

Use and Care

Instructions

for your new



T8 Turgo
Micro-hydroelectric Generator



Models: MHG-T8

Asian Phoenix Resources Ltd., Canada

PowerPal™ T8 Turgo

READ THIS FIRST

This manual contains important information concerning your new PowerPal T8 Turgo micro-hydroelectric generator. It covers Models MHG-T8. You should read this manual carefully before installing PowerPal or allow a trained technician from your local PowerPal Service Center to install it for you.

Your PowerPal generator is designed to be simple to operate and easy to maintain. If used in accordance with these instructions your PowerPal will give you many years of service. PowerPal is also designed with safety in mind, but any electric device can be dangerous if not used correctly. At several points in this manual, instructions requiring special attention that must be followed are shown as:



Warning symbol - beware of hazards or unsafe practices that may cause injury or death.



Caution symbol – beware of hazards or unsafe practices that may damage the product.

SAFETY FIRST



While electricity improves your life, it can also be dangerous if simple precautions are not followed:

- Never allow electrical contacts to become wet. Beware of electrocution.
- Never attempt to cut electrical wires or open appliances for repair if the generator is working. Unplug the main cable first.
- Inform children of the dangers of electrocution. Never allow them to play with electrical connections.
- Keep fingers away from the moving turbine runner.
- If you have any questions about safety, please ask your PowerPal Service Center.
- Product must be earth bonded (grounded).

OPERATING CAUTIONS



Your PowerPal generator is designed for simple operation and low maintenance. However, the following operating cautions must be followed to ensure a long life for PowerPal:

- Under conditions of higher water heads than given for each model in this manual, PowerPal is able to generate higher power outputs than rated. This can also occur if the intake pipe diameter exceeds the recommended diameter. If maximum power consumption listed in this manual is exceeded then the PowerPal generator may be irreparably damaged and require total rewiring. See the section on ‘Technical Specifications’.
- Do not forget to grease the bearings at the recommended times. Failure to do this will result in excessive wear on the bearings and shorten their life.
- Always ensure that the Electronic Load Controller is set at approximately 220V. Otherwise, the life of lights and appliances may be reduced.

POWERPAL COMPONENTS

Inside your PowerPal box you will find:

- 1 x generator-turbine assembly
- 1 x penstock adaptor flange
- 1 x rubber gasket
- 6 x M16 foundation nuts and bolts
- 1 x Guarantee Card
- 1 x this instruction manual.

Please advise immediately if any parts are missing. Complete your Guarantee Card and have it signed by your PowerPal dealer.

The PowerPal system consists of two major components – a hydroelectric generator and an electronic load controller. Other components are necessary and these can be purchased locally. The penstock (intake pipe) should be made from steel. Your PowerPal dealer can advise you about this.

Therefore, other parts which are not included in the box but which are required to make PowerPal work are:

- 500mm length of 5mm steel pipe with internal diameter 130mm.
- electrical wire from generator to house. See the section on ‘Technical Specifications’ for the correct wire size.
- household wiring.

