

# AE50

## AUTOMATIC AIR AND GAS VENTS FOR LIQUID SYSTEMS

### INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

- These instructions must be carefully read before performing any work involving VALSTEAM ADCA products. Failure to observe these instructions may result in hazardous situations.
- These instructions describe the entire life cycle of the product. Keep them in a location that is accessible to every user and make these instructions available to every new owner of the product.
- Current regional and plant safety regulations must be considered and followed during installation, operation, and maintenance work.
- The images shown in these instructions are for illustration purposes only.
- For the problems that cannot be solved with the help of these instructions, please contact VALSTEAM ADCA or its representative.

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We reserve the right to change the design and material of this product without notice.

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# 1. SAFETY INFORMATION

## 1.1. Explanation of symbols



### DANGER

Hazardous situation which, if not avoided by applying the correct preventive measures, will result in fatal or serious injury and/or considerable damage to property.



### WARNING

Hazardous situation which, if not avoided by applying the correct preventive measures, could result in fatal or serious injury and/or considerable damage to property.



### CAUTION

Hazardous situation which, if not avoided by applying the correct preventive measures, could result in moderately severe or minor injury.



### NOTICE

Situation which, if not avoided, can result in property damage or product malfunction.



### NOTE

Indicates additional information, tips and recommendations.

## 1.2. Intended use

Refer to the markings on the device, such as nameplate and laser markings, Information Sheet (IS) and these Installation and Maintenance Instructions (IMI) to check that the product was designed for the intended use and meets the specifications used for sizing and selection. This includes checking application, material suitability, process medium, pressure and temperature as well as their respective limiting values.

VALSTEAM ADCA does not assume any responsibility for damage resulting from inappropriate use of the product, damage caused by external stresses or any other external factors. Correct installation of the product is the full responsibility of the contractor.

Inappropriate use of the product is any use other than the one described in this chapter. Inappropriate use also includes:

- Use of spare parts which are not genuine;
- Performance of maintenance work not described in these instructions;
- Use outside the limits defined by the accessories connected to the product.
- Unauthorized modifications to the product.

If the product is to be used for an application or with a fluid other than the one it was designed for, contact VALSTEAM ADCA.

### 1.3. Qualification of personnel

Handling, installation, operation and maintenance work must be carried out by fully trained and qualified personnel, capable of judging the work which they are assigned to perform and recognizing potentially hazardous situations. They should be trained to properly use this product according to these Installation and Maintenance Instructions.

Where a formal “Permits to Work” system is implemented in the plant it must be complied with.

### 1.4. Personal protective equipment

Personal protective equipment should always be worn during work in order to protect against hazards posed by e.g. the process medium, dangerous temperatures, noise, falling or projected objects, working at height. These equipment includes a helmet, safety glasses, safety harness, protective clothes, safety shoes, hearing protection, etc.

#### NOTE

Always assess whether you or others in your vicinity require any protective equipment. When in doubt check with the plant’s health & safety responsible personnel for details on required protective equipment.

### 1.5. The system

The complete system should be assessed as well as every action (e.g. closing of shut-off valves, disconnection of the power supply) to ensure this will not bring additional risk to personnel or property.

Dangerous actions that can result in a hazardous situation include isolation of protective devices such as safety valve, vents, vacuum relief valves, disconnection of electric safety devices, sensors and alarms.

## 1.6. ATEX

If the product is in the scope of the ATEX 2014/34/EU directive and as such bears the Ex marking, consult its specific Additional Instructions for use in Potentially Explosive Areas (IMI EX). In such cases, handling, installation, operation and maintenance work must only be performed by personnel qualified and authorized to work in potentially explosive areas.

## 1.7. General safety notes



### DANGER

#### RISK OF BURSTING IN PRESSURE EQUIPMENT

Valves, ancillaries and pipelines are pressure equipment. Working above their operating limits or improper opening can lead to component bursting.

- Observe the maximum operating limits of the product and check if they are lower than those of the system in which it is being installed. Check the product Information Sheet (IS).
- Install a safety device.
- Before starting any work on the product, depressurize it and cool or heat it up to ambient temperature. This also applies to the line in which it is fitted.
- Drain the process medium from the product and all the relevant plant sections.



