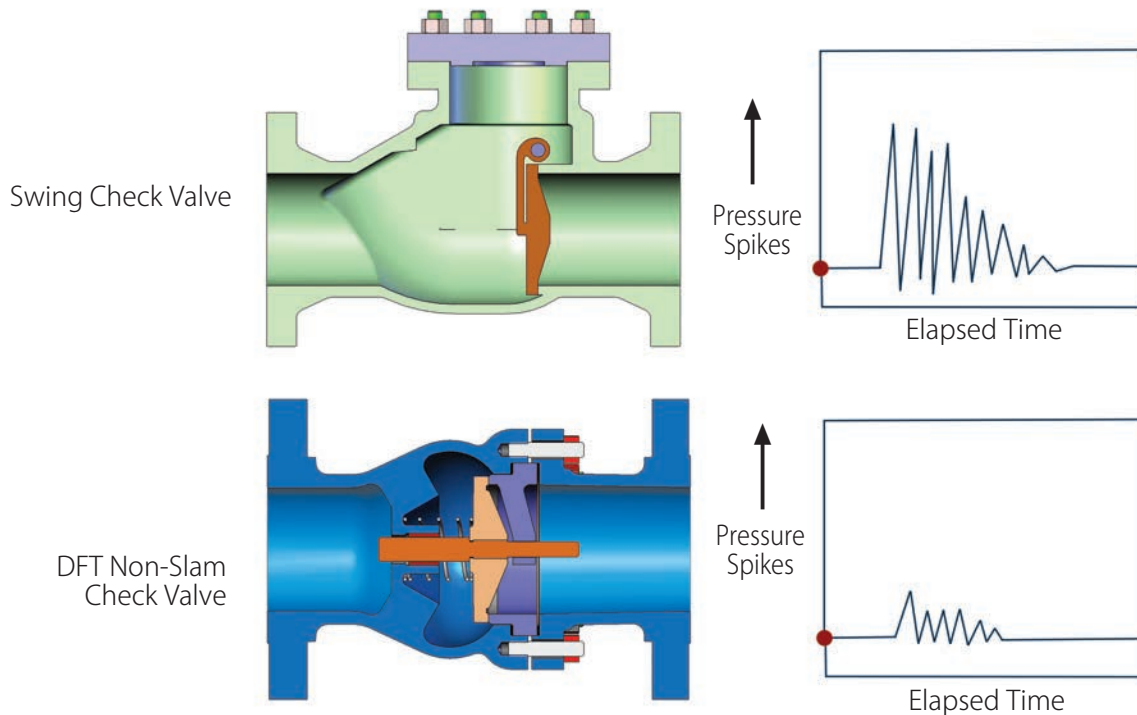


Water Hammer

How DFT Non-Slam Check Valves Prevent Water Hammer

Water hammer is the generation and effect of high-pressure shock waves (transients) in relatively incompressible fluids. Water hammer is caused by the shock waves that are generated when a liquid is stopped abruptly in a pipe by an object such as a valve disc. Symptoms include noise, vibration and hammering pipe sounds which can result in flange breakage, equipment damage, ruptured piping and damage to pipe supports. Whenever incompressible fluids exist in a piping system, the potential exists for water hammer. The risks of water hammer developing are particularly high when the velocity of the fluid is high, when there is a large mass of fluid moving and/or when there are large elevation changes within the piping systems. Since the swing check must rely on gravity and/or fluid flow to help it close, flow reversal must occur before closure begins. When the swing check finally closes, it abruptly stops the flow and causes a pressure surge resulting in shock waves. These shock waves continue until the energy generated from this sudden action dissipates.

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These high-pressure waves act against the piping and the valve, exerting very high forces. This causes severe stress on the metal and vibrations in the system. If the system is not designed to withstand these high transient forces, the pipe could rupture and/or other components in the system, such as pumps and valves, could possibly be damaged. These problems can be eliminated or greatly minimized by installing a spring assisted non-slam check valve. Non-slam check valves do not rely on gravity or fluid flow for their closure. Instead as the forward velocity of the fluid slows, the spring assist on the valve starts to close the disc. Due to the spring assist and the relatively short distance the disc must travel, by the time the forward velocity has decreased to zero, the valve disc has reached the seat and the valve is closed. With reverse flow eliminated, the forces necessary to produce water hammer on both the upstream and downstream sides of the valves are substantially eliminated.