

# RO Training Materials

for

## Shuaibah III Expansion RO Project

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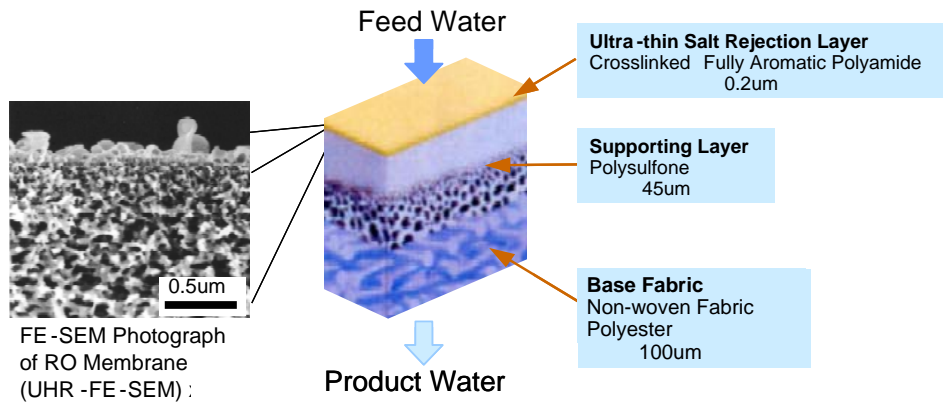


**Toray RO membrane  
Training Module # 1  
Basic Terminology**

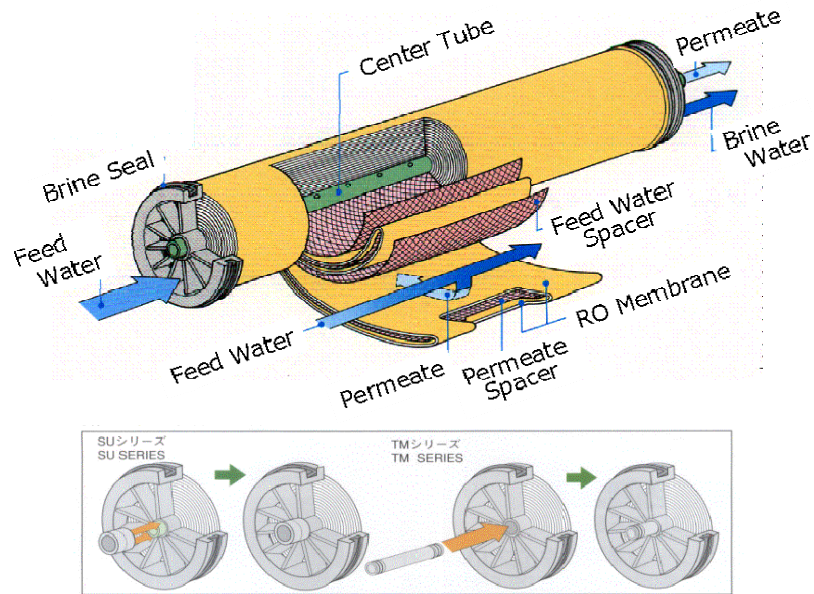
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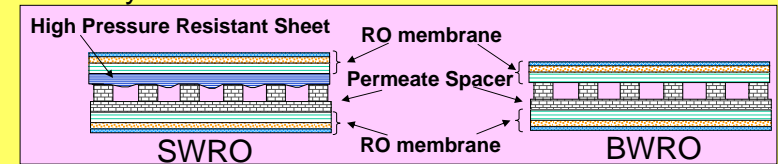
- A reverse osmosis element can take several forms
  - Flat sheet, in a plate and frame device
  - Tubular
  - Spiral wound
  - Hollow Fine Fiber
- Our discussion is limited to the Spiral Wound configuration. This is the most commonly used configuration for large scale water and waste water reclamation purposes



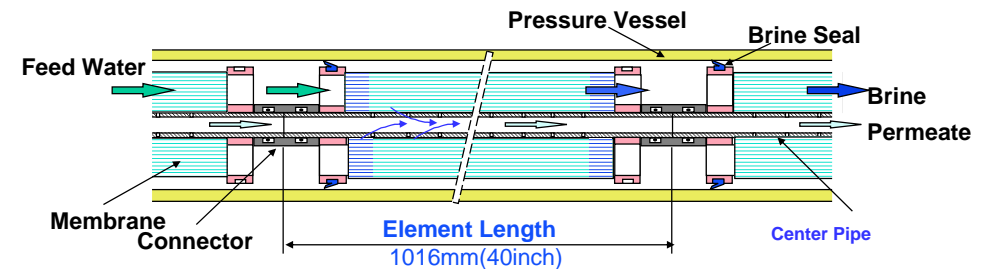
- The membrane layer which makes the separation is extremely thin (approximately 200 nanometer)
- It is supported on a porous polysulphone backing layer which gives the membrane layer some strength (approximately 45 micron thick)
- The polysulphone is itself supported on a non-woven polyester backing fabric (approximately 100 micron thick)



- The pressurized feed water flows in an axial direction through the **feed/brine spacer mesh** (commonly referred to as “Vexar”)
- The pressure forces some of the feed water through the **membrane layer**, leaving the majority of the dissolved salts on the feed side of the membrane. The water crossing the membrane is called **permeate**
- The permeate is collected in the **permeate spacer** material
- The permeate spacer material is located between 2 sheets of membrane. The 2 sheets of membrane plus the permeate spacer is collectively called a **leaf**

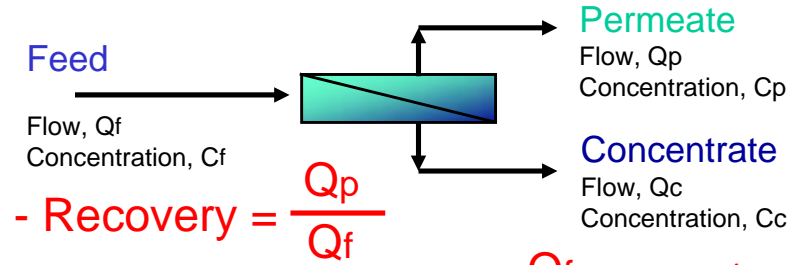


- The permeate carrier material is sealed to the 2 layers of membrane on 3 sides (both ends, plus the outer edge). The inner edge of the permeate carrier material is adjacent to the **central product tube (permeate center pipe)**
- Permeate entering the product carrier material travels down the leaf to the central product tube.
- An 8” diameter element will have multiple leaves, each terminating at the central product tube. Shorter leaves are preferable to improve the efficiency of operation of the element



