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## Quality Control of Insulating Gas in Insulating Glass Units

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## Using inert gas in IGU's

- Inert gas enhances the thermal properties of the IGU Roughly:
  - Argon is abt. 50% better than air; inexpensive
  - Krypton is abt. 50% better than Argon; abt. 200 times more expensive than Argon
- Market requirements:

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- U-value is typically calculated with 80% filling degree + reserve for leakage => Gas filling is typically 90-95% which is easy to reach with well operating gas press
- Product liability for the insulating glass and window suppliers last several years



## Methods of measurement

#### Two main methods

#### Invasive

- Oxygen analyzers
- Gas Chromatograph

#### Non-invasive / Non-destructive

- Plasma Emission Spectroscopy
- TDLAS based method







## Invasive measurement; **Oxygen analyzers**

## **Operating principle:**

The invasive method penetrates through the edge of the IGU and the amount of Oxygen is measured and converted to the gas content by a separated table

#### **Benefits:**

- Affordable
- Robust technologies with good accuracy ٠

## Limitation:

Require breaking the IG structure >> IGU cannot be delivered to the customer or retested



## Invasive measurement; Gas Chromatograph

nitrogen

## **Operating principle:**

- With a syringe a sample is taken from the specimen
- The sample is analyzed in the Gas Chromatograph

#### **Benefits:**

 Normative system; however +/-1% accuracy

## Limitations:

- Laboratory system
- Expensive



## Non-destructive measurement; Plasma Emission Spectroscopy

## **Technology:**

Plasma emission spectroscopy

## **Operating principle:**

A high voltage spark launched in the IG unit's cavity >> light emission which is analyzed further

## **Benefits:**

- Non-destructive
- Measurement can be repeated
- Fast (2s.) and accurate

## Limitation:

Measuring only through clear glass



## Non-destructive measurement; TDLAS

## Technology:

Laser based TDLAS technology

#### **Operating principle:**

- Laser beam into the IG measuring the surfaces, intensity and harmonic changes of the returning signal >> measuring the Oxygen amount
- Oxygen amount converted into insulation gas percentage

#### **Benefits:**

- Non-destructive
- Triples, through coatings, through laminates





## Non-destructive measurement; TDLAS

# TDLAS based system can be Off-line or Online

## Online additional benefits:

- All the glasses measured during the production
- Reporting directly to ERP or to IG-line's own
- Product traceability



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