



# **Installation Operation & Maintenance Instruction Manual**

## **Tankstar 260 / 360 Hydrostatic Level Transmitters**

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# 1. Introduction

PSM 200/300 Series level transmitters are designed for monitoring liquid levels on a wide range of applications. The measurement principle is based on a pressure sensitive diaphragm which is deflected by the applied hydrostatic pressure.

Attached to the other side of the diaphragm and not exposed to the process is a ferro-magnetic core. This core is positioned centrally within a high resolution Linear Variable Differential Transformer. The LVDT has a central primary and a secondary coil at each end. Movement of the diaphragm is a change in magnetic flux and hence output voltage from the secondaries.

This output signal is then processed in the remote amplifier module to provide an industry standard 4-20mA signal with range and zero adjustment facilities.

An extensive range of design features and optional mounting components are available to meet the differing needs of particular applications.

# 2. Model Designation

Each transmitter amplifier module bears an identification plate which carries both the model code and a unique serial number.

**Note: The sensor is also marked with the Serial Number and the units MUST be employed as a matched pair to preserve factory calibration.**

In addition, the Model Code may be suffixed by a V number. This indicates a variation from standard product, for example a special process connection for a particular duty. Where a V code is found the accompanying order paperwork will identify it.

# 3. Product Specifications

## 3.1 Sensor Assembly

Body	316 stainless steel construction. Optionally Hastelloy
Diaphragm	Hastelloy C276
Mounting	Internally: via pole, clamp or cable suspension. Externally: via threaded or flanged process connection
Overload	Minimum 5 x nominal range.
Operating temperature	-30 to +95°C standard. Option -30 to 150°C.

Fully Submersible in liquids compatible with 316 stainless steel and Hastelloy C276

## 3.2 Sensor Cable

Construction:	Depending on duty either 4 core with overall screen or 2 core and miniature coaxial with overall screen. Integral breather tube for atmospheric reference. Outer sheathing either in XLPE or 'Hytrell' Teflon.
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### 3.3 Electronics Module (RT168)

Housing	GRP surface mounting to IP65 (optionally IP67)
Connection	1 x PG9 gland for sensor cable. 1 x PG9 gland for atmospheric reference 1 x PG9 gland for 4-20mA output (optionally M16 or M20)
Power requirement	12-35 V dc
Signal output	2 wire 4 to 20mA.dc
Maximum load	Dependent on supply (1000 ohms at 28V DC)
Range adjustment	3 to 1 electronic turndown of sensor nominal range.
Zero adjustment	±10% of set span

The RT168 provides the excitation supply for the sensor and amplifies and conditions the return signal to provide a standard 4-20mA output. The unit is housed in a weatherproof GRP enclosure suitable for wall mounting. Fixing details are given at the rear of the manual. In general, this unit should be mounted away from extremes of temperature, e.g. not in direct sunlight, vibration, or where likely to be continuously sprayed with water (in the last case an optional IP67 enclosure is available).

### 3.4 Performance

Maximum Error:	± 0.25% of full range output (Optional 0.1% some variants)
Temp Coefficient:	Less than 0.05%/deg.C. range & zero (Optional 0.02%)

### 3.5 Intrinsic Safety

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** With effect from January 2020 200/ 300 Series transmitters are no longer available to be supplied for Hazardous Area duties which require the instrument to be certified Intrinsically Safe. This is due to a change in the relevant regulations meaning the instrument is no longer compliant.

Instruments which are for use in Safe Areas (non I.S.) are unaffected by this change.

In addition, where instruments which are supplied after January 2020 that are identical replacements for previously supplied units that were for use in Hazardous Areas these may still be installed.