- Elements can be coupled together in series, typically up to 7 x 40” long elements.
- The elements are located inside a pressure vessel.
- The pressure vessel has offset feed and brine ports, and central ports at each end for removing the permeate

- Recovery Rate & Concentration Factor
- Array
- Interbank Booster Pumps
- Permeate Back Pressure
- Flux
- Salt Rejection & Salt Passage
- Scaling
- Fouling
- Differential Pressure



$$\text{Recovery} = \frac{Q_p}{Q_f}$$

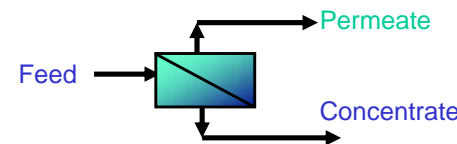
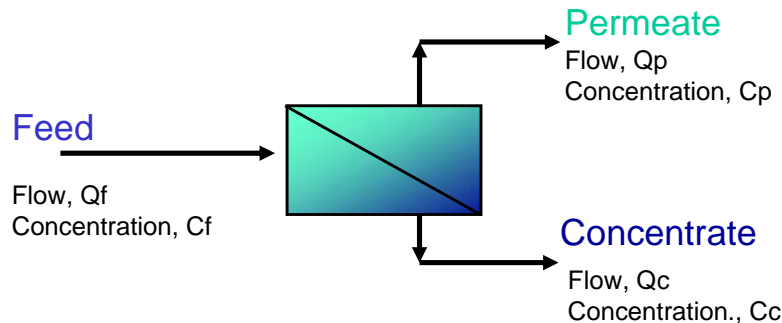
$$\text{Concentration Factor} = \frac{Q_f}{Q_c} = \frac{1}{1 - \text{Recovery}}$$

Relationship between Recovery and Concentration Factor

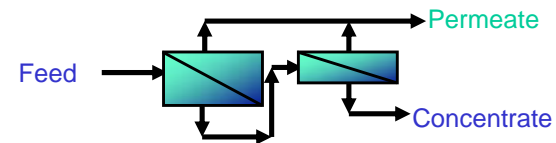
Recovery	Concentration Factor
50%	2
75%	4
87.5%	8
90%	10

With high rejection membrane, concentration factor gives us a good feel for how highly salts will be concentrated in the Brine stream

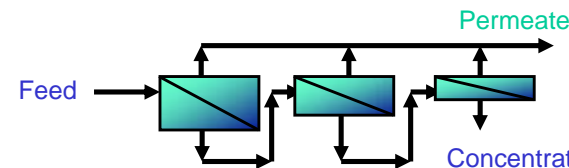
An array is a set of RO elements consisting of banks of vessels connected in parallel. If there is more than one bank, the banks are concentrate staged



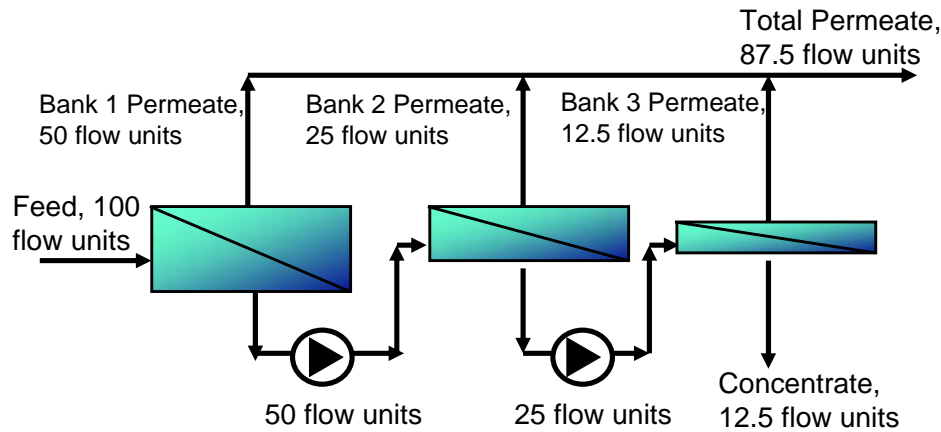
1 bank system  
- Low recovery SWRO (< 45%)



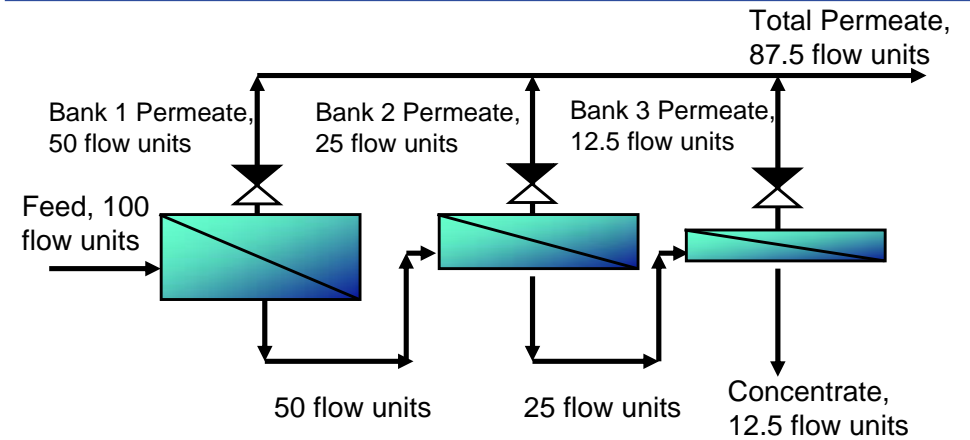
2 bank system  
- BWRO system (< 80%)  
- High Recovery SWRO (< 60%)  
- High Recovery 2nd Pass (< 90%)