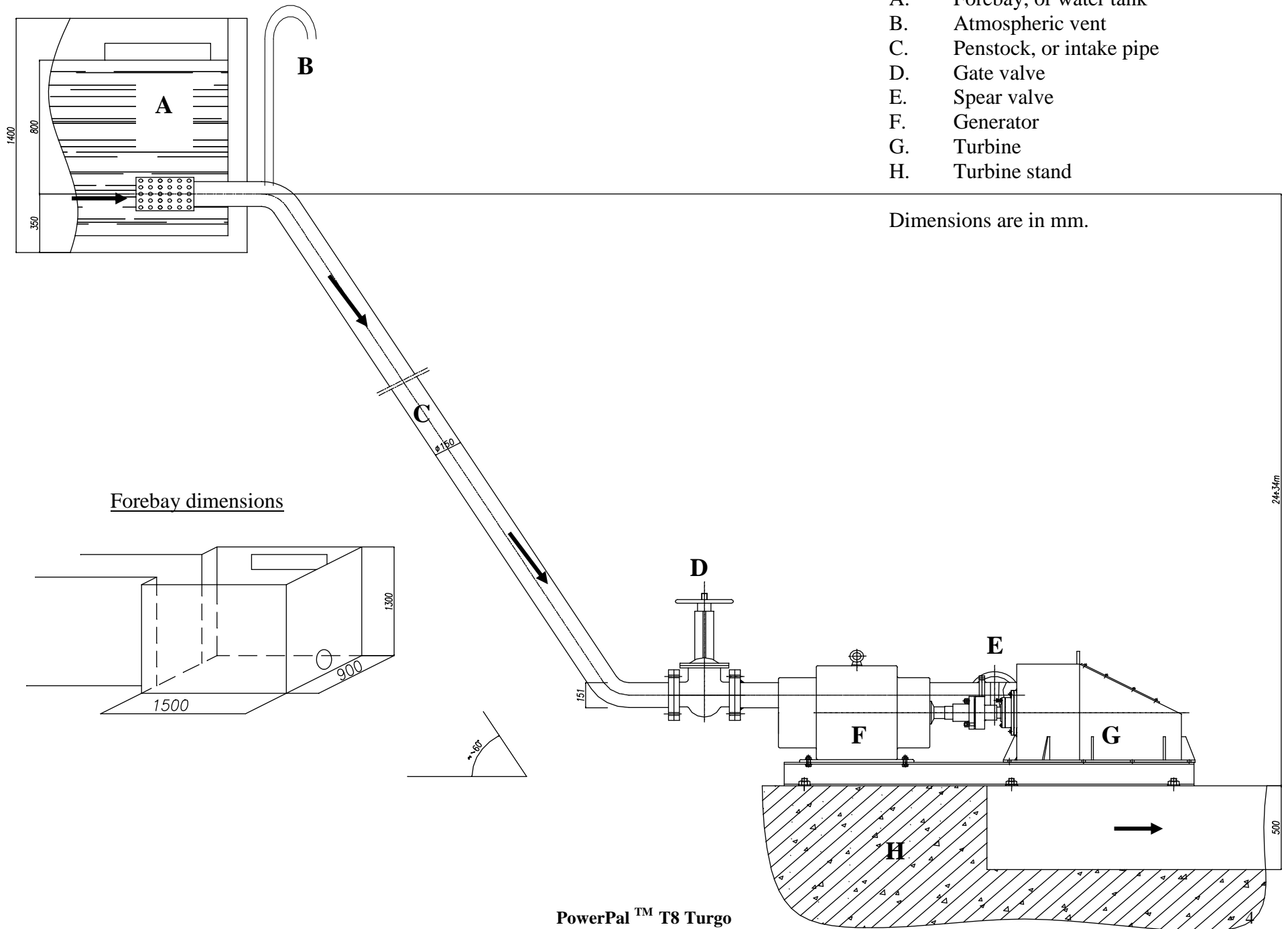
These are available from your dealer or local electrical store.

SYSTEM DIAGRAM

The following diagram shows how the non-electrical components fit together. Further reading of this manual will provide the necessary explanations. Additional drawings are found in Appendix A.

- A. Forebay, or water tank
- B. Atmospheric vent
- C. Penstock, or intake pipe
- D. Gate valve
- E. Spear valve
- F. Generator
- G. Turbine
- H. Turbine stand

Dimensions are in mm.