### WARNING

#### RISK OF BURNS

Depending on the operating conditions, products and pipelines may get very hot or cold and cause burn injuries.

- Do not touch the product while it is hot or cold, allowing it firstly to cool down or heat up.
- Wear protective clothing and safety gloves during working operation.
- Thermally insulate tubes and product's as a preventive measure.



## WARNING

### **RISK OF INJURY CAUSED BY FLUID ATTACK ON PRODUCTS MATERIALS**

The product must only be used with mediums that do not attack the materials of the product (body, gaskets, seals). Otherwise, leaks may occur, and hot and/or hazardous fluid can escape.

- Do not use the product with mediums other than the ones it was designed for. Check section 1.2 - Intended Use.
- Prevent medium contamination.

### **RISK OF INJURY CAUSED BY UNDER TIGHTENED PRODUCT OR ITS COMPONENTS**

Excessively low tightening torques may cause medium to escape or and/or components to be projected at high speed which may result in a hazardous situation depending on the medium, chemical properties and/or its operating conditions.

- Do not loosen any screw while the equipment is pressurized.
- Observe the specified tightening torques on these Installation and Maintenance Instructions. If the relevant torque value is not mentioned contact VALSTEAM ADCA.

### **RISK OF HEARING LOSS**

Depending on the operating conditions, the product may generate loud noises.

- Wear hearing protection when in the vicinity of the product.

### **RISK OF INJURY AS A RESULT OF ILLEGIBLE INFORMATION**

Important information written in the product nameplate, markings and warning signs may wear overtime or get illegible due to e.g. dirt accumulation, resulting in hazardous situations and personal injury or property damage.

- Keep nameplates, markings and warning signs in a legible state, replacing when illegible, missing or damaged.



## CAUTION

### **RISK OF INJURY DUE TO RESIDUAL PROCESS MEDIUM**

Direct contact with dangerous process medium may lead to personal injury, e.g. smoke inhalation and chemical burns.

- Drain the process medium from the product and all the relevant plant sections.
- Wear protective clothing, safety gloves, mask, and eye protection.



## CAUTION

### RISK OF INJURY DUE TO IMPROPER HANDLING

Manual handling (e.g. lifting, carrying, pushing, pulling) of large and/or heavy products may result in personal injury.

- Assess the risk associated with the handling task.
- Use adequate handling methods and appropriate auxiliary handling equipment.



## NOTICE

### RISK OF PRODUCT DAMAGE DUE TO EXCESSIVELY HIGH TIGHTENING TORQUES

High tightening torques may lead to premature wearing of product components.

- Observe the specified tightening torques on these Installation and Maintenance Instructions. If the relevant torque value is not mentioned contact VALSTEAM ADCA.

## 2. PRODUCT INFORMATION

The ADCA AE50 range of automatic vents are designed to remove air or gases from water and other liquid systems, without requiring any external source of energy. These ball float type vents are manufactured in carbon steel (AE50S) or stainless steel (AE50i), available with soft sealing, and can be used in combination with other air elimination and separation systems or directly applied at high points in the pipelines.

### 2.1. Principle of operation

The ADCA AE50 is a automatic device which operates with a float and lever mechanism. During system start-up the float is suspended on its lower position due to its weight and maintains the vent valve open to allow air and/or other gases to pass through. Once the liquid level reaches the vent, the float raises and the lever mechanism closes the valve.

As air and/or other gases accumulate and reach the vent the liquid inside is displaced lowering its level and allowing the float to fall thus opening the valve. Once the non-condensables have been discharged, the liquid level rises once again and the valve closes.

## 2.2. Certification

This product has been specifically designed for use with liquids and gases which are in Group 2 of the European PED – 2014/68/EU Pressure Equipment Directive and it complies with its requirements.

CE MARKING – GROUP 2 (PED – European Directive)	
PN 40	Category
All sizes	SEP

### NOTE

If the product falls within category SEP it must not be CE marked, unless other directives are applicable.

This product is not in the scope of the ATEX 2014/34/EU directive as it does not have its own potential ignition source. Personnel responsible for the plant installation must assess the risks caused by static electricity and take the necessary precautionary measures to prevent static charge. These measures include e.g. connection of the product to the equipotential bonding system.