3 bank system  
- High Recovery BWRO system (< 90%)  
- High Recovery 2nd Pass (< 95%)



Interbank Booster pumps are used to equalize flow/ flux between banks



Permeate Back Pressure can be caused by discharging permeate to elevated storage tanks/ degasser towers, in which case it applied equally on all banks

Permeate Back pressure can also be applied to selected banks (usually bank 1) with a throttling valve to restrict the flow from that bank to equalize fluxes

- Ave. System Flux =  $\frac{Q_{pt}}{S_t}$  Where:  
 $Q_{pt}$  : Total permeate flow rate  
 $S_t$  : Total active membrane surface

- Element Flux =  $\frac{Q_{pi}}{S_i}$  Where:  
 $Q_{pi}$  : Single element permeate flow rate  
 $S_i$  : Single element membrane surface

Average system flux and highest single element flux are one of the most important factor for good RO system operation.

Different average system fluxes are recommended for each raw water source and pretreatment system.

- Salt Rejection =  $1 - \frac{C_p}{C_{fb}}$  Where:  
 $C_p$  : Permeate concentration of a salt  
 $C_{fb}$  : Feed - Brine Ave. concentration of a salt

- Salt Passage =  $1 - Rej. = \frac{C_p}{C_{fb}}$

- Rejection is the measure of how well a particular dissolved ion or compound is retained on the feed side of the membrane.
- Salt passage is defined as the ratio of concentration in the permeate of a particular dissolve ion or compound to salt concentration in the Feed stream of the same ion or compound

• Typical Salt rejection calculations are made for:

1. Conductivity (a measure of all dissolved ions)
2. Chloride ion
3. Hardness
4. Sulphate
5. TOC
6. Silica

Where:

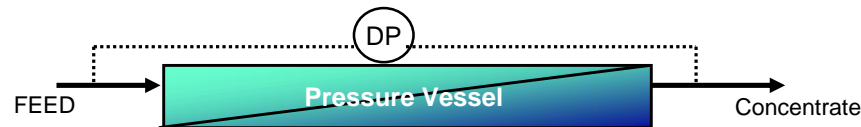
$C_p$  : Permeate concentration of a salt  
 $C_{fb}$  : Feed – Brine Ave. concentration of a salt

- The deposition of sparingly soluble salts onto the membrane surface and/or the feed channel material.
  - Scaling occurs primarily in the downstream elements because of the higher concentrations existing in this portion of the RO system.
  - Common scalants include
    - calcium sulfate,
    - calcium carbonate.
    - Silica
  - Less common Scalants include
    - Calcium Phosphate
    - Calcium Fluoride
    - Barium sulfate

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- The deposition of suspended particles on the membrane surface.
  - Foulant on the membrane surface increases the resistance to the flow of water through the membrane.
  - Fouling causes lower productivity at constant net pressure or higher net pressure at constant productivity.
  - Sometimes higher salt passage will be caused by fouling.

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- ♦ Increase of normalized *Differential Pressure* indicates fouling of feed / brine channel.
- ♦ Typical causes of DP increase.
  - ♦ Upstream :
    - Suspended solids, colloid, bacteria, silt, clay, iron corrosion and pretreatment coagulant in the feedwater
  - ♦ Downstream : scaling
  - ♦ Any stage mainly lead position : Biological fouling

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**Toray RO membrane  
Training Module # 2  
Factor affecting RO  
performance**

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**MF/UF & RO : What is the difference ? (1)**

**MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION**

**MF / UF**

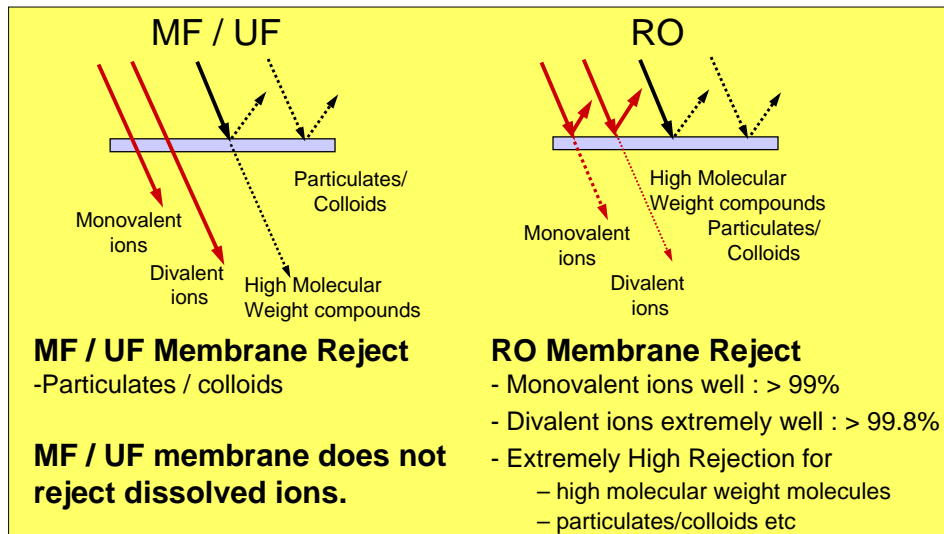
- One asymmetric material layer – polysulphone, polyacrylonitrile, PVDF
- Homogeneity allows backwash to be made frequently

**RO**

- 2 stage process:
  - Polysulphone cast onto backing fabric
  - membrane layer (200 - 300 nm) coated onto polysulphone
- Risk of de-lamination if backwashed - surface clean only

**MF/UF & RO : What is the difference ? (2)**

**SEPARATIONS - WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?**



**MF/UF & RO : What is the difference ? (3)**

**Particle size and Separation Process**

Size	0.0001 $\mu\text{m}$ 1 Å	0.001 $\mu\text{m}$ 1nm	0.01 $\mu\text{m}$	0.1 $\mu\text{m}$	1 $\mu\text{m}$	10 $\mu\text{m}$	100 $\mu\text{m}$ 0.1mm
Particles and Solute	Metal Ion	Trihalomethane	Pesticide Organic Material	Virus	Colloid	Clay	Suspended Solid Cryptosporidium Algae, Mud
Membrane							
Application							

