

Contents

General Information

Abbreviations and Acronyms 6

Chapter 1 Wastewater Treatment and the Development of Activated Sludge 8

- The Importance of Wastewater Treatment 8
- The Scope of the Problem 8
 - Sewage Composition 8
 - Concentrations of Ammonia, Nitrate and Phosphate in Wastewater 9
 - Flows 10
 - Inflow and Infiltration 10
 - Population Equivalent (PE) 11
- Some of the Solutions to the Wastewater Disposal Problem 11
 - Lagoons 12
 - Fixed Film Treatment (Trickling Filters) 12
 - Activated Sludge 13

Chapter 2 Hazards Risks and Control Points 14

- Hazards 14
- Hazardous Events 16
- Control Points 16
 - Critical Limits and Target Criteria 17
 - Corrective Actions, Incident and Emergency Management 18
 - Monitoring 18
 - Sampling 19

Chapter 3 The Bugs. The Good, Bad and Ugly 20

- The Activated Sludge Ecosystem 20
 - Mixed Liquor 20
 - Microscopic Examination of the Mixed Liquor 21
 - Bulking and Foaming 25

Chapter 4 Biological Nutrient Removal 29

- Basic Activated Sludge Carbon Chemistry 29
 - Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) 29
- The Role of Bacteria in Wastewater Treatment 30
 - Carbon (COD) Removal 31
 - Nitrogen Removal 32
 - Nitrification 33
 - Denitrification 34
 - Simultaneous Nitrification Denitrification (SND) 35
 - Phosphorus Removal 36
 - Biological Nutrient Removal Summary 42

Chapter 5 Chemical Phosphorus Removal 43

- Dosing Points 44
- Mixing 45
- Alkalinity and pH 46
- Theoretical Dosing Required 46
- Jar Testing 48
- Total Dissolved Solids and MLVSS 48
- Residual Iron and Aluminium Levels 48
- Monitoring 49
- Anaerobic Digester Performance 49
- Sludge Volumes 49

Chapter 6	Activated Sludge Plant Configurations	50
	• Continuous Plants	50
	• Oxidation Ditch Systems	54
	• Intermittent Systems	55
Chapter 7	Operation and Optimisation of Activated Sludge Plants	57
	• Principles of Operation	57
	◦ Sludge Age	57
	◦ Wasting	57
	◦ Separation	57
	◦ Nutrient Balance	58
	◦ Protection from Toxic Material	58
	• Optimisation of the Plant	58
	1. Collect Relevant Drawings and Manuals	58
	2. Label all Pits, Valves, Sampling Points and Directions of Flow	58
	3. Control Wasting to Achieve the Required Sludge Age	59
	4. Maintain a Good Settling Biomass	63
	5. Control DO and Monitor the Oxygen Uptake Rate (OUR)	69
	6. Ensure Sufficient Alkalinity and Suitable pH	71
	7. Ensure Necessary Nutrient and Nutrient Ratios are Available	73
	8. Manage Internal Recycles and RAS in Continuous Plants	75
	9. Observe Reactors and Clarifiers Regularly	76
	10. Manage any Return Streams	76
	11. Manage Peak and Holiday Population Flows	77
	12. Know the Hydraulic Retention Time (HRT)	78
	• Summary Requirements for N removal	79
	• Summary Requirements for EBPR	79
Chapter 8	Aeration	81
	• Mechanical Aerators	82
	• Diffused Air	84
	• Oxygen Transfer	88
	• Oxygen Transfer Efficiency	88
	• Mixing	89
	• Carbon Dioxide Stripping and pH	89
Chapter 9	Prefermentation	90
	• Activated Primary Tanks and Sidestream Fermenters	90
	• Process Principles	92
	◦ Activated Primary Tank (APT)	92
	◦ Side-stream Fermenters	94
	• Additional Operational Checks	94
	◦ APT and Side-stream Fermenters	94
	◦ Side-stream Fermenters	95
	◦ Monitoring	95
	• RAS Fermentation	95