Forebay dimensions

PowerPal™ T8 Turgo

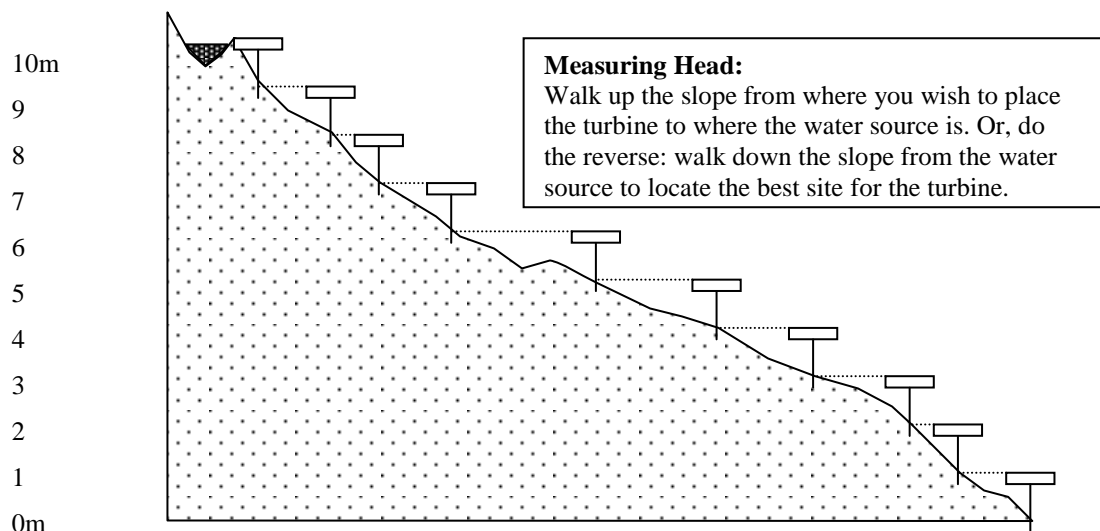
SELECTING A SITE

PowerPal is designed for use in a wide range of locations. There are two critical factors that influence power output – head and flow. Head is the vertical distance between the turbine and the water source (forebay), measured in meters. Flow is the amount of water that passes through the turbine at any instant, measured in litres per second (l/sec). The following table shows rated parameter of your Powerpal MHG T8.

Item	Rated value
Water head H (m)	24m
Water flow Q (l/sec.)	33.3
Turbine output (kW)	5.9
Gen. output (kW)	4.7

Measuring Head

The net head is the vertical height from where the water flow enters the penstock down to the level of the turbine. It is shown in the System Diagram. To measure this, use a tape measure and a clinometer or spirit level etc. A less accurate but useful alternative is to make your own level from a transparent tube half-filled with water. Attach this to the top of a 1m long stick and then point this horizontally at a point further up the slope as though it were a spirit level. By going to that point and repeating the process the total head can be measured – see the drawing below.



Another method is to use an accurate pressure gauge and a length of hose. Run a water-filled hose from the forebay to the turbine site and attach the pressure gauge to the bottom end. The pressure gauge shows 1.422 psi / meter of head e.g. 34 psi for a head of 24m to 48 psi for a head of 34m.

This head should be between 24 and 34 meters for the MHG-T8 model. If it is smaller then the power output will be reduced. If it is larger then your power output will be increased. While increased power output appears desirable, if the head is too large then the rotor will turn too fast and reduce the life of the bearings.

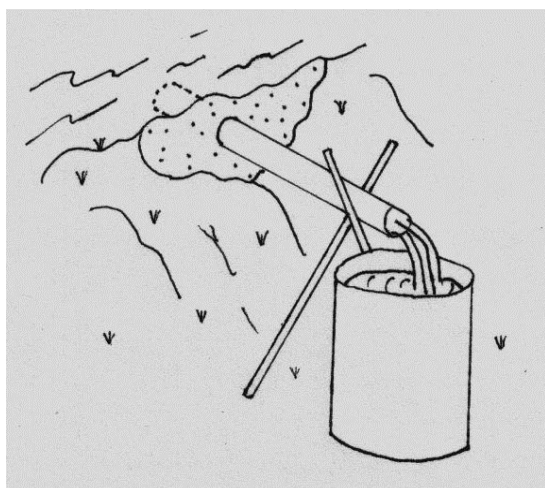


Do not attempt to exceed the recommended head height.

Measuring Flow

The best way to measure the water flow is to use the 'weir method', which is beyond the scope of this manual. Your PowerPal dealer should be able to advise you about flow measurement otherwise contact the manufacturer. Another method is the 'container method'. Take a piece of pipe the same diameter as the penstock, insert it in the stream or dam where the flow is expected to come from, and measure the flow from there.

In the diagram below, a short length of pipe (less than 1 meter) is buried into the side of a small 'dam' using mud or improvised sandbags. The top end of the pipe is completely submerged and part of the normal stream flow is diverted through the pipe. When this is flowing smoothly, a bucket of known volume is quickly placed to collect this flow and the time it takes to fill the bucket is recorded. The ideal bucket size would be 100 or 200 litres (half or a whole empty oil drum). Divide the volume of the bucket (in litres) by the time it takes to fill the bucket (in seconds) to get the approximate flow rate in litres per second.