Legend for Membrane Application:

- RO** (Reverse Osmosis): 0.0001  $\mu\text{m}$  to 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$
- NF** (Nanofiltration): 0.001  $\mu\text{m}$  to 10  $\mu\text{m}$
- UF** (Ultrafiltration): 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 100  $\mu\text{m}$
- MF** (Microfiltration): 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to 100  $\mu\text{m}$



Van't Voff Equation

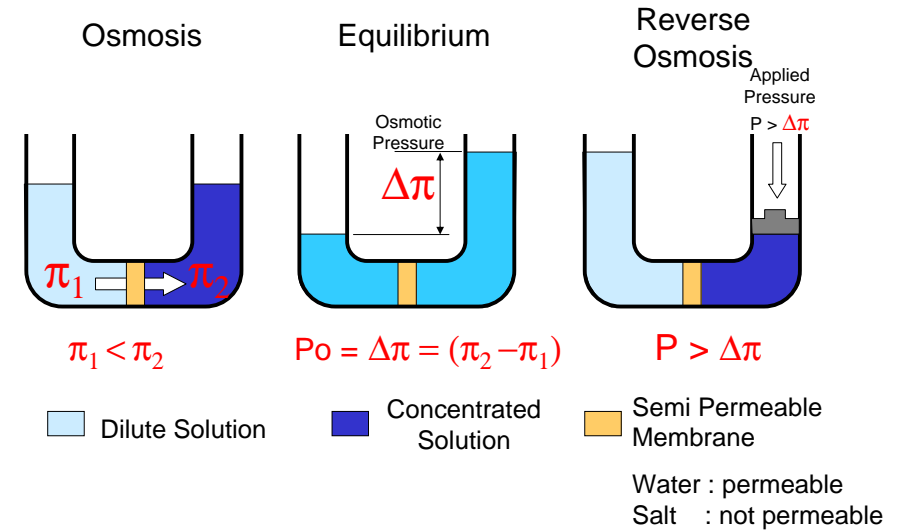
$$\pi = \frac{nRT}{V}$$

WHERE: n = Moles  
 R = Gas constant  
 T = Temperature  
 V = Volume

Typical Osmotic Pressure

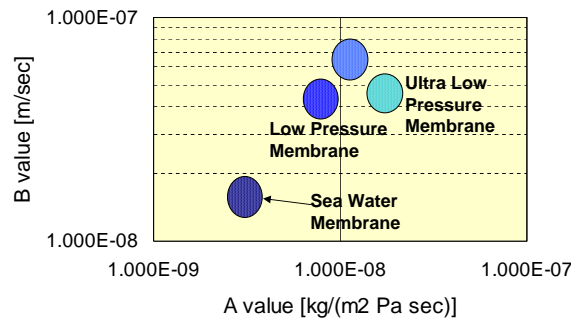
All of dissolved solute causes osmotic pressure.

	Concentration (mg/L)	Osmotic Pressure ( $\pi$ ) (bar)
NaCl	2,000	1.6
NaHCO <sub>3</sub>	2,000	1.2
MgSO <sub>4</sub>	2,000	0.7
Glucose	10,000	1.3
Seawater	35,000	26.2



Performance of RO membrane is characterized by “A value” and “B value”

- “A” value: water mass transport coefficient
- “Bi” value: salt mass transport coefficient (for ion species “i”)



Suitable membrane selection is very important for your RO system design.

Water Permeability :  $J_v = A \times P_{net}$

Permeate Flow Rate :  $Q_p = J_v \times S$

Net Driving Pressure :  $P_{net} = (P_f - \Delta\pi - \Delta P/2 - P_p)$

WHERE:

- Jv = Water Permeability (=Flux)
- A = Water Mass Transport Coefficient
- Qp = Permeate Flow Rate
- S = Membrane Area
- Pnet = Net Driving Pressure
- Pf = Feed Applied Pressure
- $\Delta\pi$  = Differential Osmotic Pressure
- $\Delta P$  = Hydraulic Pressure Losses
- Pp = Permeate Pressure

Salt Permeability :  $J_{si} = B_i \times (C_{mi} - C_{pi})$

Salt Flow Rate :  $Q_{si} = J_{si} \times S$

WHERE:

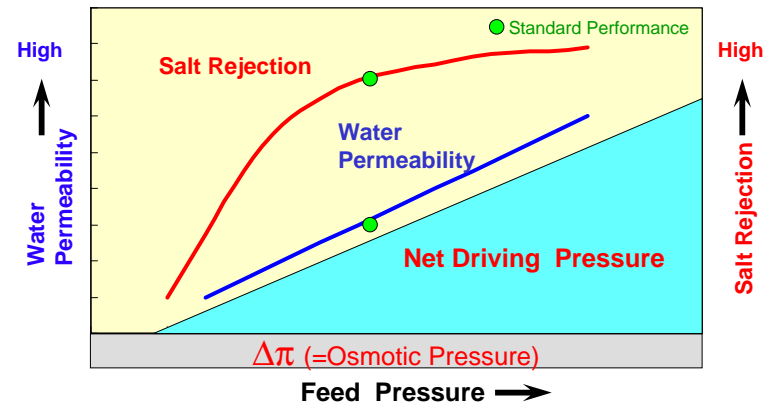
- J<sub>si</sub> = Salt Permeability(species “ i ”)
- B<sub>i</sub> = Salt Mass Transport Coefficient (species “ i ”)
- C<sub>mi</sub> = Concentration at Membrane Surface(species “ i ”)
- C<sub>pi</sub> = Concentration at Permeate(species “ i ”)
- Q<sub>si</sub> = Salt Flow Rate (species “ i ”)
- S = Membrane Area

