



Sodium Chlorite Poultry Process Water

Application Description

The processing of poultry carcasses for packaging provides significant potential for bacterial contamination. Most bacterial contamination occurs on the body surface, and may come from flora on the skin, mud, or filth from the feet or from crop material or feces forced out of the bird during processing. Removal of this contamination is accomplished by washing during the processing operation.

Following washing, the birds are submerged in chilled water (34 °F) to remove the body heat as quickly as possible. The chilled water soon becomes contaminated, and can lead to cross contamination of the birds. USDA regulations require the use of antimicrobial pesticides to control the microbial population in poultry chill water.

Chlorine has historically been the pesticide of choice for treatment of poultry processing water. However, chlorine has been known to react with organic contaminants in the process water to form potentially harmful trihalomethanes (THMs).

In 1995, the FDA published a final rule permitting chlorine dioxide to be used as an antimicrobial agent in water used in poultry processing. In addition, in 1996 the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service issued *FSIS Directive 6355.1* authorizing the use of chlorine dioxide in poultry chill water. Chlorine dioxide generated from OxyChem's sodium chlorite pesticide registered products has been demonstrated to be effective in this application.

Chlorine dioxide is effective at lower dosage levels than those required with chlorine. Unlike chlorine, it does not form trihalomethanes in the process.

Feed Requirements

For effective control of the microbial population in poultry process water, apply sodium chlorite as necessary

through a chlorine dioxide generation system to maintain a residual concentration of up to 3 parts per million (ppm) chlorine dioxide at the overflow of the chill tank.

NOTE: The generator effluent must contain at least 90% (by wt.) purity chlorine dioxide. (21 CFR§173.300)

Method of Feed

For poultry chill water applications, chlorine dioxide should be fed below the water level in the chill water tank.

Chlorine Dioxide Analysis

Residual chlorine dioxide concentrations must be determined by an appropriate method in accordance with 21 CFR§173.300.

One suitable analytical method, Method 4500-CIO₂ E. (Amperometric Method II) is published in *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*¹.

Further Information

More detailed information on sodium chlorite is available on request through OxyChem Technical Service Department. Call or write to:

OxyChem Technical Service Department
6200 S. Ridge Rd.
Wichita, Kansas 67215
800-733-1165 option #1
OxyChem_Tech_Service@oxy.com

References

1. *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, APHA, AWWA and WEF, Washington, D.C. (20th Ed., 1998).

600-508 Sodium Chlorite 12/2022



Wichita Technical Service Department
6200 South Ridge Road, Wichita, KS 67215
Tel: 800-733-1165 ext. 1
OxyChem_Tech_Service@oxy.com

Important: The information presented herein, while not guaranteed, was prepared by technical personnel and is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge. NO WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, OR WARRANTY OR GUARANTY OF ANY OTHER KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, IS MADE REGARDING PERFORMANCE, SAFETY, SUITABILITY, STABILITY OR OTHERWISE. This information is not intended to be all-inclusive as to the manner and conditions of use, handling, storage, disposal, and other factors that may involve other or additional legal, environmental, safety or performance considerations, and Occidental Chemical Corporation assumes no liability whatsoever for the use of or reliance upon this information. While our technical personnel will be happy to respond to questions, safe handling and use of the product remains the responsibility of the customer. No suggestions for use are intended as, and nothing herein shall be construed as, a recommendation to infringe any existing patents or to violate any Federal, State, local or foreign laws.