Technical Bulletin 39

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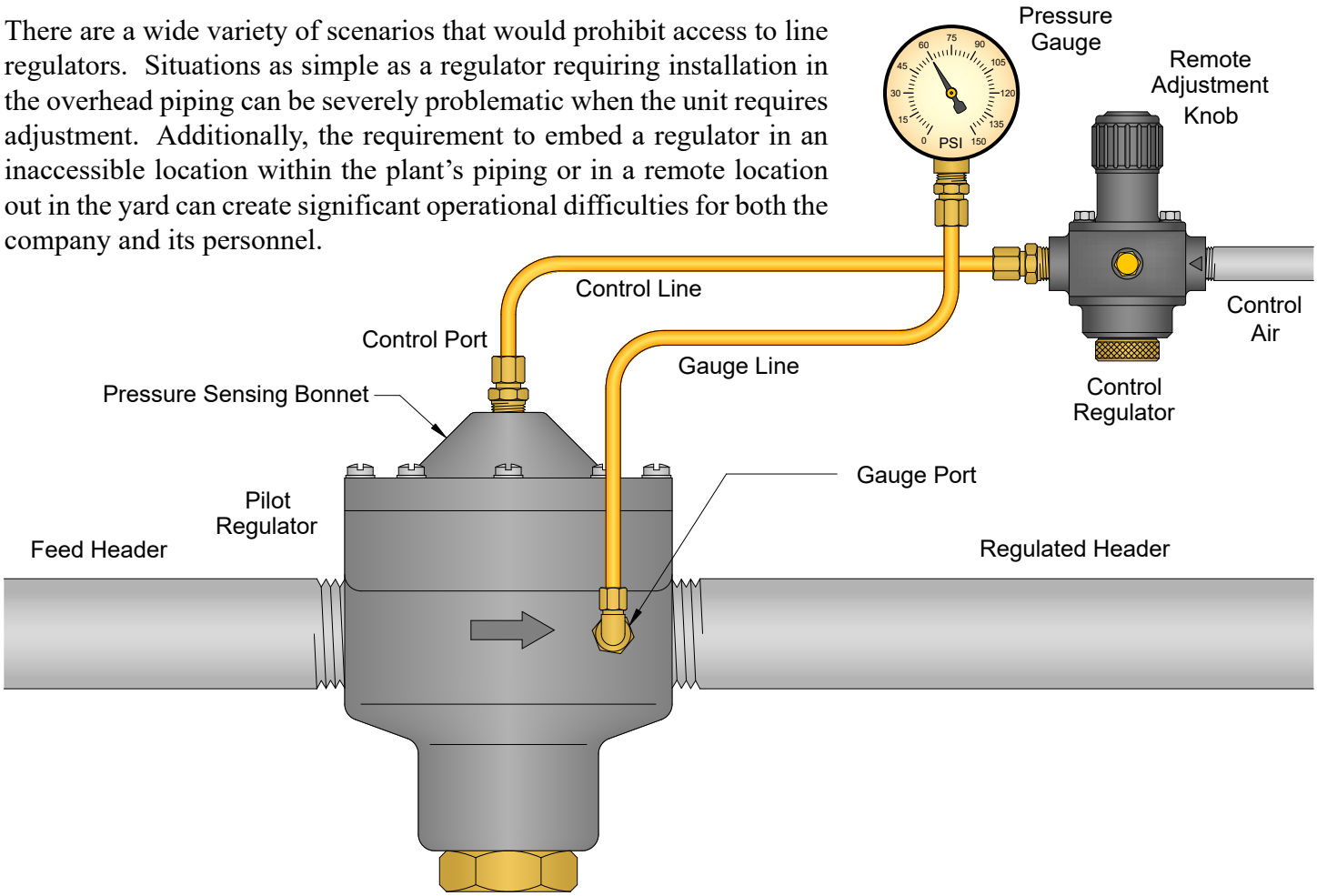
Pilot Regulators

by Brian S. Elliott

There are a wide variety of scenarios that would prohibit access to line regulators. Situations as simple as a regulator requiring installation in the overhead piping can be severely problematic when the unit requires adjustment. Additionally, the requirement to embed a regulator in an inaccessible location within the plant's piping or in a remote location out in the yard can create significant operational difficulties for both the company and its personnel.



Pilot regulators are manufactured specifically for these applications. A pilot regulator is an ordinary pressure-reducing valve with its adjustment knob replaced with a pressure-sensing bonnet. The pilot regulator is placed in the header which requires a pressure adjustment. A control line is routed from the control port to the output of a small control regulator, which is located so as to provide easy access for an operator. Typically, an additional line is routed from the gauge port of the pilot regulator to a pressure gauge located adjacent to the control regulator. Adjusting the output pressure of the control regulator has a direct effect on the pressure setting of the pilot regulator. The gauge is used to reference the set pressure of the regulated header. The illustration shows the basic configuration of a pilot regulator complete with a control regulator and remote gauge.

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