Measuring Flow:

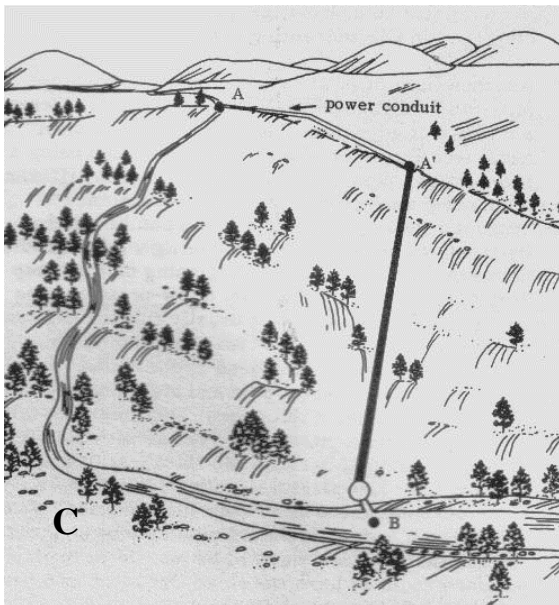
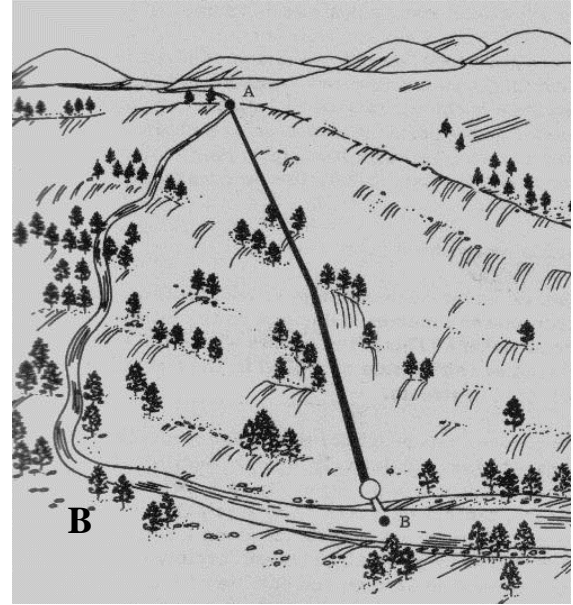
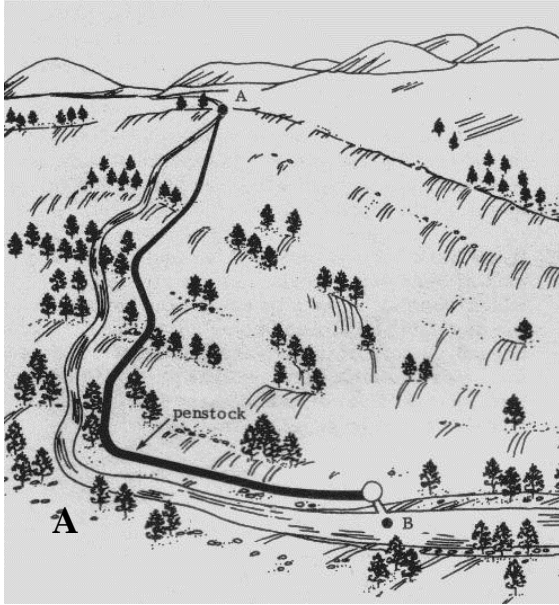
$$\text{Flow} = \frac{\text{volume of bucket (litres)}}{\text{time to fill bucket (seconds)}}$$

SITE PREPARATION

Once the correct head and flow have been located then the length and position of the penstock can be determined. While vertical head is important, the horizontal slope and penstock length may vary although penstock inclination should be $>60^\circ$.

The penstock should be made of steel with internal diameter of 130mm and thickness 5mm. The gate valve (included) must be installed at the high-pressure end of the penstock for closing whenever servicing the turbine.

A good way to reduce penstock length is shown in the following diagram.