## 2.3. Product identification

The following items are indicated on the product nameplate or directly on its body:

- Manufacturer
- Product model (e.g. AE50S)
- Pressure rating (e.g. PN40)
- Nominal size (e.g. NPS 3/4" x 1/2")
- Max. differential pressure (e.g. DP: 30 bar)
- Max. operating temperature (e.g. TMO: 300 °C)
- Max. operating pressure (e.g. PMO: 30 bar)
- Min. operating temperature (e.g. -10 °C)
- Max. admissible temperature (e.g. TMA: 300 °C / 27,6 bar)
- Max. admissible pressure (e.g. PMA: 37,1 bar / 100 °C)
- Flow direction (indicated by an arrow)
- Serial number and year of manufacturing (e.g. Reg.:17483/19)
- CE Marking (when applicable – see section 2.2 – Certification)
- EX Marking (when applicable e.g. EX h IIB T6...T3 Gb – see section 2.2 – Certification)

## 2.4. Technical data

For technical data including dimensions, materials, limiting conditions and versions refer to the product respective Information Sheet (IS).

## 3. TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND PACKAGING



### WARNING

#### RISK DUE TO FALLING LOADS

Loads may tip or fall over resulting in damage to property, serious injury or death.

- Use suitable equipment when moving or lifting suspended loads.
- Make sure no one is standing below the suspended load.



### CAUTION

#### RISK OF INJURY DUE TO IMPROPER HANDLING

Manual handling (e.g. lifting, carrying, pushing, pulling) of large and/or heavy products may result in personal injury such as back injury.

- Assess the risk associated with the handling task.
- Use adequate handling methods and appropriate auxiliary handling equipment.



### NOTICE

#### RISK OF PRODUCT DAMAGE DUE TO IMPROPER STORAGE

- Do not remove any packaging or protective covers until immediately before installation at the site.
- Store the product in a solid base in a dry, cool and dust-free environment.
- Until its installation, protect it from the weather, dirt, corrosive atmospheres and other harmful influences.

#### RISK OF PRODUCT DAMAGE DUE TO LONG TERM STORAGE

Some product components may deteriorate with time (e.g. valve packings, seals).

- Do not store the product for more than 12 months.
- If for any reason the product must be stored for longer periods of time contact VALSTEAM ADCA.

Products are individually wrapped in plastic film, thermo shrinkable plastic and/or stored in a cardboard box as they leave VALSTEAM ADCA. Avoid removing packaging and any protective cover until immediately before installing the product at the site.

**i NOTE**

If the transport packaging has any shipping damage contact VALSTEAM ADCA or its representative.

Before storing and transporting the product protect it from impacts and mechanical damage, paying special care with sealing surfaces and other fragile parts.

**i NOTE**

If the corrosion protection (paint and other surface coatings) of the product is damaged during transport or other handling procedures repair it immediately.

## 4. INSTALLATION

Before performing any installation work, refer to section 1 – Safety information.

**! WARNING**

**RISK OF INJURY DUE TO INSUFFICIENT SUPPORT DURING INSTALLATION**

Insufficient support of the product during installation may cause it to fall and cause personal injury.

- Ensure the product is safely held in place during installation.
- Wear protective safety shoes.

**! NOTICE**

**RISK OF PRODUCT DAMAGE DUE TO STRESS**

The product is not intended to withstand external stresses that may be inducted by the system to which it is being connected to.

- Make sure that the connected pipe does not subject the body to any stress (forces or torques) during installation and operation.
- Do not use the product as an elevation point.

