How to tell if the Load is a source or sink.

First, you need to check your load to see whether it is a “source” or a “sink”. A source will provide DC power to the 4-20mA interface. A sink draws current, therefore needs an external power supply for the 4-20mA interface.

If you do not know whether your load is a source or a sink, you may use a resistor with the value in the range of 1-10k Ohms to connect across the two input wires from your load, and use a multimeter to measure the voltage across the resistor. If you get more than 0.2VDC, it will be a “source”. Otherwise, it is a “sink”.