The original approval certification is detailed below for reference:

#### Approval Certification

<b>RT168 Amplifier</b>	ITS03ATEX21770X
<b>Series 200/300 Sensors</b>	ITS03ATEX21771

<b>RT168 Amplifier</b>	EEx ia IIC T5 <b>ia-</b> Intrinsic Safety <b>IIC-</b> Acetylene & Hydrogen (Presence of Flammable/Combustible gas) <b>T5-</b> 100°C (Maximum Surface Temperature)
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<b>200/300 Sensor</b>	EEx ia IIC T6 <b>ia-</b> Intrinsic Safety <b>IIC-</b> Acetylene & Hydrogen (Presence of Flammable/Combustible gas) <b>T6-</b> 85°C (Maximum Surface Temperature)
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Where a replacement Series 200/300 is to be installed to replace a previously supplied transmitter, the installer is responsible for matching the transmitter to the appropriate barrier, taking into account the cable capacitance and inductance and the required gas group. EN 60079-14:2008 gives instructions on the correct installation of simple IS systems and should be consulted for reference if the installer is unsure of how to proceed.

**Input Parameters**  
**RT168 Transmitter**  
Voltage 28V  
Watts 0.84W

**NOTE:**

**Intrinsically Safe Devices Protect Lives and Property. PSM equipment has NO user replaceable parts and strictly no modifications are allowed.**

**If any problems occur with the equipment, please contact PSM.**

## 4. Installation

### **Pre-installation checks**

Prior to installation it is recommended that the following checks are made.

Ensure that the factory calibration is in accordance with the process parameters and tank height. Of particular importance is the transmitter fitting position and orientation (horizontal or vertical). Any discrepancies will result in inaccuracy.

Ensure that the correct length of cable has been fitted to the sensor.

**Note: The cable and exit gland are factory fitted to ensure a pressure tight seal on the submersible sensors.**

**NO ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO REMOVE THE CABLE GLAND.**

Each transducer and transmitter are factory calibrated as a matched pair and for both carry the same serial number. It should be ensured that these match.

### 4.1. Mechanical installation

#### **Sensor cable**

The cable which is factory fitted to the transducer is purpose designed for the application. It contains a nylon vent tube which provides an atmospheric reference for the sensor. The cable construction is of sufficient strength to enable the sensor to be directly suspended in deep wells and reservoirs. The outer sheathing is a special material suitable for continuous immersion in water, and many oils and chemicals. When handling the cable take special care not to damage the outer sheathing. Do not bend the cable to a radius less than 50mm.

When a transmitter is suspended by its cable use a proprietary suspension cleat or wind three or four turns around a 100mm diameter pipe or drum. Where the cable is to be brought through to the tank wall it is recommended that where possible this be done above the maximum fill line using a suitable compression fitting. (Available from PSM).

### 4.1.1. Sensor fitting height

As previously stated, when a transmitter is used in tank level or volume applications it is important to ensure that the sensor is fitted at a known position and height above the bottom of the tank. All calibration data will be related to this fitting information.

### 4.1.2. Mounting

During installation the transducer should be handled with great care, especially the sensitive diaphragm assembly. Any damage to this will affect the performance and accuracy of the Instrument. Particular care should be taken with sensors which have a protective non-porous coating on wetted parts. Any attempt to remove this coating or any surface scratches will permanently damage the unit.

When mounting the unit ensure suitable gaskets or sealants are employed to provide pressure tight seals. The sensor must not be mounted where it will be subject to excessive or continuous vibration, extreme temperature fluctuation or risk of damage.

#### **Important Note for Marine Duties**

**For shipboard applications, especially where a cathodic protection system is employed, it is vital that the sensor body is firmly earth bonded to the hull. Failure to observe this will result in electrolytic corrosion of the unit. Where necessary an earth strap must be employed.**

## 4.2. Electrical installation

The unit should be wired in accordance with the following diagrams. The sensor cable is terminated in the RT168A electronic transmitter following the wire colour code marked on the printed circuit card.