The penstock is shown by the black line A-B. In the first diagram (A) the penstock follows the stream. This may lead to unnecessary length and cost. In diagram B, the most direct route is selected to reduce length and cost. Diagram C shows the best alternative where a side channel or 'power conduit' is cut into the side of the hill. This carries the water to a point as close to above the turbine as possible and best reduces the length of penstock required.

The power conduit roughly follows the hill's contour and need only be a simple ditch say 30cm x 30cm in section.

When installing the penstock, try to keep it as straight as possible and avoid sharp turns or angles. To do this, part of the hillslope may need excavating while in other places the penstock may need supporting with poles etc. Steeper terrain has advantages over more gentle terrain as cost is reduced by the use of a shorter penstock.

The forebay, or water holding tank at the top of the penstock is designed to contain a water volume of approximately 2.5x the volume of water in the penstock i.e. 1750 litres. Dimensions of the ideal design are shown in the system diagram although the main point is to ensure that the forebay won't become empty.

The top of the penstock is typically placed not at the bottom but some way up the forebay wall so that the bottom of the forebay acts as a sink for rotting leaf litter, deposited sand and mud etc. This sink may need periodic cleaning out. Another good idea is to cover the end of the penstock with a piece of wire mesh (debris screen) to

keep leaves etc. from flowing in and clogging the turbine. See Appendix B for the ideal forebay design.

SYSTEM INSTALLATION

Mechanical Aspects

After locating a suitable site and completing the civil works, your PowerPal is ready for installation. To do this:

1. Bolt the turbine to a turbine stand or base which allows at least 500mm clearance between the turbine and the ground. This clearance is required to prevent splashback that will disrupt turbine performance. The turbine stand should be made from concrete with the six M16 foundation bolts embedded.
2. Attach the gate valve to the nozzle injector pipe followed by a ~120° elbow bend which will connect to the penstock. The angle will depend on the site slope.
3. Affix a 120° (or other) elbow bend into the forebay wall. This should be fitted with an atmospheric vent (hollow bent pipe), which allows air to escape from the penstock. The upper opening of the atmospheric vent should be higher than the water level in the forebay. Divert water away from the forebay or else block the top of the penstock pipe during the installation procedure.
4. Start installing the penstock. Assembly can begin from either direction. The penstock should be well secured i.e. supported or buried at regular intervals to support its weight when full – this is particularly important at the bottom of the penstock so that PowerPal cannot be knocked over. Several people may be required to install the penstock until it is fitted into both elbow bends.

OPERATION

1. Check that the power conduit and forebay are free of debris.
2. Ensure that the turbine is shut down and that all supply lines are electrically dead. The switch on the door of the control box must be in the ‘off’ position.
3. Fully open both the spear valve and gate valve. The gate valve is always opened when the turbine is operating and is only closed when servicing or repairing the turbine.
4. Fill the forebay and allow the water to flow freely into the penstock. The turbine runner will rotate and spent water will flow out in front of the turbine stand (into an escape drain). Once the water is flowing freely the electrical testing may begin.
5. As the water flow starts to create electric power, the voltage will rise until the voltmeter on the control box reads 230V. If the voltage continues to rise, adjust the water flow with the spear valve so that the voltage stays at 230V. The voltage will then fall to 220V after a minute or two.



Always turn the valve handles slowly and smoothly to avoid sudden changes to water pressure in the penstock. Sudden changes can cause a 'water hammer' effect and rupture the penstock.

6. Operate like this for 15 minutes while observing any unusual noise, excessive temperature or other problems and if OK then use the switch on the control panel door to switch on the power to the user. Up till now the ballast load has been receiving all the power and should be hot, but once switching on the user load the power to the ballast load will fall.
7. The voltage should remain stable as loads are switched on or off. If the voltage falls below 220V then check the water flow conditions. The voltage may need to be checked and adjusted if the water flow rate changes e.g. a prolonged dry period may gradually reduce it.



Do not allow electrical contacts to become wet. Use dry hands. Beware of electrocution.



Do not plug appliances directly into PowerPal without using the load controller. Incorrect voltage may result, which can damage your appliance.

8. Whenever shutting down the system, first close the spear valve to reduce the flow rate and once the voltmeter shows 100V, switch the control box to the 'off' position. Then slowly close the spear valve and then gate valve fully to stop the system.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

General care for your PowerPal will enhance its life. Following the instructions in this manual is important.