## 4.1. Preparation for installation

Before installation, make sure the following conditions are met:

- The installation area has easy access and the product is to be installed in a position where operation and maintenance work can be performed safely.
- The product will be installed with proper support and free of any stresses that can be induced by the system due to e.g. pipe expansions. The necessary precautions are recommended during system design.
- The pipeline where the product will be installed is designed in such a way that it takes into account the weight of the product. The pipeline may require support on both sides next to the product, particularly if its size and weight are considerable and especially if vibrations are to be expected in the system.
- The product is not damaged.
- Make sure all the necessary materials and tools are readily available during installation work.
- Referring to this Installation and Maintenance Instructions (IMI), Information Sheet (IS) and nameplate, check that the product is suitable for the intended installation: temperature, medium, pressure, temperature, etc. – see section 1.2 – Intended use.
- Check that there are no foreign bodies inside the pipelines and ancillaries, flushing may be necessary. These should be thoroughly cleaned.
- Check any mounted pressure gauges and make sure they function properly.
- An additional ADCA pipeline strainer or filter may be necessary to install upstream of the automatic vent in some applications, preventing damage caused by solid particles in the process medium.
- It is recommended to install an isolation valve upstream of the automatic vent to allow isolation of flow prior to performing maintenance procedures.
- In systems operating under negative head conditions it is recommended to install an ADCA check valve downstream of the automatic vent to prevent air from being drawn into the system.



### NOTE

Assembly Drawings (AD) with assembly details and parts lists are available on request.

## 4.2. Installation procedure

1. Remove plastic film and other packaging, as well as the protective covers which are placed on flanges or connection ends. Make sure the automatic vent is free from foreign matter.
2. The automatic vent should be installed vertically with the inlet at the bottom. The outlet flow direction is vertical (VT) or straight front (VF), depending on the ordered version. Either way the outlet flow direction can be changed by changing the plug (11) position. See Fig. 2.
3. The outlet connection should be directed to a safe point.
4. Take care with jointing materials and sealing compounds to ensure that none may be permitted to block or enter the automatic vent and causing malfunction. In case of flanged connections use appropriate flange gaskets.

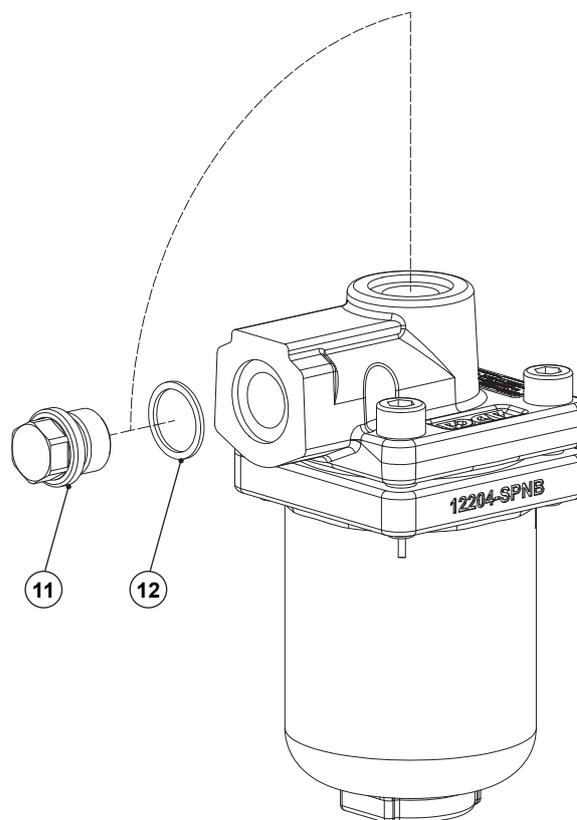


Fig. 2: Outlet flow direction change.

## 5. START-UP

**Before performing the start-up procedure, refer to section 1 – Safety information.**

The start-up procedure must be followed every time the product is put back into service.

### 5.1. Preparation for start-up

Before starting up, make sure the following conditions are met:

- All works on the system have been completed.
- All the necessary safety devices have been installed.
- When required, warning notices are used to alert others that the system is starting up.
- The product is correctly installed – see section 4 – Installation.
- Referring to these Installation and Maintenance Instructions (IMI), Information Sheet (IS) and nameplate, check that the product is suitable for the intended installation:

temperature, medium, pressure, temperature, etc. – see section 1.2 – Intended use.

- A safety check was performed by qualified personnel. Checking for leaks, structural damage and integrity of system components.