The sensor cable consists of:

Black conductor:	connect to EX-
Red conductor:	connect to EX+
Green conductor:	connect to OP+
White conductor (inner screen):	connect to OP-

The overall cable screen must be terminated at the PG9 entry gland. Particular care should be taken in this respect to preserve the RFI/EMC standards of the unit.

The cable also incorporates a nylon vent tube which should be cut to a free length of approximately 20mm within the enclosure, it must be ensured that this tube is not blocked or otherwise restricted.

The sensor cable will have been supplied to suit the installation, and since it forms part of a tuned circuit any excess should be coiled rather than cut back.

The following diagrams illustrate the termination arrangements and correct procedure for connecting the sensor cable.

**Output cable:**

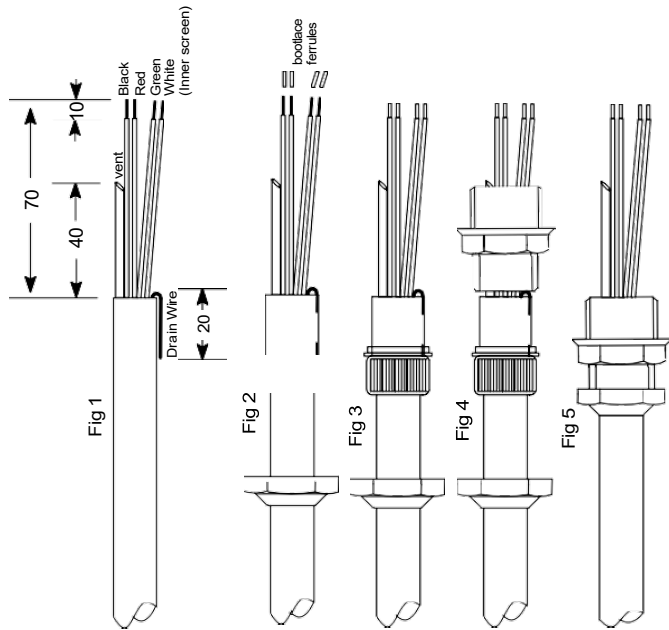
As input cable omitting inner screen and vent tube. **Output cable screen must be earthed at supply end**

**Important:** The case is vented. It should be positioned with the glands on the underside to prevent direct ingress of moisture. Alternatively, an extended vent tube, (customer supply), must be fitted in areas where flooding or hose wash down are likely. 6mm (1/4") OD plastic tube is suitable and should run to a dry area which is at the same atmospheric pressure as within the tank. (The sintered plug must be removed in this case).

The signal/power loop should be connected as shown in the previous diagram. Two core screened cable should be used with a minimum conductor size of 0.5mm. A larger conductor size may be employed to reduce loop impedance. All connection should be made in series as illustrated.

The screen of the signal cable should be connected to the cable gland as described for the sensor cable.