Install PowerPal in a place that is unlikely to be flooded. A simple shelter with a roof is required to protect the generator from rain or else a small shed can be built and locked (preferable). If the inside of the generator assembly does become wet it will require drying. No permanent damage will result, but check the bearings to see if they have collected water. Do not try to dry it near a fire. Before using again, make sure that the power socket is also dry. Condensation inside the generator is normal in tropical areas and will not effect the performance of PowerPal, which is 'tropicalized'.

Greasing the Bearings

PowerPal has two bearings in the turbine that require periodic attention – one near the runner inside the turbine casing and the other where the turbine shaft attaches to the generator. Both have been greased in the factory ready for use but require re-greasing every 3 months of continuous use. To do this, clean the nipples and apply extra grease with a grease gun. The turbine should be stopped prior to greasing. The generator bearings are maintenance-free.



Failure to grease the bearings on time will shorten their life and require their replacement. The increased friction will also reduce power output. Always clean the nipple before greasing.

Changing the Bearings and Seal

Apart from greasing the bearing, there are only two tasks that must be completed at regular intervals. These are the changing of both turbine bearings and the bearing seal every two years. See the section on Technical Specifications at the end of this manual for part numbers. These are commonly available in most countries but if in doubt contact your dealer.

To replace the bearings and seal, follow these steps:

1. Shut down the electrical system.
2. Slowly close the gate valve to stop the water supply to the turbine.
3. Disconnect the power cable at the generator.
4. Wait until little or no water flows out of the turbine and the runner stops rotating.
5. Disconnect the direct coupling between the turbine shaft and generator shaft.
6. Disconnect the runner from the turbine shaft.
7. Disconnect the bearing near the runner by pulling the turbine shaft towards the generator.
8. Disconnect the bearing near the generator by pulling the turbine shaft towards the turbine.
9. To replace the bearing seal, push it out of the bearing casing with a small steel rod.
10. When reassembling, make sure that all parts are correctly in place and that all bolts are tightened.
11. Slowly reopen the gate valve until normal water flow resumes. Wait until this occurs before reconnecting the cable and restarting the system.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If any problems are encountered, check this section before contacting your Service Center.

1. *Head and flow conditions appear to be OK, but PowerPal will not work.*

It is likely that the system has been installed incorrectly. Check this by following the steps once more.

2. *PowerPal has provided electricity for a while and suddenly the electricity stops.*

If this instruction manual is not followed and power consumption is too high, or if there is a short circuit in an appliance the fuse in the electronic load controller will break. This will stop the electric current. It is important to replace this fuse with another of the same size (see Technical Specifications below). If the fuse breaks and an oversize fuse is inserted then the generator windings may be damaged in the future. If that happens the generator will need rewiring by an experienced motor rewinder.

3. *Voltage is 220V under zero-load conditions but falls when a load is applied.*

Excessive load has been applied. Reduce the load consumption to see if voltage stabilizes and if not have the control box examined by a competent electrician.

4. *Testing in the stream showed that PowerPal was capable of producing the rated output power (4.7kW on model). However, after running the electrical cable to the house this output power was found to be less.*

Due to resistance from the cable, long cable runs will result in a small loss of output power. Power loss over a 100m cable run is approximately 10W. For log wire runs it is possible to increase the cable diameter.

5. *Power output has been falling recently.*

Falling output suggests that the turbine is rotating more slowly than usual. Make sure that the enough water is entering the forebay and ensure that the source river is adequate for the flow being consumed. Otherwise, check the forebay and penstock filter and clean if necessary. Also check that the inside of the turbine casing is free of leaves and other debris and that the turbine bearing has enough grease.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

	<u>MHG-T8</u>
1 Rated power output	4.7kW
2 Maximum allowable load	As above +15%
3 Intended voltage	220V~
4 Frequency at rated power output	50 Hz
5 Frequency at runaway speed	70 Hz
6 Runaway speed	1500rpm
7 Size of unit (HxWxL) mm	580x1025x1310
8 Weight	164kg
9 Turbine runner type	Turgo
10 Runner diameter	150mm
11 Number of buckets runner	20
12 Number of nozzles	1
13 Generator	Induction
14 Generator end bearing size	SKF 22210
Turbine end bearing size	SKF 22210
15 Sealing ring	Φ80/58-12mm
16 Operating temperature	5 to 50 ° C
17 Operating humidity	0 to 90%