## NOTICE

### RISK OF PRODUCT DAMAGE DUE TO CONTAMINATION

The plant operator is responsible for cleaning the pipelines in the plant as well as keeping the product well maintained. At start-up, the presence of small particles in the medium (dirt, scale, weld splatters, etc.) may damage the product or cause malfunction.

- Flush pipelines before start-up.
- Clean protection varnishes from pipes and flanges, leftover paint, graphite, grease, etc.
- Use a pipeline strainer or a filter.

## 5.2. Start-up procedure

1. Open shut-off valves slowly, until normal operating conditions are achieved. This will prevent sudden surges of pressure that can damage the automatic vent, namely the float and lever assembly.
2. Depending on the medium this will also avoid thermal shocks by bringing the product slowly up to temperature.
3. Check for any leaks.
4. Check the automatic vent to ensure it is operating correctly.



## NOTE

24 hours after system start-up, it is recommended to check pipe connection for leaks and retighten when necessary. Clean strainers/filters to avoid blocking.

## 6. OPERATION

Before operating the product refer to section 1 – Safety information.

Immediately after completing the start-up procedure, the product is ready for operation.

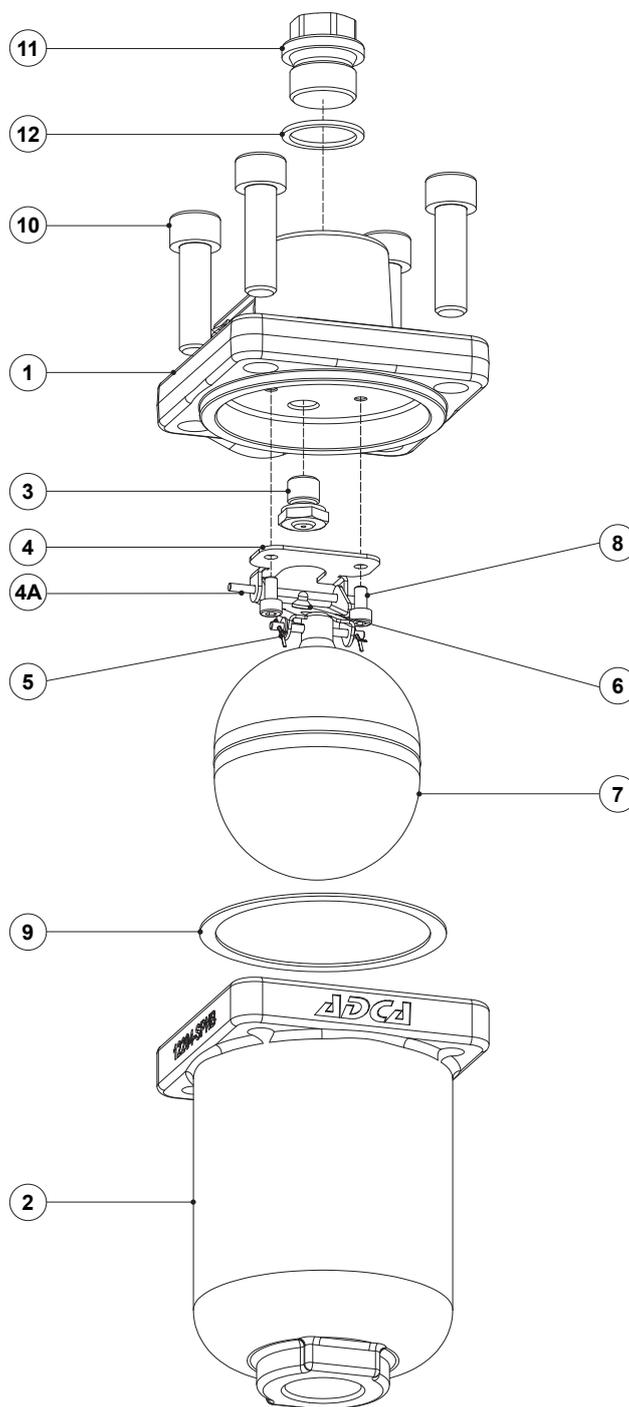
## 7. SHUTDOWN

Before performing the shutdown procedure, refer to section 1 – Safety information.