Permeate Concentration :  $C_{pi} = J_{si} / J_v$   
 $= (C_{mi} \times B_i) / (B_i + J_v)$

WHERE:

- C<sub>pi</sub> = Concentration at Permeate(species “ i ”)
- J<sub>si</sub> = Salt Permeability(species “ i ”)
- J<sub>v</sub> = Water Permeability (=Flux)
- B<sub>i</sub> = Salt Mass Transport Coefficient (species “ i ”)
- C<sub>mi</sub> = Concentration at Membrane Surface(species “ i ”)

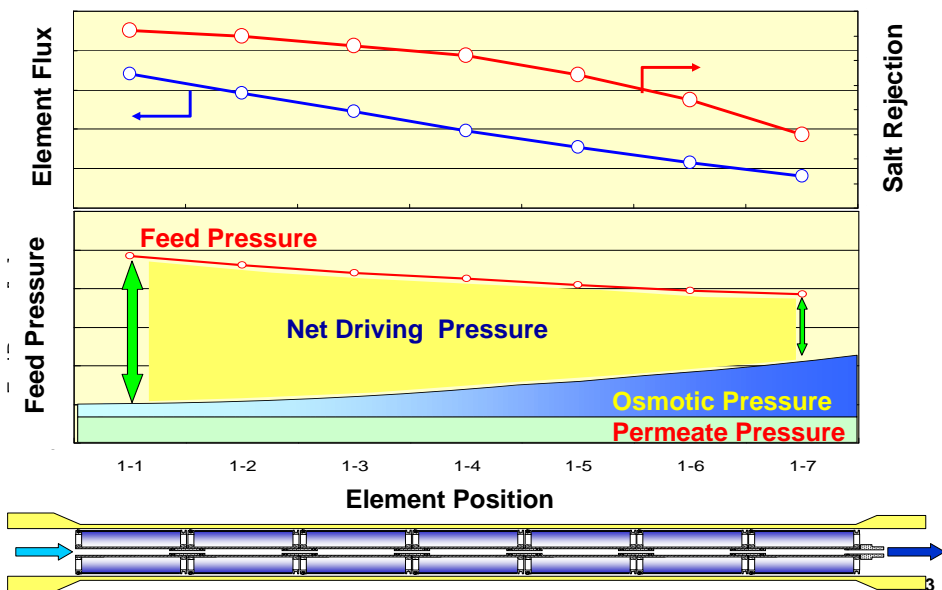
- Net driving pressure effects
- Temperature effects
- Salinity effects
- pH effects
- Brine flow rate(=Recovery) effects
- Molecular effects on “B” value



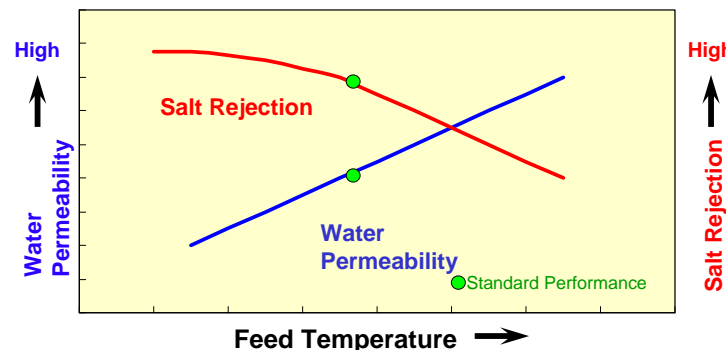
Assuming Temperature, Brine Flow Rate, Feed pH and Feed Concentration are constant.

Increasing Net Driving Pressure → Water Permeability ↑ Salt Rejection ↑

### Net Driving Pressure Effect in pressure vessel



### Temperature Effect



Assuming Feed Pressure, Feed pH, Feed Concentration and Brine Flow Rate are constant.

Increasing Feed Temperature

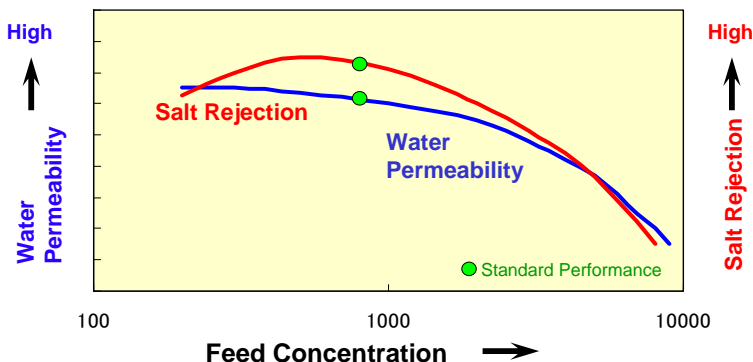
Water Permeability ↑

Salt Rejection ↓

Water permeability will increase about 3% per 1degC

- Highest water temperature must be considered for warranty exposure
- Highest operating pressure should be checked at lowest operating temperature.

### Salinity Effect



Assuming Feed Pressure, Feed Temperature Feed pH and Brine Flow Rate are constant.

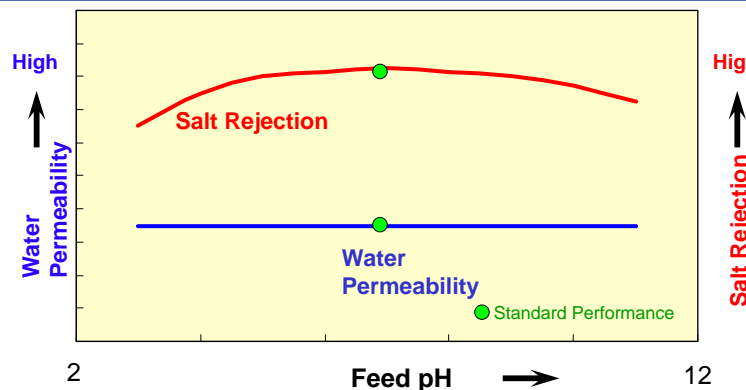
Increasing Feed Salinity

Water Permeability ↓

Salt Rejection ↓

- Salt rejection decreases at lower feed salinity (<400mg/l as NaCl) due to RO membrane negative charge effect.

