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Experimental Analysis of Shell and Tube Heat Exchanger

1.RAJA P, 2. ASHOK M, 3. DHANUSHKUMAR R, 4.GOKUL A

1.Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Kongunadu College of Engineering And Technolog
2.Student, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Kongunadu College of Engineering And Technology
3.Student, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Kongunadu College of Engineering And Technology
*4.*Student, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Kongunadu College of Engineering And Technology

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ABSTRACT- Shell and tube heat exchangers are widely used in various industrial applications for efficient heat transfer between two fluids. However, conventional baffles in these heat exchangers often result in limited heat transfer rates and increased pressure drops. This study proposes a novel approach to enhance heat transfer efficiency by replacing traditional solid baffles with porous baffles. The study investigates parameters such as pore size, porosity, and the arrangement of porous structures to optimize heat transfer performance while minimizing pressure drop. Experimental validation is also conducted to assess the practical feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed design. The findings of this research contribute to the development of more efficient heat exchanger designs, with potential applications in industries requiring high heat transfer rates and reduced energy consumption. The incorporation of porous baffles represents a promising advancement in heat exchanger technology, offering improved performance and cost-effectiveness compared to conventional designs.

1. INTRODUCTION

Heat exchangers play a pivotal role in a wide array of industries, facilitating the transfer of thermal energy between fluids while ensuring minimal energy loss and efficient operation. Their significance spans across sectors such as HVAC (Heating,Ventilation ,and Air Conditioning),chemical processing, power generation, refrigeration, and automotive applications. Understanding and optimizing heat exchange performance is crucial for enhancing energy efficiency, reducing operational costs, and meeting environmental regulations. One of the most common types of heat exchangers employed in industrial processes is the shell and tube heat exchanger in Figure1.1.

2. SHELL AND TUBE HEAT EXCHANGER

Shell and tube heat exchangers consist of a series of tubes which contain fluid that must be either heated or cooled. A second fluid runs over the tubes that are being heated or cooled so that it can either provide the heat or absorb the heat required. A set of tubes is called the tube bundle and can be made up of several types of tubes: plain, longitudinally finned, etc. Shell and tube heat exchangers are typically used for high-pressure applications temperatures .This is because the shell and tube heat exchangers are robust due to their shape.

3. PROPOSED WORK

The proposed work for a Shell and Tube Heat Exchanger involves several key steps to ensure efficient heat transfer between fluids. Firstly, a detailed analysis of the heat exchange requirements must be conducted, considering factors such as fluid type, flow rates, temperatures, and pressure drop constraints.

Next the design phase involves selecting appropriate materials for the shell, tubes, and any necessary fittings to withstand the operating conditions and prevent corrosion or other forms of degradation.

Once the design is finalized, fabrication and assembly of the heat exchanger can commence. Skilled technicians must ensure precise construction to maintain the integrity of the system and prevent leaks or structural failures. Quality control measures should be implemented throughout the fabrication process to verify compliance with design specifications.

After fabrication the heat exchanger undergoes rigorous testing to validate its performance under simulated operating conditions .This testing may include pressure testing, thermal performance testing, and inspection of welds and joints. Any deficiencies discovered during testing are addressed promptly to ensure the reliability and safety of the heat exchanger.

Finally, installation and commissioning of the heat exchanger are completed , including connecting it to the piping system, integrating control instrumentation ,and conducting initial startup procedures .Throughout the entire process, adherence to industry standards and regulations is paramount to ensure the safety and

effectiveness of the heat exchanger in its intended application

Figure1.1 SHELL AND TUBE HEAT EXCHANGER

4. CONCLUSIONS

The design and fabrication of a shell and tube heat exchanger was made with careful consideration of various factors, including material selection, and mechanical integrity. The design process involves ensuring that the heat exchanger meets the required heat transfer rate while adhering to pressure and flow constraints. Proper material selection is essential for both corrosion resistance and durability, especially when operating under high-temperature or high-pressure conditions .The fabrication process should maintain strict quality controls to ensure precise tube and baffle placement and overall structural soundness. Finally, performance testing after fabrication is critical to confirm that the exchanger functions as expected under operational conditions. Well- executed design and fabrication result in a reliable, efficient, and long-lasting heat exchanger, which is vital for applications in industries such as power generation, chemical processing, and oil refining.

5. REFERENCES

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