Notes:

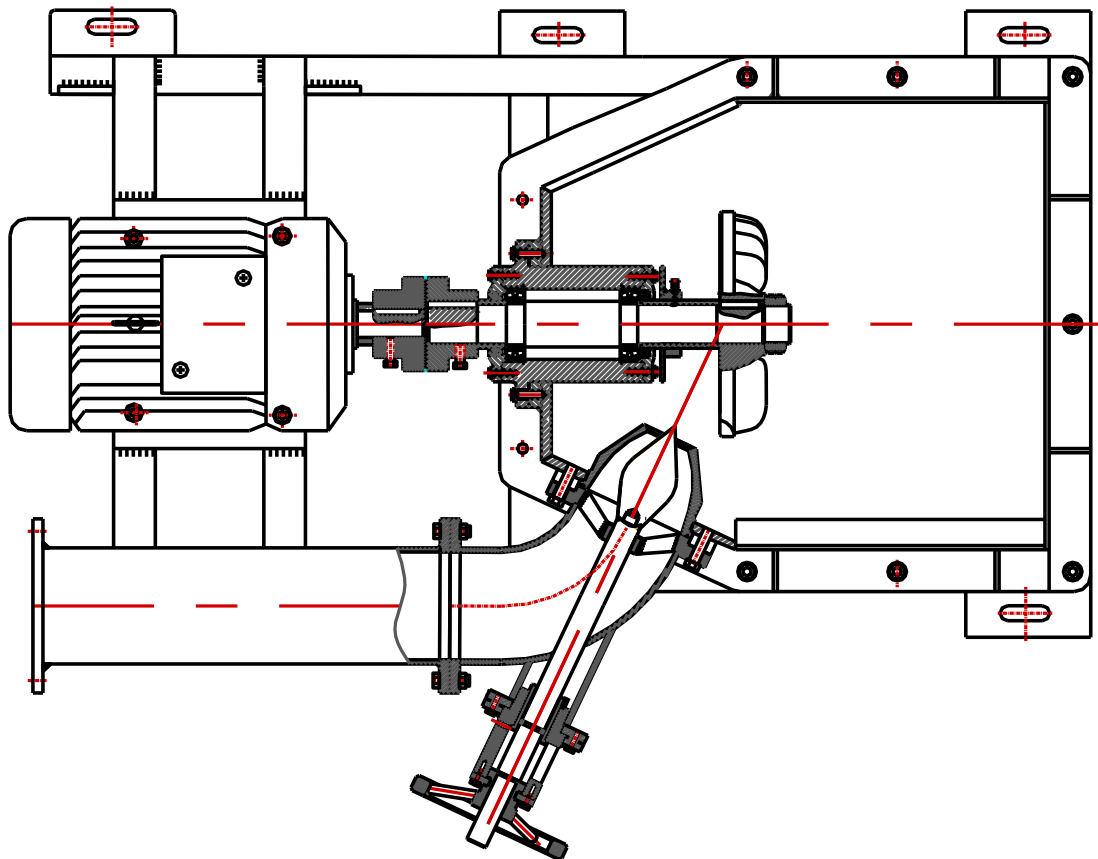
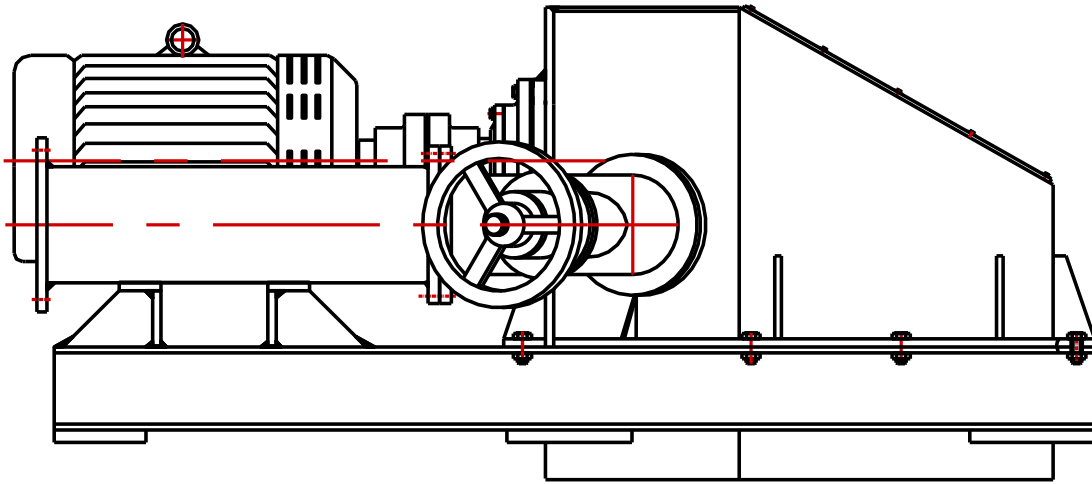
1,2. Rated power output is the manufacturer's specified output for the given head and flow conditions. A higher output is possible if the head is greater or the flow is faster than recommended. If the maximum allowable load is exceeded then permanent damage to the stator may occur.

