

Oxygen Content and Steam Saturation in a Textile Steamer (PLEVA OS 90)

The presence of small amount of oxygen in textile steamers for printed or dyed fabric can be the cause for e.g.

- loss of fixation yield
- reproducibility problems
- oxidation spots

To avoid these problems , significantly more steam is normally admitted to the steamer than is really necessary for the heating-up process. The function of steam according to the different dyestuff classes will be as follows.

Reactive dyeing and printing	—> energy transfer only
VAT dyeing	—> energy transfer / oxygen free
Discharge printing (VAT)	—> energy transfer / oxygen free

The perfect situation in a textile steamer is to create "saturated steam" of around 99,95 Vol% H₂O which cannot carry more liquor or humidity.

Definitions:

Steam	—> water in a gaseous stage
Saturated steam	—> cannot carry more liquor or humidity
Overheated steam	—> is the result of saturated steam which will be continuously heated up at a constant pressure. (standard steam pipe net work of 140– 170 °C at a pressure of 3,5—7 bar)
Unsaturated steam	—> is generated by overheating saturated steam, or by enlarging the volume of the saturated steam with constant temperature

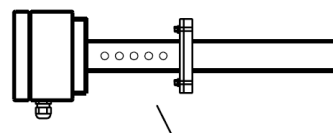
Composition of Natural Dry Air

21 Vol% Oxygen
78 Vol% Nitrogen
1 Vol% other gases

Limits:

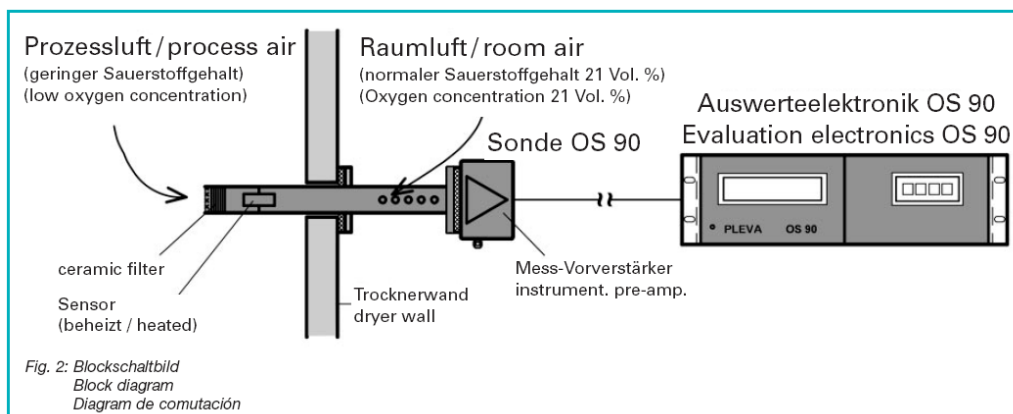
Prescriptive limits of oxygen content in a steamer for **discharge printing or dyeing with VAT dyes** from practice are

- ◆ **< 0,045 Vol% oxygen or**
- ◆ **> 99,78 Vol% H₂O steam saturation**



PLEVA OS 90 sensor

On classical loop steamers for printing it is essential to mount the oxygen sensor very close to the inlet approximately 1 - 1,5 m from the fabric infeed. The position of the sensor is an essential point to improve process safety.



Measuring principle

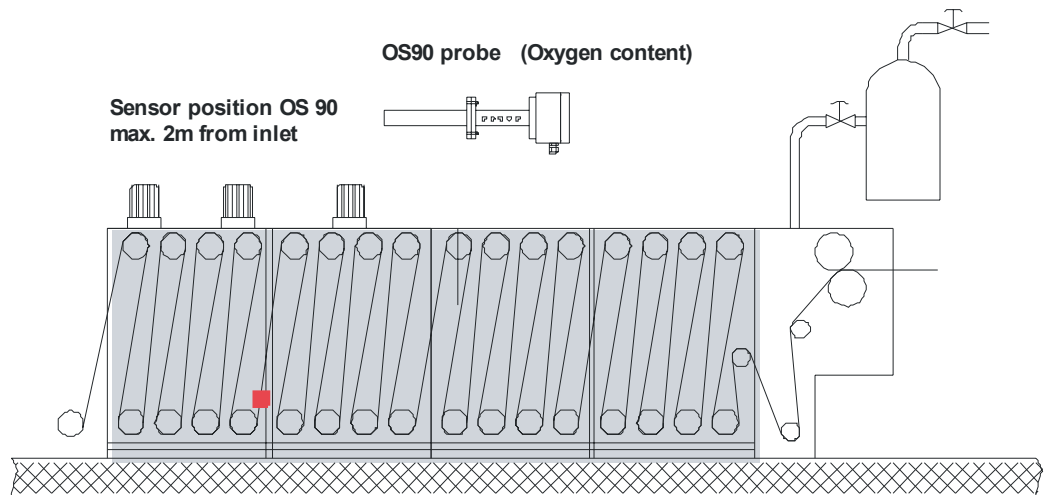
The heated ZrO₂-sensor (> 700°C) has two electrodes. One of these electrodes is exposed to the process air, and the other is exposed to the room air. The sensor issues a specific voltage signal as a function of the oxygen content of the process air. This signal is conditioned in the measuring preamplifier for further processing by the evaluation electronics.

The evaluation electronics computes the oxygen content on the basis of the measuring preamplifier's signals with the aid of a microcomputer. In the case of pure mixtures of water steam and air additionally the saturation of the steam is measured. The unit of measurement is Vol. %.

Oxygen Content and Steam Saturation in a Textile Steamer (PLEVA OS 90)

The ideal measuring position in a steamer depends on the individual construction and the position of steam injection and exhaust pipe .

The fact that oxygen is heavier than air and therefore will drop down in the steamer will lead to an ideal sensor position slightly above the bottom redirection of fabric as shown in the drawing.



Energy Saving

Reproducibility

Shade Continuity

Measurement of harmful gaseous substances

Dimension unit:

High concentrations: Vol%
Low concentrations : ppm
(parts per million)

1 Vol% = 10.000 ppm

Vol% Nitrogen	78%	0,167	Vol%			
Vol% Oxygen	21%	0,045	Vol%	measured by OS 90	450	ppm
other gases	1%	0,002143	Vol%			
	100%	0,214	total air			
Vol% H ₂ O	result:	99,79	Vol%	steam saturation		

Other measuring principles

Capacitive humidity sensors

The incremental change in the dielectric constant of a capacitive humidity sensor is nearly directly proportional to the relative humidity of the surrounding environment. The change in capacitance is typically 0.2–0.5 pF for a 1% RH change.

Disadvantage:

Not accurate and robust enough in saturated steam close to 99 Vol% H₂O