Chapter 10 Intermittent Systems	96
• Basic Features of SBR and IDEA Plants	96
• The Intermittent Cycle	98
◦ Differences between intermittent and continuous plants.....	100
• Types of Decant Systems.....	100
• Modifications for Nutrient Removal	104
◦ Denitrification	105
◦ Simultaneous Nitrification Denitrification (SND).....	107
◦ Phosphorus Removal.....	107
◦ Consequences of Operating Intermittent Plants for Nutrient Removal	108
• Operation of Intermittent Plants.....	109
◦ Depth Variance with Time	109
◦ Increased Outflow from each Tank	110
◦ Clearance Depth during Decant.....	111
◦ Staggering of Cycles	113
◦ Conditions in the Biomass Change during Settling and Decant	113
◦ Changes to Operational Parameters	115
• Modifications for Peak Flow (Storm) Events.....	118
• The Bio-Denitro and Bio-Denipho Hybrid Systems	122
Chapter 11 Monitoring the Activated Sludge Process	126
• Sampling	126
• Types of Samples.....	126
◦ Grab Sample.....	126
◦ Composite Sampling.....	127
• Sample Storage, Preservation and Transport	128
• Laboratory Analysis.....	128
• Online Continuous Monitoring: Avoiding Sampling, Storage and Transport Errors	128
• Process Monitoring.....	129
◦ Influent Control Point	129
◦ Anaerobic Zone Control Point.....	130
◦ Anoxic Zone Control Point	130
◦ Aerobic Zone Control Point.....	131
◦ Clarifier Control Point.....	131
◦ Return Stream from Solids Processing Control Point	131
• Monitoring Raw Sewage	132
Chapter 12 Secondary Clarifiers	133
• Types of Clarifiers.....	133
• Rectangular Clarifiers	133
◦ Removal of Sludge	134
• Circular Clarifier.....	134
• Clarifier Operation	136
◦ Operational Parameters.....	136
• Monitoring Clarifier Performance.....	139
◦ Final Effluent Turbidity and Suspended Solids	139
◦ Return Activated Sludge (RAS) Solids.....	139
◦ Depth of the Sludge Blanket	139
◦ Scraper Checks	140
• Optimisation	140
Chapter 13 Trouble Shooting	141
• 1. General Activated Sludge Plant Trouble Shooting	141
• 2. Control of Bulking and Foaming	145
• 3. Clarifier Trouble Shooting.....	146

Chapter 14 Online Monitoring and Instrumental Control	150
• Influent Load Measurement (BOD, COD, COD _f , RBCOD).....	151
◦ How is it measured?	152
• Dissolved Oxygen	154
◦ Measurement Scenarios.....	156
◦ DO Control.....	157
• pH and EC.....	160
• MLSS.....	160
• Ammonia	161
◦ Measurement of Ammonia in Wastewater	161
◦ Measurement Scenarios.....	161
◦ How Does Ammonia Based Control Work?	162
◦ Location of Ammonia Probes.....	162
• Nitrate.....	163
◦ Measurement of Nitrate in Wastewater.....	163
◦ Measurement Scenarios.....	163
• Phosphorus	165
◦ Measurement of Phosphorus in Wastewater	165
◦ Use of Online Phosphorus Analysers	165
• Installation of Online Analysers	166
◦ Sample Location	166
◦ Instrument Turn Down	166
◦ Sample Pre-preparation.....	167
• Calibration of Online Analysers.....	168
Chapter 15 Modelling the Activated Sludge Process	171
• What is a Process Model?	171
• Why Use a Model?	172
• Building a Model.....	172
Step 1. Define the Project	172
Step 2. Configure the Model.....	173
Step 3. Data Collection and Checking	174
Step 4. Verify the Model.....	176
Step 5. Apply the Model to Investigate Optimisation or Proposals for Upgrades.....	178
• Some Examples of Modelling Outcomes.....	180
Case Study 1: Solids Capture	180
Case Study 2: Nutrient Removal Optimisation	181
Chapter 16 Closing Words	183
Appendix	
• A. Method to Determine Flocculated Filtered COD and Readily Biodegradable COD	184