### pH Effect (1)



Assuming Feed Pressure, Feed Temperature Feed Concentration and Brine Flow Rate are constant.

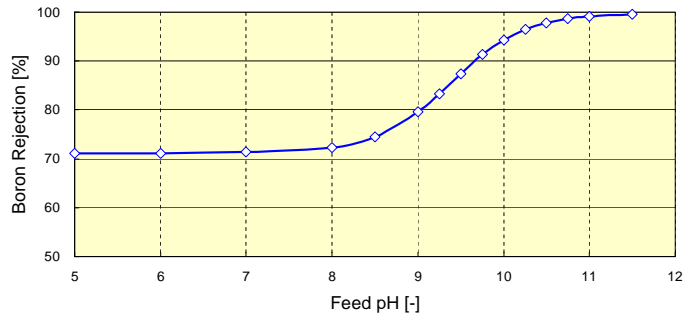
Increasing Feed pH

Water Permeability → Almost Stable

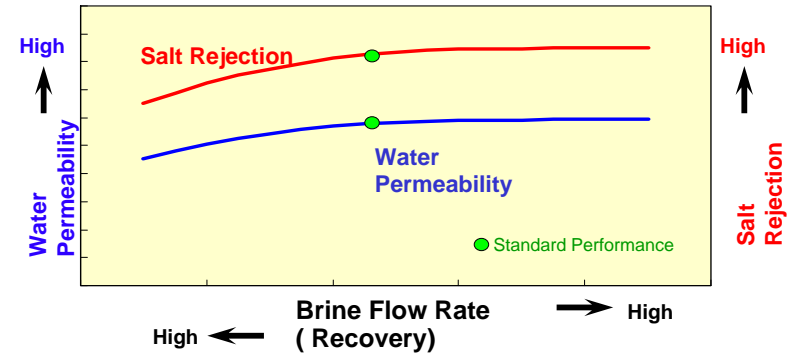
Salt Rejection ↓

- Salt rejection is rather constant over a broad pH range.
- Salt rejection will decrease at extremely high and low feed pH

Example of dissociation and its effect on rejection – Boron -



- Several ions change its ionized or non-ionized condition by pH. Hydrofluoric Acid, Acetic Acid, Boric Acid, Ammonia etc.
- Rejection at non-ionized condition is not higher than at ionized condition  
 Boron (by TM700) : Borate  $B(OH)_3$  : 70-75%  
 Boric  $B(OH)_4$  - : 99.5%



Assuming Feed Pressure, Feed Temperature Feed Concentration and Feed pH are constant.

Increasing Brine Flow Rate (Recovery) leads to:

- ↑ Water Permeability
- ↓ Recovery
- ↑ Salt Rejection
- ↓ Salt Rejection

• Low Brine flow rate (= high recovery) causes higher membrane surface salinity.

Factors influencing permeation rates of dissolved materials:

- Greatest Influence: Electrical Charge Density**

Typical RO performance	Monovalent Ions	> 99 %
	Divalent Ions	> 99.7%
	Trivalent Ions	> 99.9%
- Moderate Influence: Molecular Weight**
  - This is a secondary effect, after charge density
  - The larger the molecular weight, the lower the "B" value.
 

Methanol (MW= 32)	: 15 %
Ethanol (MW= 46)	: 55 %
Isopropanol (MW= 60)	: >90 %
- Slight Influence: Molecular Structure**
  - Molecules with side branch structures tend to have higher salt rejection than more linear molecules



**Toray RO membrane  
Training Module # 3  
Boron Removal**

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**What is Boron ? (1)**

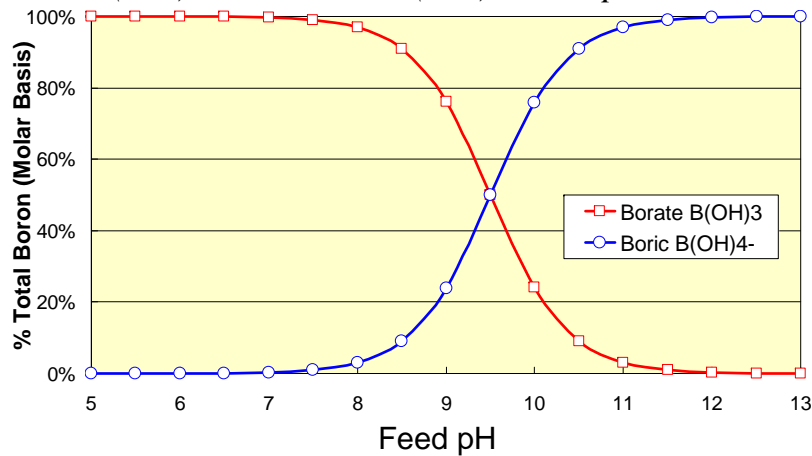
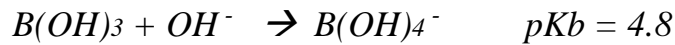
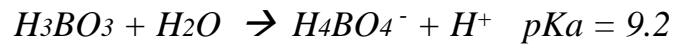
Predominant reason for limiting Boron in Water

1. For Human
  - Reproductive danger (represent)
  - Teratogenic properties (suspected)
  - WHO preliminary limit < 0.5 mg/l
  - EU guideline < 1.0 mg/l
2. Damage to Plant and Crops
  - Leaf damage (citrus tree is very sensitive)
  - Reduce fruit yield
  - Induce premature ripening

- Boron concentration in sea water : 4.5 – 5.5 mg/l
- Sea water desalinated water by RO membrane does not meet requested Boron level.

