DFC units support both RS-232 and RS-485 communication interfaces.

RS-232 is the standard typically found in personal computers and will be the configuration most often used to communicate with the flow computer from a PC or laptop for local configuration and data retrieval. If more than one flow computer will be connected (multi-drop configuration), or the distance between systems is more than 50 feet, RS-485 will be the interface to use.

This table lists specifications for RS-232 and RS-485 usage.

		RS-232	**RS-485**
Mode of Operation		Single-Ended	Differential
Total Number of Drivers/Receivers on One Line (One Driver Active at a Time for RS-485 Networks)		1 Driver 1 Receiver	32 Driver 32 Receiver
Maximum Cable Length		50 feet	4000 feet
Maximum Data Rate (40' – 4000')		20 kb/s	10 mb/s – 100kb/s
Maximum Driver Output Voltage		+/- 25V	-7V to +12V
Driver Output Signal Level (Min)	Loaded	+/- 5V to +/- 15V	+/- 1.5V
Driver Output Signal Level (Max)	Unloaded	+/- 25V	+/- 6V
Driver Load Impedance (Ohms)		3k to 7k	54
Max Driver Current In High Z State	Power On	n/a	+/- 100 uA
Max Driver Current In High Z State	Power Off	6mA @ 2V	+/- 100 uA
Slew Rate (Max)		30V / uS	n/a
Receiver Input Voltage Range		+/- 15V	-7V to +12V
Receiver Input Sensitivity		+/- 3V	+/- 200mV
Receiver Input Resistance (Ohms) (1 Standard Load for RS-485		3k to 7k	>=12k