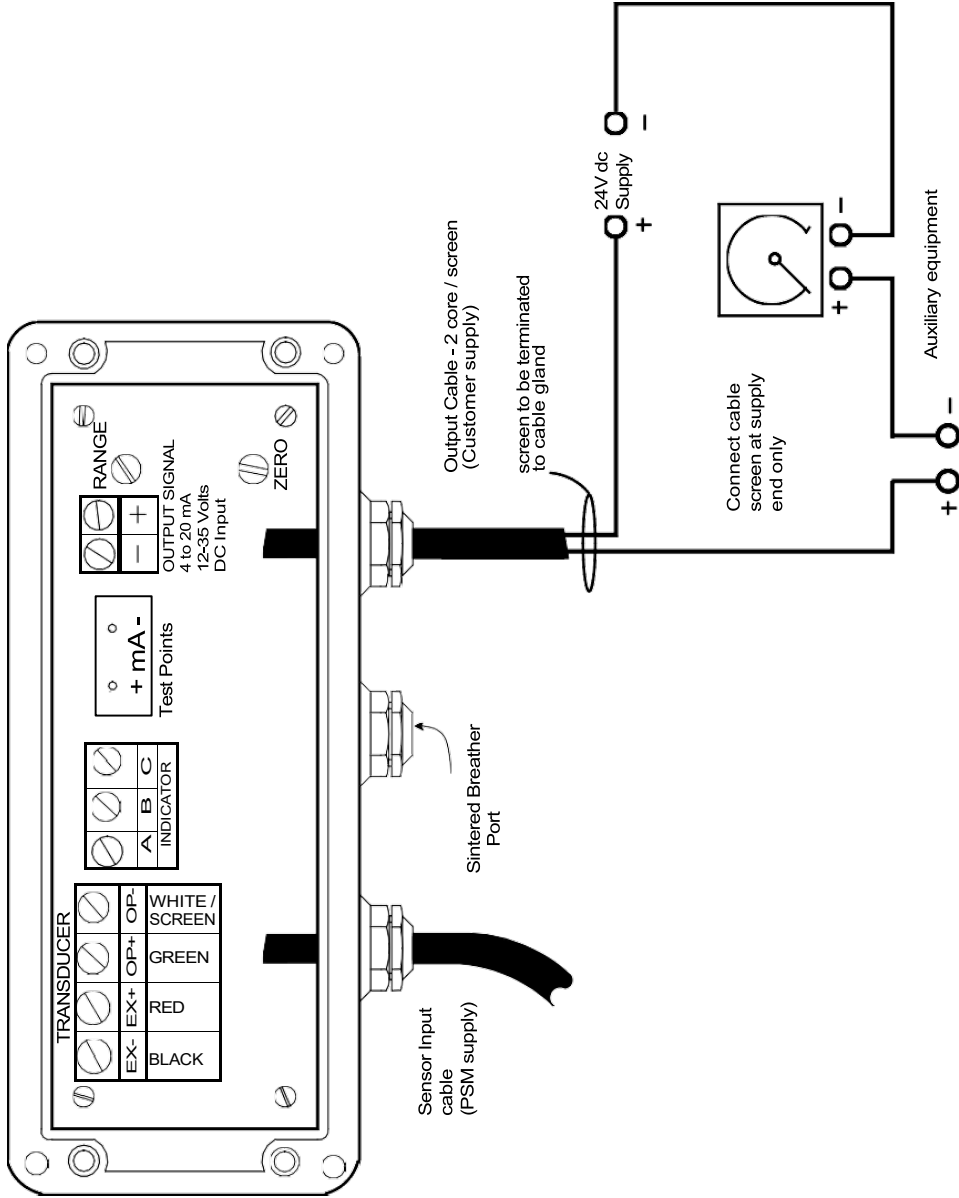
**INPUT CABLE ASSY.**



**METHOD OF TERMINATION FOR INPUT AND OUTPUT CABLE GLANDS**

1. Input cable:
  - a) Remove outer sheath, trim back outer braid completely & cut drain wire to 20mm. Cut vent tube end at 45 deg 40mm long. Cut & strip wires as Fig 1.
  - b) Fit bootlace ferrules to black, red, green & white (inner screen) ends and crimp
  - c) Fold back the drain wire & fit cable gland locknut & inner sleeve over the top as Fig 2.
  - d) Fit cable gland body over wires & vent as Fig 4
  - e) Tighten cable gland in position as Fig 5.
2. Output cable: As note 1 omitting vent tube.

NB: Output cable screen must be earthed at supply end.  
As of May 2008 inner screen colour changed from clear to White



**IMPORTANT**  
The case is vented. It should be positioned with the glands on the underside only to prevent direct ingress of moisture.  
Alternatively  
An extended vent tube (customer supply) must be fitted in areas where flooding or hose wash down are likely.  
6mm (1/4") od plastic tube is suitable and should run to a dry area which is at the same atmospheric pressure as within the tank.  
The sintered plug must be removed in this case.



