</u>.</p> <p><i>Only valves with float lever:</i> Is the liquid level below the float lever (the float points down), a guiding assembly for the float or a parallel guidance for the valve must be provided by the customer.</p> <p>If using <u>floats featuring an inner tube</u>, the float can be shifted on the bar after installation. After that it must be fixed in the necessary position.</p>
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5.3 Installation steps

- Fittings should only be finally unpacked at the installation site and inspected for damage prior to assembly. Damaged fittings must not be installed.

 caution	<p>When unpacking carefully check that the float is undamaged (e.g. without dents) and the float lever is unbent and smooth-running.</p> <p>A float valve with transport damage must not be installed.</p>
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- It is necessary to ensure that the covers have been removed from all the connection branches before installation.
- The fitting should be inspected to ensure that it is clean. Interior parts must be free of liquid (e.g. condensate): if necessary, connecting branches should be cleaned before installation with clean compressed air.
- The type and dimensions of the line or tank connections must match the fitting to be installed and be flush with the connecting surfaces of the fitting as well as in a parallel plane to the fitting itself.
- If the fitting is marked with an arrow on the housing, the flow in the pipe section must match the marked direction of flow.

 caution	<p>If installed in the opposite direction to the arrow, the fitting will not perform its intended function.</p>
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- The fitting must be installed without any tension. In the case of an already installed system, the geometry of the pipeline must match the face-to-face length of the fitting.

 note	<p>It is necessary to ensure that even under operating conditions no tension from the pipeline is transferred to the fitting.</p>
 note	<p>A MANKENBERG fitting made of "high grade" or "high grade pure" stainless steel (austenite, e.g. 1.4404 or 1.4435) does not need any surface protection for normal environmental atmosphere and for normal weather conditions.</p> <p>External parts of the fitting made of low-alloy or non-alloy materials that are supplied ex-works with a primer have to be provided with a suitable coating by the customer.</p> <p>Caution: Never paint over the marking(s) of the fitting (either etched into the body or on nameplate).</p>

In addition, the following applies to the pipeline connection:

with flanges:

 note	The sealing surfaces on the body of the fitting are formed in accordance with the MANKENBERG order confirmation. The accompanying flange seals are generally not included in the MANKENBERG supply schedule .
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- During installation, centre the fitting by means of the flange screws on the mating flange before the screws are tightened.

with screw-mountings:

 note	The connecting surfaces on the body of the fitting are formed in accordance with the MANKENBERG order confirmation. The required seals are generally not included in the MANKENBERG supply schedule .
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6 Pressure testing the pipeline section

The fitting has already been pressure-tested by the manufacturer. The following points should be observed when conducting a pressure test on a pipeline section with a float valve installed:

According to EN 12266-1, the test pressure may under no circumstances **exceed 1.5 times the value indicated on the body with “PN” or “Class”**.

If any leakage occurs on the fitting, Section 10 <Troubleshooting help> should be observed.

 caution	A closed float valve may show leakage during the pressure test (see Section 1 <Intended use>). If necessary, a shut-off valve must be positioned in the feed pipe (or be installed for the pressure test).
 note	If the pipe section is flushed and/or dried after assembly or pressure testing, it is necessary to make sure that the fitting has not been damaged by corrosion or excessively high temperature.

7 Initial start-up

During initial start-up (and after longer standstill) it has to be checked, whether the float has been correctly adjusted during installation: A float featuring an inner tube can easily be adjusted at the bar. See also Section 5.2 <Installation preparations>.

 danger of fatalities	<p>No fitting may be operated that does not have a sufficient pressure and temperature range for the operating conditions – see Section 1 <Intended use> and markings on the fitting. The manufacturer MANKENBERG should be consulted in the case of any applications outside of this range.</p> <p>Failure to observe this regulation may mean danger to life and limb and may cause damage to the pressure-regulating valve.</p>
 note	<p>To function correctly, the system pressure must lie within the range of the working pressure of the float valve. In cases of doubt contact MANKENBERG service.</p> <p>See Section 11 <Further information> for the addresses.</p>
 caution	<p><i>If the system section is not yet filled with liquid:</i></p> <p>Fill slowly so that the float (and lever) are not damaged by pressure surge.</p> <p>Failure to observe this instruction may cause damage to the float valve.</p>
 danger	<p>At the beginning of or shortly after the initial start-up, the sieve or the filter insert of any installed strainer/filter should be cleaned in order to avoid blocking the strainer/filter.</p>
 caution	<p><i>After the initial start-up:</i></p> <p>Check the seals on screw-mounted parts of the body and reseal if necessary. If required, ask MANKENBERG for the tightening torques.</p> <p>Observe the relevant notes in Section 10 <Troubleshooting help>.</p>

8 Normal operation

A properly designed float valve works automatically and does not need any form of auxiliary energy.

 danger of fatalities	<p>It is necessary to ensure that the materials selected for the parts of the fitting in contact with media are suitable for the media in use. The manufacturer accepts no liability for any damage due to corrosion by aggressive media on parts made of unsuitable materials.</p> <p>Failure to observe this regulation may mean danger to life and limb and may cause damage to the pipeline system and to the fitting.</p>
 caution	<p>The fitting has functional parts that have to remain capable of moving easily. Make sure that parts in contact with the medium cannot freeze nor become blocked by dirt or deposits. Observe the maintenance intervals.</p> <p>Failure to observe this instruction may cause damage to the pipeline system and to the fitting.</p>

It is recommended that the fitting should be inspected to ensure that it is functioning correctly after each new start-up.