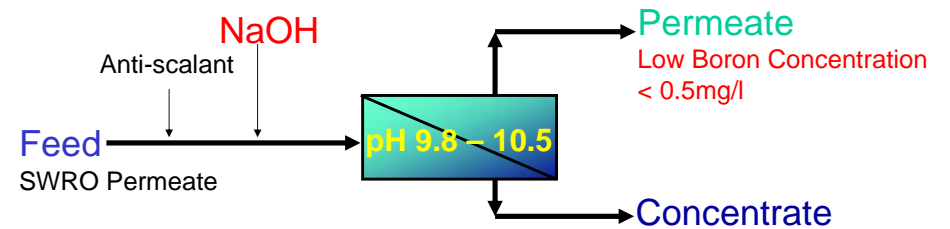
➡ Special Application is required to remove Boron

**What is Boron ? (2)**

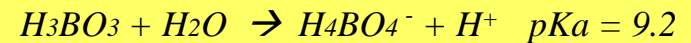


**Boron Removing Process (1)**

**High pH RO Operation - SWRO permeate is treated again with high pH**

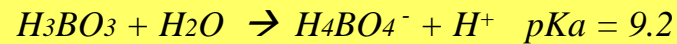


Borate will be changed to ionized Boric



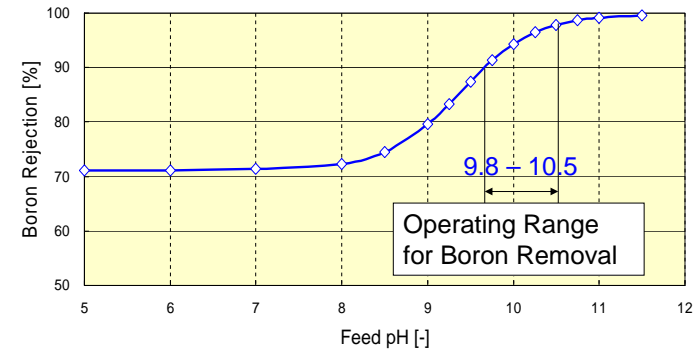
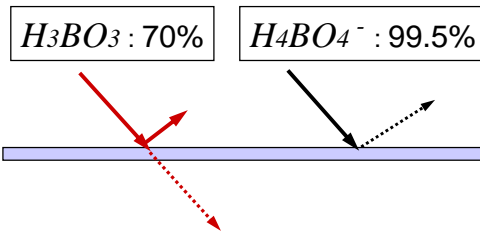
Borate ( $H_3BO_3$ ), Boric ( $H_4BO_4^-$ )

Borate will be changed to ionized Boric



Borate ( $H_3BO_3$ ), Boric ( $H_4BO_4^-$ )

Difference of removal performance (TM720)



Boron rejection will be improved to more than 90% by high pH operation.  
 ↓  
 Required permeate Boron concentration is achieved !!

Scaling problem is caused by excessive high pH operation , too low anti-scalant dosing or too high recovery operation.

Scaling substance :  $CaCO_3$ ,  $Mg(OH)_2$



pH control, anti-scalant dosing and correct recovery operation are very important.

- Correct pH measurement,
- Good and enough pH meter calibration
- Correct anti-scalant dosing
- Check anti-scalant dosing rate and consumption very frequently.
- 2nd pass brine pH & conductivity checking



**Toray RO membrane  
Training Module # 4  
RO element installation**

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Check following items before decide to install RO element (refer handling manuals for more detail information)

- System Preparation
- Pressure Vessel Preparation
- Feed Water Analysis

**System Preparation** (it is strongly recommended especially for new plant)

1. **Piping flush out**
  - All piping from pretreatment to RO flush to remove all harmful materials.
  - Flushing time approx. 30minutes.
2. **Pretreatment stabilization**
  - Confirm pretreatment stabilization (all process must be known to be working stably and within specification).
3. **Instrument Calibration**
  - Instrument calibration (all flow, pressure and quality measurement equipment must be checked and calibrated)
4. **Hydraulic Testing**
  - All necessary hydraulic testing of pipeworks must be completed.
5. **High pressure inspection**
  - Check the high pressure inspection – pressurized RO system including vessels with actual operating pressure must leak free.
6. **Control system completion** - RO process control and data logging

**Pressure Vessel Preparation**

Consult documentation from vessel manufacturer for specific information for the vessel as installed on the system. The following information is generic in nature.

- Clean the inside
    - Clean the inside of the vessels before RO element loading. Remove any dust and debris that could collect on the membrane surface or scratch the surface of the vessel.
    - Clean the inside wall with rubbing clean cloth or sponge. If feed / brine port is locating on horizontal position of pressure vessel, this cleaning is important to remove upper position.
- Note : Be sure to avoid scraping the pipe along the vessel's inner surface. Score marks on the bore of the vessel may result in flow bypass round the elements, or leaking endcaps.

Water Analysis

Feed water quality must be checked before RO installation by reliable method and party. All analysis results must be satisfied warranty conditions.

Correct water sampling, water preparation and procedure is very much important for proper water analysis. → please refer training material

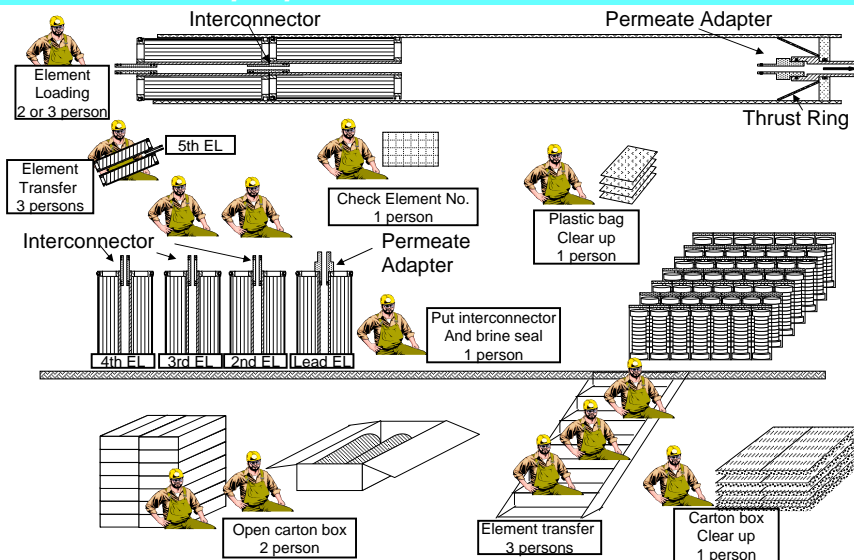
Check important preparation items in pre-start-up check sheet. Some of items are very difficult to improve after RO element installation.