### 4.2.1. Power supply

The transmitter requires a nominal supply of 24Vdc. but will operate between 12V to 35 Vdc. The maximum permissible loop impedance for a given supply is derived from the following equation:

$$\frac{\text{Supply Volts} - 12}{0.02} \quad \text{example} \quad \frac{30\text{V} - 12\text{V}}{0.02} = 900\Omega$$

### 4.2.2. Integral indicator

The three terminals A, B, C are for connection of the lid mounted 3.1/2 digit indicator which may be specified as an option. Where fitted this will be pre-wired, no other connection may be made to these terminals.

**N.B. The indicator is a non-IS approved item.**

## 4.3. Atmospheric reference

A further central PG9 gland is fitted to the RT168 enclosure. As standard this should be fitted with the sintered breather plug also supplied. This plug allows the enclosure to 'breathe' without allowing moisture to enter, thus providing (via the sensor cable) an atmospheric reference for the reverse side of the sensing diaphragm.

**NOTE: This reference pressure is essential to the accurate operation of the transmitter**

If it is likely that the area in which the RT168A is located will be permanently wet, or at times submerged, then the vent plug must be replaced by a 6mm O.D. breather tube of nylon, copper or similar. This tube must be routed to, and terminated in, a permanently dry area.

**For certain shipboard applications, e.g. double bottom tanks, or where the amplifier is in air-conditioned areas, it must be ensured that the atmospheric pressure at the termination point of the vent line is always the same as that within the tank being monitored. Any differential will cause a directly proportional error of measurement.**

**Note: Some units are supplied as "Absolute" devices. These do not require the atmospheric reference pipe (although it will be present in the cable) as they are calibrated from Absolute Zero Pressure. The monitoring system they are connected to should also include a barometric transmitter to allow for correction of atmospheric pressure.**

## 5. Commissioning

Each instrument is normally manufactured and calibrated in accordance with its intended application and should not need any further setting up. However it may be that an examination of the actual installation reveals some differences from original design criteria. If this is the case then the range and zero may be adjusted to suit.

### 5.1. Zero adjustment

These instruments are of the "live zero" type, therefore, with power applied and no head pressure a 4.00mA signal should be present.

**NOTE: The current output should be measured using an accurate digital meter in preference to the loop indicator since this may have been calibrated to take into account volume below the transmitter fitting height. In this case, 4.00mA would NOT represent a zero display.**

Test pins marked + & - are provided on the RT168 terminal board to allow monitoring of the 4-20mA loop without disconnecting the signal lines. Where the signal at zero (i.e. no head pressure) is not 4.00mA, correction can be made by adjustment of the zero potentiometer which can be found in the bottom right-hand corner of the RT168 transmitter.

### 5.2. Range adjustments

The actual calibrated range of the instrument will be found on the identification plate of the RT168.

Where it is necessary to adjust the range due to changes in the installation, the liquid level should be raised accurately to the required 100% level and the range potentiometer in the top right-hand corner of the transmitter, adjusted to provide a 20.00mA output signal.

Where it is impractical to adjust the actual liquid level, a suitable pressure source such as a dead weight tester or mercury column may be employed. The pressure connection required for this will depend upon the transmitter type, and **PSM** can provide a suitable adaptor where necessary.

**NOTE: Where it is suspected that range and/or zero settings are not correct, before making any adjustments, do first ensure that the transmitter does not have a "special" calibration. For example, some transmitters because of their mounting position relative to the liquid head may be calibrated with either a positively or negatively offset zero, such that at zero head pressure the output is above 4.00mA, or a certain amount of pressure is required before the signal moves away from the 4.00mA point.**

## 6. Recalibration

Where the instrument has to be recalibrated for any reason the following procedure should be followed:

