UNITS

The FE exam and this handbook use both the metric system of units and the U.S. Customary System (USCS). In the USCS system of units, both force and mass are called pounds. Therefore, one must distinguish the pound-force (lbf) from the pound-mass (lbm).

The pound-force is that force which accelerates one pound-mass at 32.174 ft/sec^2. Thus, 1 lbf = 32.174 lbm-ft/sec^2. The expression 32.174 lbm-ft/(lbf-sec^2) is designated as g_c and is used to resolve expressions involving both mass and force expressed as pounds. For instance, in writing Newton's second law, the equation would be written as $F = ma/g_c$, where F is in lbf, m in lbm, and a is in ft/sec^2.

Similar expressions exist for other quantities. Kinetic Energy, $KE = mv^2/2g_c$, with KE in (ft-lbf); Potential Energy, $PE = mgh/g_c$, with PE in (ft-lbf); Fluid Pressure, $p = \rho gh/g_c$, with p in (lbf/ft^2); Specific Weight, $SW = \rho g/g_c$, in (lbf/ft^3); Shear Stress, $\tau = (\mu/g_c)(dv/dy)$, with shear stress in (lbf/ft^2). In all these examples, g_c should be regarded as a unit conversion factor. It is frequently not written explicitly in engineering equations. However, its use is required to produce a consistent set of units.

Note that the conversion factor g_c [lbm-ft/(lbf-sec^2)] should not be confused with the local acceleration of gravity g, which has different units (m/s^2 or ft/sec^2) and may be either its standard value (9.807 m/s^2 or 32.174 ft/sec^2) or some other local value.

If the problem is presented in USCS units, it may be necessary to use the constant g_c in the equation to have a consistent set of units.

METRIC PREFIXES		
Multiple	Prefix	Symbol
10^{-18}	atto	a
10^{-15}	femto	f
10^{-12}	pico	p
10^{-9}	nano	n
10^{-6}	micro	μ
10^{-3}	milli	m
10^{-2}	centi	c
10^{-1}	deci	d
10^{1}	deka	da
10^{2}	hecto	h
10^{3}	kilo	k
10^{4}	mega	M
10^{9}	giga	G
10^{12}	tera	T
10^{15}	pect	P
10^{18}	exa	E

COMMONLY USED EQUIVALENTS	
1 gallon of water weighs	8.34 lbf
1 cubic foot of water weighs	62.4 lbf
1 cubic inch of mercury weighs	0.491 lbf
The mass of 1 cubic meter of water is	1,000 kilograms

TEMPERATURE CONVERSIONS

ºF = 1.8 (ºC) + 32

ºC = (ºF – 32)/1.8

ºR = ºF + 459.69

K = ºC + 273.15

IDEAL GAS CONSTANTS

The universal gas constant, designated as $\overline{R}$ in the table below, relates pressure, volume, temperature, and number of moles of an ideal gas. When that universal constant, $\overline{R}$, is divided by the molecular weight of the gas, the result, often designated as R, has units of energy per degree per unit mass [kJ/(kg·K) or ft-lbf/(lbm-ºR)] and becomes characteristic of the particular gas. Some disciplines, notably chemical engineering, often use the symbol R to refer to the universal gas constant $\overline{R}$.

FUNDAMENTAL CONSTANTS

Quantity		Symbol	Value	Units
electron charge		e	1.6022×10^{-19}	C (coulombs)
Faraday constant		F	96,485	coulombs/(mol)
gas constant	metric	$\overline{R}$	8,314	J/(kmol•K)
gas constant	metric	$\overline{R}$	8.314	kPa•m^3/(kmol•K)
gas constant	USCS	$\overline{R}$	1,545	ft-lbf/(lb mole-ºR)
		$\overline{R}$	0.08206	L-atm/(mole-K)
gravitation - newtonian constant		G	6.673×10^{-11}	m^3/(kg•s^2)
gravitation - newtonian constant		G	6.673×10^{-11}	N•m^2/kg^2
gravity acceleration (standard)	metric	g	9.807	m/s^2
gravity acceleration (standard)	USCS	g	32.174	ft/sec^2
molar volume (ideal gas), T = 273.15K, p = 101.3 kPa		V_m	22,414	L/kmol
speed of light in vacuum		c	299,792,000	m/s
Stephan-Boltzmann constant		σ	5.67×10^{-8}	W/(m^2•K^4)