9 Maintenance

The automatic function of the fitting requires maintenance to ensure that it continues to operate perfectly. It is important for maintenance work to take place **in a planned manner at periodic intervals**.

The maintenance plan in Table 1 is a recommendation by the manufacturer MANKENBERG, which should be supplemented by practical experience gained by the user under the prevailing operating conditions.

MANKENBERG shall assume no liability **resulting from improper maintenance and/or repairs**.

Table 1: Sample plan for maintenance work

Type of maintenance	Work to be performed	Period ¹⁾
Check function	Check whether function is fulfilled as per section 1) <Intended use>	at least 1x per week
Check seals on the body and the pipe connection	Visual inspection	at least 1x per month
Check free movement of the lever system	Check function	Depends on the properties of the medium
<i>If installed upstream of the fitting:</i> clean strainer	According to the manufacturer's instructions	Depends on the contamination of the medium
Preventive maintenance	Dismantle fitting, see Section 9. Visual inspection of the functional parts. Replace all parts of the maintenance set ²⁾	at least 1x per year

¹⁾ See comment at the beginning of this section: The time intervals are guides which should be adapted to match the prevailing operating conditions, the properties of the medium in the system and the user's experience.

²⁾ Request maintenance set and replacement instructions from MANKENBERG

 danger	<p>During maintenance work (apart from visual inspections) the relevant recommendations and warning notes in Section 10 <Troubleshooting help> should be observed.</p> <p>Failure to observe this warning may mean danger to life and limb and may cause damage to the pipeline system and to the fitting.</p>
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When a fitting that has previously been dismantled is being put back into service, the fitting should be checked for proper sealing capacity and function as well as correct adjustment of the adjusting and functional components!

10 Troubleshooting help

Be sure to observe Section 3 <Safety instructions> when rectifying faults.
Spare parts must be ordered with all the details on the nameplate.

Only original parts from the manufacturer MANKENBERG may be installed.

MANKENBERG experts are available to help in rectifying faults as quickly as possible.
See Section 11 <Further information> for the addresses.

 note	<p><i>If functional or corrosion damage is detected during maintenance or after a fault:</i> consult MANKENBERG to find out whether a more suitable fitting is available or whether the damaged part can be supplied in a better-suited material.</p>
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Type of fault	Action
Leakage at a connection of body parts (flange or clamp ring): reseal connection	Tighten the screws clockwise (tighten flange screws crosswise). <i>If the screws of the body connection have to be loosened or removed (= unscrewing in the anticlockwise direction):</i> <div style="text-align: center;">  <u>danger of fatalities</u> </div> <p>To prevent any risk for operating personnel, make sure that this repair measure is only carried out on a section of pipe that is not under pressure. Take note of Section 3.3 <Special hazards> and then section 5 <Installation in the pipeline>.</p>
Functional fault Leakage at the seat clean functional parts	Possible reasons: - A foreign object may be jammed in the seat and be preventing proper sealing. - or float/lever are too heavy or moving too heavy due to dirt, deposits or corrosion Repeatedly open and close the valve by manually operating the float lever <i>If leakage cannot be eliminated:</i> Cleaning is necessary: the float valve must be dismantled. <div style="text-align: center;">  <u>danger of fatalities</u> </div> <p>To prevent any risk for operating personnel, make sure that this repair measure is only carried out on a valve that is not under pressure. Take note of Section 3.3 <Special hazards>.</p> <p>When the valve is not under pressure and the vessel has been (partly) emptied, take off the float valve by releasing the screw connections at the valve and dismantle the valve, the float and the lever for cleaning. Here all parts of the maintenance set should be renewed.</p> <p>Afterwards, assemble the valve and reinstall it in the vessel and check for free movement of float and lever.</p>

<p>Functional fault: Cleaning alone – see above – cannot rectify the fault: The fitting must be repaired</p>	<p><i>If during cleaning it is found that the float, the lever, guide bars or other functional parts are damaged:</i></p> <p>Repair necessary: damaged parts have to be replaced</p> <p><i>If the repair is to be carried out in the customer's workshop:</i> make a note of all data according to the markings on the fitting and order the spare parts and necessary instructions from MANKENBERG. See Section 11 <Further information> for addresses.</p> <p>or:</p> <p>Send the fitting to the manufacturer for repair. See Section 11 <Further information> for the addresses</p>
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11 Further information

You can obtain these instructions, the MANKENBERG data sheets quoted as well as further information – including English language versions – from the following addresses:

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