- i. With no process pressure applied turn the range adjustment control fully clockwise and then by adjustment of the zero-potentiometer set the output signal to 4.00mA. For applications where a raised zero is required it must first be established by calculation what signal output is required for zero process pressure. This is then set using the zero control as defined above. For applications where a suppressed zero is required again it must be established what the process pressure should be for 4.00mA signal and this should be applied prior to setting the zero as above.
- ii. Apply a pressure to the transmitter equivalent to its full nominal range which will be found on the identification plate and set 20.00mA output using the range potentiometer. Release the pressure and recheck the zero-point making any minor adjustment necessary.
- iii. Run the pressure up and down again checking the linearity of the instrument at 25%, 50% and 75% of nominal range. No adjustment of linearity is possible by the user, where the instrument is thought to be out of limits refer to PSM.
- iv. Now apply a pressure equal to the full actual range required and by adjustment of the range potentiometer set the output signal to 20.00mA.

**NOTE: When determining the actual range ensure that the specific gravity of the actual process fluid is accounted for.**

## 7. General Operation & Maintenance

Where correctly installed, satisfactory continuous performance over a long period may be expected from these transmitters. None of the units have any specific maintenance requirement. However, following periodic checks are recommended to good working order.

- i. The system components should be checked visually for good condition of the housings (ensuring that doors and lids are kept firmly closed). Check that weatherproof gaskets and seals are in good condition and secure.
- ii. Electrical cable runs between the system components should be inspected for condition and security and that cable glands are securely fastened.
- iii. If the sensor is to be used in an application where the accumulation of sludge may be formed in transmitter pressure chamber after a period of time, cleaning may be necessary, otherwise a slow response to level changes or an inaccurate reading may result.

The cleaning procedure is as follows:

- a. Remove the transmitter from service. Clean and dry the unit externally using clean water or suitable solvents.
- b. Where fitted, by hand only, carefully unscrew the pressure sensors end cover or flange plate from the front of the transducer. If the 'O' ring seal has stuck use a hide faced hammer to lightly tap around the rim. Never attempt to use sharp or hard steel tools to remove this cover.

**DO NOT INSERT ANY TOOLS OR OBJECTS THROUGH THE SENSOR END CAP OR THE FRONT PROTECTION GUARD.**

When unscrewed keep the assembly parallel and gently lift away from the body exposing the diaphragm.

- c. Using suitable solvents or clean water only, carefully clean the sludge deposits from the exposed diaphragm or pressure chamber (depending upon model). Great care must be taken not to damage, distort, or otherwise manipulate the diaphragm.
- d. Clean and inspect any gaskets or seals and ensure that the seating is thoroughly cleaned. Replace seals if necessary.
- e. When refitting the end cover or flange plate ensure that it is kept parallel and clear of the diaphragm. The assembly should be hand tight only.

It is further recommended that system calibration should be checked at least once a year following the procedure given under section 6.0, entitled 'Recalibration'

## 8. Fault Finding

**Note that in addition to the zero and span adjustment for the mA output that are user-adjustable, there are also factory calibration settings to compensate temperature effects on the sensor that are not user-adjustable. It is therefore always recommended for best accuracy that the sensor and RT168 amplifier are replaced as a factory calibrated pair and not individually.**

Each instrument is exercised and calibrated in accordance with the application requirements. As such it is fully tested prior to shipment. If, however, on installation or subsequently in service, the system is considered to be providing an incorrect reading or no reading at all, the following checklist should be followed:

1. Check that the actual installation details are as the original manufacturing specification i.e. all tank dimensions including the transmitter fitting height, and specific gravity of the fluid.
2. Is the system wired in accordance with the instructions given in the electrical installation section?
3. Is the power connected and working? Is the correct 24V DC signal present across the transmitter terminals? Connect a voltmeter suitable for 24V DC across the unit's positive and negative terminals offering correct polarities.
4. Does the current output from the transmitter appear at the indicator terminals? Connect an ammeter suitable for 4 to 20mA in series in place of the loop indicator.
5. Confirm by visual inspection or by using a dipstick that the liquid within the vessel is actually at the level it is thought to be.
6. Check that vessel contents are fluid at the transmitter i.e. no solids or other blockages are affecting the reading.
7. For externally mounted transmitters check that any isolating valves are open.
8. Where a number of systems have been installed check that each sensor is installed on its intended vessel and has the correct electronic transmitter connected.
9. Where the transmitter has an indicator connected check this is not fitted with shipping stops or bridge.
10. Confirm that the vessel is freely ventilated.
11. Confirm that the atmospheric reference for the sensor is unobstructed and the atmospheric pressure at the same as within the vessel.
12. Where there is more than one transmitter connected to a common power supply check that there is no cross-channel interference or ground loop problems. How this is done will depend on each particular application but, in general, each transmitter should be connected individually to the supply (or a temporary supply to see if its output signal changes.)

**If the fault still exists after the foregoing have been checked the transmitter should be removed from service for further examination.**

With the instrument thoroughly cleaned, and on the bench, the following checks may be made:

Disconnect the sensor from the amplifier module and measure the resistance on the sensor signal cable which should be:

Black to Red - Approximately 56 ohms

Green to White (Inner Screen) - Approximately 2200 ohms

Check the following are all open circuit:

Black to Green

Black to Outer Screen

Black to Sensor Body

Green to Outer Screen

Green to Sensor Body

If any of the above tests fail the sensor is faulty and will require factory repair or replacement.

Assuming the above to be OK, reconnect the sensor and the amplifier and connect a suitable 24V DC supply to the transmitter. Connect an ammeter across the test pins on the amplifier to monitor the 4 - 20mA loop.

A suitable pressure source will also be required.

Check for the following conditions:

1. Responding to applied pressure i.e. the output signal increases but unable to set 4mA output at zero using the zero potentiometer. Disconnect the **Black** and **Red** sensor wires. Can 4mA now be set?

If **YES**, the sensor has a mechanical shift and will need replacing.

If **NO**, a component failure in the amplifier module is indicated. The amplifier should be replaced.

2. Not responding to applied pressure. Disconnect the **Red** and **Black** sensor wires. Is it now possible to set 4mA output on the zero pot?

If **YES**, it indicates a sensor problem or no excitation voltage being supplied by the amplifier module. To check the excitation voltage connect an AC voltmeter across the Ex+ & Ex- terminals. Output should read 0.7V at 1.3KHz. If an oscilloscope is available, the frequency can also be verified.

If **NO**, there is a problem with the amplifier module. To check the supply rails the amplifier must be removed from its housing to gain access to the lower board. Check that the voltage across Diode Z1 is 5.2V. Z1 is located in the centre of the board and its unbanded end is 0V. Measure also from this 0V to pin 13 of IC4. This should be 1.9V. Any variation from these two values indicates a problem with the amplifier module.

Where the foregoing does not clearly indicate the faulty element, careful visual inspection of the sensor body/diaphragm should be made for signs of damage/corrosion, the sensor cable for signs of damage to the outer sheathing, and the circuit board for component failure or breakage, may indicate where the problem lies. If this is the case and a spare sensor or amplifier module is available, the following matching procedure should be undertaken.

## 9. Sensor/Amplifier Module Replacement

1. To access the potentiometers on the lower PCB of the RT168 amplifier module it is necessary to remove the assembly from its enclosure. Take care not to damage the boards or inter-connecting ribbon cable.
2. Connect sensor to transmitter and apply power as previously described.
3. Set the potentiometer controls as follows:
  - RV1** - Phase control - fully anti-clockwise. (Lower PCB)
  - RV2** - Zero control - mid-position. (Upper PCB)
  - RV3** - Gain control - fully anti-clockwise. (Lower PCB)
  - RV4** - Range control - fully anti-clockwise. (Upper PCB)
4. With no pressure applied adjust the zero control RV2 to give an output signal of 4.00mA.
5. Apply the full nominal pressure of the instrument and adjust RV3 gain control to give an output signal of 18.4mA.
6. Release the pressure and recheck zero output adjusting RV2 if necessary to give 4.00mA.
7. Re-apply the full nominal pressure and check output signal adjusting to 18.4mA using RV3 as necessary.
8. Now apply the actual calibration pressure for full scale and adjust RV4 to give 20.00mA output.
9. Release the pressure and recheck zero output. If it requires correction check span afterwards. Repeat this process until a 4-20mA output is achieved.