CONVERSION FACTORS

Multiply	By	To Obtain
acre	43,560	square feet (ft^2)
ampere-hr (A-hr)	3,600	coulomb (C)
ångström (Å)	1×10^{-10}	meter (m)
atmosphere (atm)	76.0	cm, mercury (Hg)
atm, std	29.92	in, mercury (Hg)
atm, std	14.70	lbf/in^2 abs (psia)
atm, std	33.90	ft, water
atm, std	1.013×10^5	pascal (Pa)
bar	1×10^5	Pa
barrels–oil	42	gallons–oil
Btu	1,055	joule (J)
Btu	2.928×10^{-4}	kilowatt-hr (kWh)
Btu	778	ft-lbf
Btu/hr	3.930×10^{-4}	horsepower (hp)
Btu/hr	0.293	watt (W)
Btu/hr	0.216	ft-lbf/sec
calorie (g-cal)	3.968×10^{-3}	Btu
cal	1.560×10^{-6}	hp-hr
cal	4.186	joule (J)
cal/sec	4.184	watt (W)
centimeter (cm)	3.281×10^{-2}	foot (ft)
cm	0.394	inch (in)
centipoise (cP)	0.001	pascal•sec (Pa•s)
centipoise (cP)	1	g/(m•s)
centistoke (cSt)	1×10^{-6}	m^2/sec (m^2/s)
cubic feet/second (cfs)	0.646317	million gallons/day (mgd)
cubic foot (ft^3)	7.481	gallon
cubic meters (m^3)	1,000	liters
electronvolt (eV)	1.602×10^{-19}	joule (J)
foot (ft)	30.48	cm
ft	0.3048	meter (m)
ft-pound (ft-lbf)	1.285×10^{-3}	Btu
ft-lbf	3.766×10^{-7}	kilowatt-hr (kWh)
ft-lbf	0.324	calorie (g-cal)
ft-lbf	1.356	joule (J)
ft-lbf/sec	1.818×10^{-3}	horsepower (hp)
gallon (US Liq)	3.785	liter (L)
gallon (US Liq)	0.134	ft^3
gallons of water	8.3453	pounds of water
gamma (γ, Γ)	1×10^{-9}	tesla (T)
gauss	1×10^{-4}	T
gram (g)	2.205×10^{-3}	pound (lbm)
hectare	1×10^4	square meters (m^2)
hectare	2.47104	acres
horsepower (hp)	42.4	Btu/min
hp	745.7	watt (W)
hp	33,000	(ft-lbf)/min
hp	550	(ft-lbf)/sec
hp-hr	2,545	Btu
hp-hr	1.98×10^6	ft-lbf
hp-hr	2.68×10^6	joule (J)
hp-hr	0.746	kWh
inch (in)	2.540	centimeter (cm)
in of Hg	0.0334	atm
in of Hg	13.60	in of H_2O
in of H_2O	0.0361	lbf/in^2 (psi)
in of H_2O	0.002458	atm

Multiply	By	To Obtain
joule (J)	9.478×10^{-4}	Btu
J	0.7376	ft-lbf
J	1	newton•m (N•m)
J/s	1	watt (W)
kilogram (kg)	2.205	pound (lbm)
kgf	9.8066	newton (N)
kilometer (km)	3,281	feet (ft)
km/hr	0.621	mph
kilopascal (kPa)	0.145	lbf/in^2 (psi)
kilowatt (kW)	1.341	horsepower (hp)
kW	3,413	Btu/hr
kW	737.6	(ft-lbf)/sec
kW-hour (kWh)	3,413	Btu
kWh	1.341	hp-hr
kWh	3.6×10^6	joule (J)
kip (K)	1,000	lbf
K	4,448	newton (N)
liter (L)	61.02	in^3
L	0.264	gal (US Liq)
L	10^{-3}	m^3
L/second (L/s)	2.119	ft^3/min (cfm)
L/s	15.85	gal (US)/min (gpm)
meter (m)	3.281	feet (ft)
m	1.094	yard
m/second (m/s)	196.8	feet/min (ft/min)
mile (statute)	5,280	feet (ft)
mile (statute)	1.609	kilometer (km)
mile/hour (mph)	88.0	ft/min (fpm)
mph	1.609	km/h
mm of Hg	1.316×10^{-3}	atm
mm of H_2O	9.678×10^{-5}	atm
newton (N)	0.225	lbf
newton (N)	1	kg•m/s^2
N•m	0.7376	ft-lbf
N•m	1	joule (J)
pascal (Pa)	9.869×10^{-6}	atmosphere (atm)
Pa	1	newton/m^2 (N/m^2)
Pa•sec (Pa•s)	10	poise (P)
pound (lbm, avdp)	0.454	kilogram (kg)
lbf	4.448	N
lbf-ft	1.356	N•m
lbf/in^2 (psi)	0.068	atm
psi	2.307	ft of H_2O
psi	2.036	in. of Hg
psi	6,895	Pa
radian	$180/\pi$	degree
stokes	1×10^{-4}	m^2/s
therm	1×10^5	Btu
ton (metric)	1,000	kilogram (kg)
ton (short)	2,000	pound (lb)
watt (W)	3.413	Btu/hr
W	1.341×10^{-3}	horsepower (hp)
W	1	joule/s (J/s)
weber/m^2 (Wb/m^2)	10,000	gauss