5,6. Runaway speed is the speed of the rotor if no load is applied. This speed is reduced under load.

14. We recommend SKF brand or similar high quality bearings.

APPENDIX A - ADDITIONAL DRAWINGS WITH DIMENSIONS

The PowerPal T8 Turgo model (single nozzle) is shown here. .



APPENDIX B – FOREBAY DESIGN

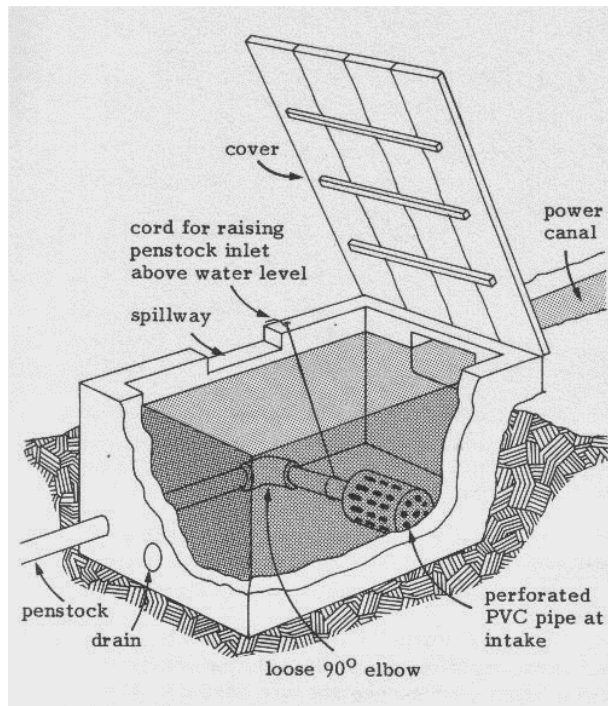
The instructions given on page 7 of this manual to design the forebay are adequate for most cases. The most important aspects of forebay design are:

- 1) To allow a continual flow of water to the penstock so that the turbine keeps functioning.
- 2) To have sufficient safeguards to prevent sand, vegetation and other debris from entering the penstock which could cause blockages and disrupt the

turbine. This includes a safety aspect to keep away children and animals that could possibly be injured by the suction of water entering the penstock.

- 3) To have an easy way to stop the water flow when changing the bearings etc.

The following diagram shows a simple forebay design that may be used to achieve all the above goals.



Here, the forebay is made of a waterproofed box situated between the power canal (power conduit) and the penstock. A loosely fitting elbow is inserted between the penstock inlet and the main penstock pipe. Flow to the penstock is cut off by pulling the cord so that the inlet is out of the water. The plugged drain is used to periodically empty out sand and leaves or else this can be shoveled out. The perforated pipe end further reduces litter intake. Here the number of holes is important so that flow is not obstructed and 50% of the pipe end's surface area should be drilled with 1cm holes.

The cover will help keep the forebay clean and may be locked to keep away children.