

Nitrification Control

Technical Information

Nitrification excursions in the distribution system are controlled by the use of chlorine dioxide. Chlorine dioxide offers utilities a simple solution to nitrification excursions, without compromising regulatory compliance.

- Broad spectrum antimicrobial activity
- Effective over a wide pH range
- 2.6 times the oxidizing capacity of chlorine
- Does not chlorinate or form halogenated disinfection by-products (DBPs)
- Selective chemistry; no reaction with ammonia
- Easily implemented and fed to system
- Not temperature-sensitive
- Residuals easily analyzed
- Bacteria, protozoa, and virus inactivation
- Cost-effective alternative

Many potable water plants are switching to chloramines as a means of staying in compliance with the Stage One and Stage Two Disinfectant and Disinfection By-Product (DPB) Rules. Chloramination is commonly used for secondary disinfection purposes to control microbial growth in finished water. Chloramine use is expected to increase two-fold, as a result of the Stage Two DBP Rule.

Nitrification is a microbial process by which reduced nitrogen compounds, which are mainly ammonia, are sequentially oxidized to nitrite and nitrate. The root cause for nitrification is usually the combination of excess free ammonia as a substrate to nitrifying bacteria and long detention times in the distribution system. Nitrification episodes usually result in adverse water quality problems, such as decreases in alkalinity, pH, and dissolved oxygen, as well as depleting chloramine residuals and the promotion of bacterial regrowth in the distribution system.

Nitrification mitigation techniques, such as flushing, break-point chlorination, or switching to free chlorine, are all strategies that have been used successfully, but can result in compliance problems. Chlorine dioxide or sodium chlorite fed in low dosages has been shown to be very effective at controlling nitrification episodes, while maintaining compliance with DBP Rules.

Easy Solution

Chlorine dioxide does not react with ammonia and is fully available to oxidize ammonia and nitrogen oxidizing bacteria (AOB and NOB). This selective chemistry will retain its full capacity, without having to overcome any ammonia-related demand, allowing it to be fed at extremely low dosages. The use of chlorine dioxide allows the utility to continue to feed chloramines for residual microbial protection, while still achieving the intended DBP compliance.

Additionally, the reduction by-product of chlorine dioxide is chlorite ion, which has been proven to inhibit AOB and NOB in the distribution system. This would allow a facility to utilize chlorine dioxide for a number of disinfection or oxidative purposes on the raw water, along with the benefits of nitrification control from the by-product chlorite ion in the distribution system.

Versatile Disinfectant

Chlorine dioxide's use is not limited to nitrification control in potable water systems. This versatile disinfectant also can be used as a primary disinfectant in potable water, as it reduces or controls bacteria, viruses, cysts, and algae, while being effective over wide temperature and pH ranges. Using chlorine dioxide will help optimize overall treatment efficiencies, including improved coagulation, reduced turbidities, improved particulate removals, improved CT values, and lower trihalomethane (THM) and haloacetic acid (HAA) levels.

Chlorine dioxide is a powerful oxidant with CT values second only to ozone in biocidal efficacy, but without the high capital expenditures or ozonation by-products. In addition, chlorine dioxide does not have the solids loading problem or lengthy detention times associated with potassium permanganate. Using chlorine dioxide does not result in the formation of chlorinated or brominated disinfection by-products, such as THMs or HAAs. A reduction by-product of chlorine dioxide is chlorite ion, which is regulated under the Stage One and Stage Two DBP Rules at 1.0 mg/L maximum contaminant level (MCL).

At typical dosage rates, chlorine dioxide can be used successfully to help control nitrification problems, without exceeding the MCL.

Low Capital/Easily Implemented

Chlorine dioxide cannot be compressed and shipped in a container and must be generated on-site. An ADOX™ on-site generator produces chlorine dioxide solution safely under vacuum and delivers the solution to the point of application. Chlorine dioxide is fed similarly to existing chlorine disinfection treatment systems, often using the existing feed piping. The ADOX™ generators use ERCOPure™ sodium chlorite as the precursor solution to chlorine dioxide, which is available from International Dioxide. There are numerous types of affordable generators available from International Dioxide that can be quickly deployed to meet your treatment needs.

Additional Uses

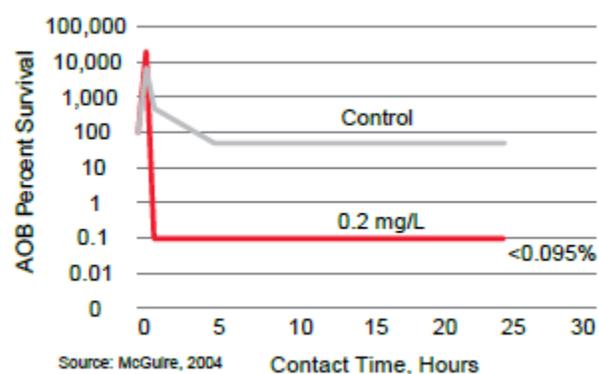
Chlorine dioxide's broad spectrum capabilities enable it to be used in a variety of potable water applications:

- Iron and Manganese Control
- Improved Disinfection Credits (C x T)
- THM and HAA Control
- Color and Algae Control
- Taste and Odor Control
- Cryptosporidium Control
- Zebra Mussel Control

Approvals

The use of chlorine dioxide is approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. The ERCOPure™ sodium chlorite precursor solutions carry U.S. EPA registrations and are ANSI/NSF Standard 60 Drinking Water Additive certified.

Survival of AOB as Affected by Chlorite Ion



Information Available

International Dioxide, a division of ERCO Worldwide, has specialized in chlorine dioxide technologies for over 70 years, and is a leading supplier of sodium chlorite solutions and generator technology for a wide variety of markets. For additional information please contact the sales office at 1-800-477-6071 or online at idiclo2.com

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