### 9.1. Warranty conditions

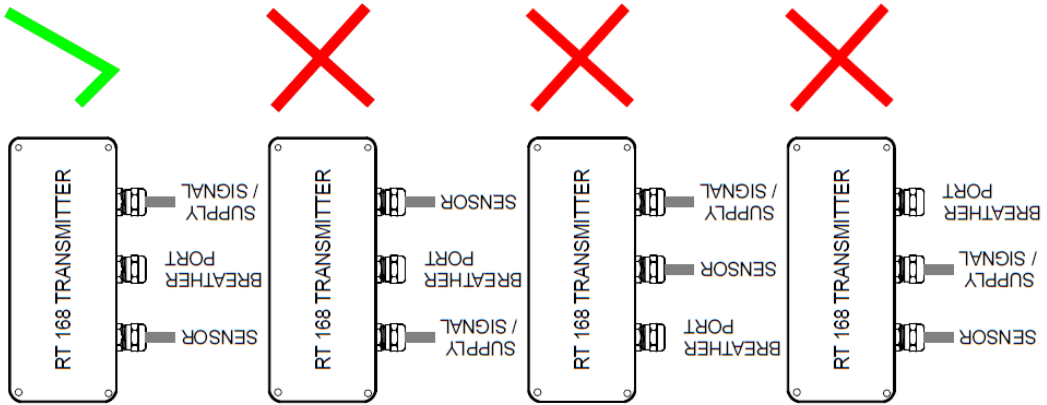
PSM products are covered for 12 months from the date of dispatch against arising from faulty manufacture. Warranty terms are return to base. Shipping costs are to the account of the user. Should it prove necessary to return any equipment it must be accompanied by clear instructions as to the reason and what actions are requested of PSM.

An explanation of the apparent fault together with details of the service conditions are also requested. Health & Safety requirements mean that we must be fully aware of any potential hazards prior to working on returns. Where this information is not included with the return, PSM will issue a contamination questionnaire which must be completed prior to examination.

### 9.2. General outline drawings

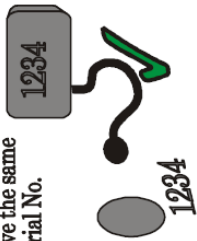
General outline drawings for all models covered by this manual are available from PSM. Please request the specific model code and serial number.

**CABLE LOCATION**

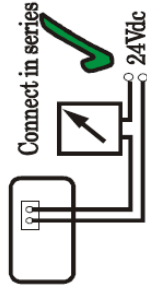


**Do.....**

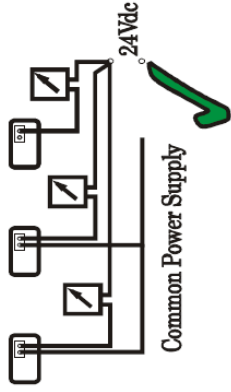
Ensure Sensor and Amplifier have the same Serial No.



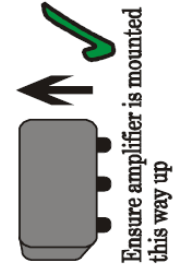
Connect in series



Connect to 24V dc supply (12 to 35V)



Common Power Supply



Ensure amplifier is mounted this way up



Ensure cover is screwed down tightly

**Don't.....**

Do not Touch the sensor diaphragm



Do not adjust the zero & span potentiometers (refer to manual first)



Do not cut sensor cable



Do not apply mains voltage



Do not ground box