### 7.1. Shutdown procedure

1. Switch off the system and secure it so it cannot be turned on by unauthorized personnel.
2. Fully close the upstream shut-off valve, to stop the process medium from flowing through the automatic vent.
3. Make sure the pipeline and the automatic vent are not under pressure and are at a safe temperature.
4. Allow medium to cool down and completely drain it from the pipeline and automatic vent.
5. Fully close the downstream shut-off valve.
6. If the automatic vent is to be removed from the pipeline – see section 3 - Transport, storage and packaging.

## 8. PARTS LIST



POS. N°	DESIGNATION	SPARE PARTS
1	Body	
2	Cover	
3	Seat	X
4	Mechanism support	
4A	Pin	
5	Lever	X
6	Valve	X

POS. N°	DESIGNATION	SPARE PARTS
7	Float	X
8	Bolts	
9	Gasket	X
10	Bolts	
11	Plug	
12	Washer	

## 9. MAINTENANCE

**Before performing a maintenance procedure, refer to section 1 – Safety information.**

The product requires maintenance to ensure that it operates correctly and safely throughout its lifetime. Maintenance work should be performed in a planned manner at periodic intervals. These intervals must be defined by the operator according to the service conditions.

### 9.1. Maintenance procedure

1. Make sure all the necessary materials and tools are readily available during maintenance work.
2. Perform the shutdown procedure – see section 7 – Shutdown.
3. Perform the maintenance procedure – see the following sections.
4. Put the product back into operation – see section 5 – Start-up.

### 9.2. Replacing the float mechanism and seat

1. Undo the bolts (11) gradually in a crisscross pattern and separate the cover (2) from the body (1).
2. Remove the body gasket (9) and clean surfaces thoroughly, leaving no remaining graphite leftovers.
3. Remove the pin (4A) and separate the assembly consisting of lever (5), valve (6) and float (7) from the mechanism support (4).
4. Unscrew the seat (3) from the body (1) and undo the bolts (8) just slightly until the support is loose.
5. Apply a slight smear of suitable sealing compound to the thread of the new seat, screw it onto the body and tighten with the recommended torque – see section 9.3 – Tightening torques.
6. Fit the new assembly (5, 6, 7) to the mechanism support using the pin (4A) and by moving the complete assembly, center the valve cone with the seat orifice. Once centered, tighten the bolts (8) with the recommended torque – see section 9.3 – Tightening torques.
7. Check the operation of the mechanism with the float suspended raising and lowering several times, making sure that the valve cone is centered with the seat orifice.
8. Fit a new body gasket (9) in the cover groove and slowly join body (1) and cover (2) together. Tighten the bolts (11) with the recommended torque – see section 9.3 – Tightening torques.

### 9.3. Tightening torques

POS. N°	DESIGNATION	TORQUE (Nm)
		All sizes
3	Seat	25 - 30
8	Bolts	3 - 5
10	Bolts	40 - 45
11	Plug	75

## 10. DISPOSAL

Once the product has reached the end of its working life, it should be sent for disposal in accordance with the prevailing national and local regulations.

Before disposal make sure that the product is clean and free from fluid residues.

During its disposal, pay special attention to rubbers, resins and polymer components (PVC, PTFE, PP, PVDF, FKM, NBR, etc.).

Do not dispose of components and hazardous substances together with household waste.

## 11. RETURNING PRODUCTS

Information regarding hazards and precautionary measures to be considered due to contaminating fluids and residues or mechanical damage that may represent a health, safety or environmental risk, must be provided in writing when returning products to VALSTEAM ADCA.



### WARNING

#### RISK DUE TO PRESENCE OF HAZARDOUS RESIDUES ON RETURNED PRODUCTS

Contaminated fluids and residues may represent an environmental risk, or risk to VALSTEAM ADCA personnel.

- Information regarding any hazards or precautionary measures to be considered must be provided in writing when returning products to VALSTEAM ADCA.
- Health and Safety information sheets relating to any substances identified as hazardous or potentially hazardous must be provided outside the packaging.
- Use Hazmat labels on the packaging.

## IMPORTANT NOTE

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Total or partial disregard of these Installation and Maintenance Instructions involves loss of any right to warranty.

The extent and warranty period are specified in the “General sales conditions”.