Technical Bulletin

Nitrate Removal by

INDION® NSSR

(Nitrate Selective Resin)
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Introduction
- Health Effects
- Nitrate Removal Methods
- Basics of INDION NSSR
- INDION NSSR - Unique Features
- Design Guidelines
- System Hydraulics
- Hand Pump Attachment Unit
- Community Based Plants
- Pre-treatment Requirements
- Packaging, Storage and Safety
INTRODUCTION

- Nitrate is a wide-spread ground and surface water contaminant worldwide.

- The higher concentration of nitrate may be due to excessive use of fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides leaching from animal waste and nitrogen fertilizers.

- Urea is common type of fertilizer used in agriculture due to its higher N content, high solubility.

- The nitrate poses some unique problems to ground water because it moves quickly through the soils with percolating water and it often indicates potential biological contamination.
Nitrate Contamination: Excess Nitrate causes blue baby syndrome in infants (Methaemoglobinemia) Which causes high infant mortality in rural India.

WHO / BIS limit
- 45 ppm as Nitrate
- 10 ppm as Nitrogen

Excess Nitrate has affected people in over 11 states like Punjab Haryana, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh etc. in India. Which is caused by indiscriminate use of a nitrogenous fertilizers and Improper disposal of sewage and industrial effluents.
Nitrate Contamination...

High nitrate level in drinking water leads to infant methaemoglobinaemia (blue-baby syndrome), gastric cancer goiter, metabolic disorder, birth malformations, hypertension and livestock poisoning.
Elevated levels of methemoglobin in the blood is caused when the mechanisms that defend against oxidative stress within the red blood cell are overwhelmed and the oxygen carrying ferrous ion (Fe2+) of the heme group of the hemoglobin molecule is oxidized to the ferric state (Fe3+). This converts hemoglobin to methemoglobin, resulting in reduced ability to release oxygen to tissues and thereby hypoxia. This can make the blood a bluish or chocolate-brown colour.
CONVENTIONAL NITRATE REMOVAL METHODS

• **Biological denitrification,**

Nitrate is readily removed from water by denitrification, a bacterial respiration process which converts nitrate to harmless dinitrogen gas. Denitrification is carried out by numerous bacterial species found in soil and aquatic environment.

• **Reverse osmosis (RO)**

RO system uses non-selective membrane to remove almost all dissolved contaminants from the water. RO is used to remove dangerous contaminant like nitrate also.
CONVENTIONAL NITRATE REMOVAL METHODS

• **Electrodialysis**
  Electrically driven process that uses a voltage potential to drive charged ions through a semi-permeable membrane, reducing the TDS in the source water. The process uses alternating, semi-permeable cation (positively charged ion) and anion (negatively charged ion) transfer membranes in a direct-current (DC) voltage potential field. The source water flows between the cation and anion membranes via flow spacers that are placed between the membranes.

• **Nitrate selective - ion exchange process**
  In the ion exchange process nitrate ions are exchanged by chloride. When all chloride ions are exchanged with nitrate ions the resin is exhausted. Resin is regenerated with sodium chloride solution. The regeneration waste is to be disposed in drainage/sewage.
INDION NSSR is a macroporous strong basic anion resin which is tailor-made to suit removal of nitrate ions from water for potable use.

The proper mix of physico-chemical properties gives ideal nitrate exchange kinetics to this resin making it suitable for nitrate removal in the presence of sulphate ions.

High concentration of nitrate in water is a potential hazard for two reasons.

- The nitrate ions form complexes with the blood and in the long run cause oxygen depletion affecting human life.
- The flow of nitrate bearing water through iron pipes can cause depletion of oxygen leading to corrosion.

In view of these difficulties use of an Ion Exchange resin is the preferred process for nitrate removal.
INDION NSSR – Unique Features

- Good physical and mechanical strength
- High nitrate selectivity
- Resin life 2-3 years
- Excellent adaptability and can be used in conventional filters, community and POE units.
- Easy disposal in drainage
- Excellent hydraulics and fast kinetics
- Gold Seal /NSF- 61 Certification

INDION NSSR
Gold Seal /NSF- 61 Certification

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INDION NSSR
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### DESIGN GUIDELINES

#### Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appearance</th>
<th>Opaque off white to brown beads</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ionic form as supplied</td>
<td>Chloride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moisture holding capacity</td>
<td>45 - 55 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Particle size range</td>
<td>0.3 to 1.2 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;1.2 mm</td>
<td>5.0%, maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 0.3 mm:</td>
<td>1.0%, maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum operating temperature</td>
<td>100 °C in Cl form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducing and oxidizing agent</td>
<td>should be absent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Operating Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bed Depth</th>
<th>1.0 m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate Level</td>
<td>200 ppm max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDS Level</td>
<td>1200 ppm max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating pH range</td>
<td>6 - 8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regenerant</td>
<td>NaCl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regeneration level</td>
<td>125g/l of resin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SYSTEM HYDRAULICS PRESSURE LOSS

Pressure loss across the bed for different velocities and temperatures.

% Bed expansion at different flow rates and temperatures.
Leakage: The leakage of Nitrate (CCR) at the outlet of NSSR
HAND PUMP ATTACHMENT UNIT

Advantages

- Sturdy
- Economical
- Does not require electricity
- Easy to operate
- Common salt (NaCl) required for recharge
- Ideal for rural applications
- Long life
- Flow of unit is 8-10 lpm
- Directly attached to hand pump
HAND PUMP ATTACHMENT UNIT
### STANDARD SYSTEMS
FOR DOMESTIC / COMMUNITY BASED UNIT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Max Flow m³/h</th>
<th>Specifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NGNRF 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>• One vertical cylindrical FRP pressure vessel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGNRF 2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>• One set of frontal pipe work and valves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGNRF 3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>• Two pressure gauges to monitor head loss across the NSSR system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGNRF 4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>• Maximum / minimum operating pressure will be 3.5 kg/cm² and 2.0 kg/cm² respectively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGNRF 5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGNRF 7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGNRF 10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INDION NSSR is a robust media with good mechanical strength and generally requires minimal pretreatment. However, the presence of high levels of suspended solids and biological organic matter may foul the media, resulting in the reduction in capacity and life span of the media. Hence, we recommend pretreatment with INDION NSSR for removal of suspended particles and other organic matter.

**INDION NSSR Pretreatment**

- Removal of organics
- Monitoring pH and removal of suspended solids
- Removal of scale forming compounds
PACKAGING, STORAGE AND SAFETY

Packing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Packaging</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDPE lined bags</td>
<td>25/50 lts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super sack</td>
<td>1000 lts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With liner bags</td>
<td>180 lts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS drums</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Packaging</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LDPE bags</td>
<td>1 cft/25 lts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super sack</td>
<td>35 cft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with liner bags</td>
<td>7 cft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiber drums</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Storage

Ion exchange resins require proper care at all times. The resin must never be allowed to become dry. Regularly open the plastic bags and check the condition of the resin when in storage. If not moist, add enough clean demineralised water and keep it in completely moist condition. Always keep the resin drum in the shade. Recommended storage temperature is between 20°C - 40°C.

Safety

Acid and alkali solutions are corrosive and should be handled in a manner that will prevent eye and skin contact. If any oxidizing agents are used, necessary safety precautions should be observed to avoid accidents and damage to the resin.