For successful RO elements installation

- RO elements installation must be done after all necessary preparations are checked and satisfied the condition.
- Prepare clean space to put necessary parts (interconnector, endplate, etc.)
- Use safe protection items (safety gloves, safety glasses, safety shoes)
- Check and prepare necessary parts before RO installation. (lubricate O-ring, count the interconnector, endplate, etc.)
- RO elements installation works should be done systematically, and its procedures are well known by all workers. (refer the schematic sample procedure of RO installation in next page)
- Each installation worker should know his responsible work before starting.
- Keep clean around the RO train during installation.

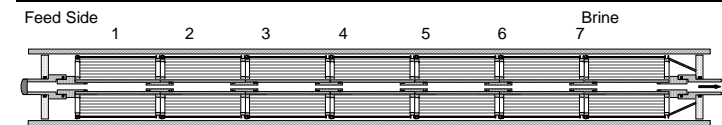
Refer handling manuals and training module for more detail information

Schematic sample procedure of RO elements installation



RO Membrane Loading Logging List " Train " Date : \_\_\_\_\_

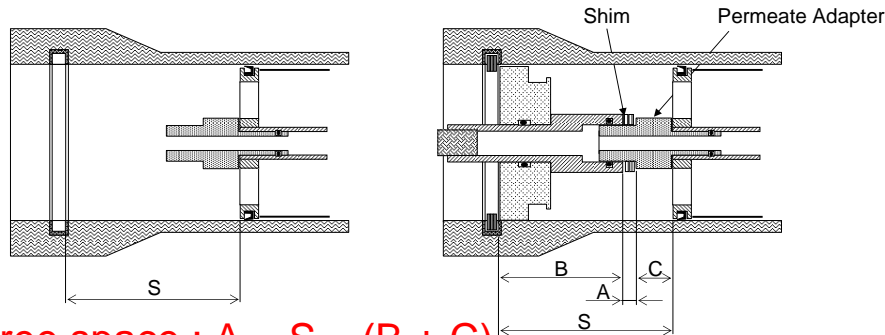
Vessel No.	Feed Side					Brine Side		Number of Shims
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	





The shimming process :

- Helps to minimize element movement inside the vessel when the system is shut down and re-started.
- Helps to minimize O-ring movement against the sealing surfaces, so reducing wear and possibility of "rolling" O-rings. This reduces leakage.



$$\text{Free space : } A = S - (B + C)$$

Refer handling manuals and training module for more detail information

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Shimming Procedure

- 1) Ensure that all elements are installed into pressure vessel correctly.
- 2) Push elements firmly into the pressure vessel so they are completely located into the down stream end plate.
- 3) **Measure the distance S** : Feed side edge of lead element to retaining ring groove inside edge.
- 4) **Free space A** is calculated by following.  

$$\text{Free space : } D = A - (B + C)$$
- 5) Decide the number of shims for this pressure vessel
  - Number of shims =  $(A - 1\text{mm}) / \text{thickness of shim}$  (truncate the decimal place)

Refer handling manuals and training module for more detail information

10



**Toray RO membrane  
Training Module # 5  
RO System start - up**

November, 2008

Toray Industries, Inc.,

For RO system start-up, following items must be checked and verified. All items must satisfy its requirement. (refer to handling manuals for more detail information)

- Pre-start-up checklist
- Equipment requirement for start-up
- Feed water qualities

Never fail to check all necessary items.

It is strongly requested to keep warranty conditions just after pre-treated water feed into RO elements to keep RO membrane performance.

After installing RO elements, check all items in pre-start-up checklist.

Pre-start-up checklist include important items and it is offered as a guideline.

RO start-up should not be initiated, if any item could not satisfy the condition.

Refer handling manuals and training module for more detail information.

Complete and accurate records are required in case of a system performance warranty claim.

The initial system start up should be performed immediately after element loading.

The following equipment is recommended to be available.

- Safety glasses (for use with any chemicals)
- Thermometer
- pH meter
- Conductivity meter (handy type)
- Clean plastic bottles with caps for samples
- Analysis equipment :  
Total Hardness, Calcium, Alkalinity, Chloride, Sulphate, Iron, Boron, Free and Total chlorine, Redox potential

Refer handling manuals and training module for more detail information

Before starting the reverse osmosis unit, ensure the entire pretreatment has been commissioned and working in accordance with the specifications. It is strongly recommended that a full analysis of the feed water to be supplied to the RO should be made.

Other tests required:

- Absence of oxidants (ex. Chlorine)
- Turbidity + SDI
- SBS concentration measurement in pretreated water (if chlorine is used for pretreatment)

The raw water must be stable with respect to :  
Flow rate, SDI, Turbidity, Temperature, pH, Conductivity, Bacteria count(plate count)

Refer handling manuals and training module for more detail information

Proper air venting is essential to prepare the membranes for service. It is extremely important that all air is purged from the feed / brine side of the system to prevent hydraulic shock.

Air remaining in the elements and/or in the pressure vessels might be led to excessive forces on the element in flow direction or in radial direction and causing fiberglass shell cracking, if the feed pressure is ramped up too quickly at high pressure operation start-up.

Refer handling manuals and training module for more detail information

**Air Venting Procedure (1)**

1. Prior to initial start up, all pre-check must be completed.
2. Check all valves to ensure correct position. The feed pressure control valve, concentrate control valve and permeate drain valve should be fully open.
3. All permeate and concentrate should be directed to drain.
4. Permeate back pressure is one of the most critical problem at start-up. It is necessary to write correct valve position setting before water feeding.
5. Use low pressure water at a low flow rate to flush air out of the pressure vessels and elements. **Flush at 1 – 2 bar pressure.**
6. Keep the low flow rate until flushing water coming from brine side. Recommended flow rate is 2.5m<sup>3</sup>/hr for each vessel.

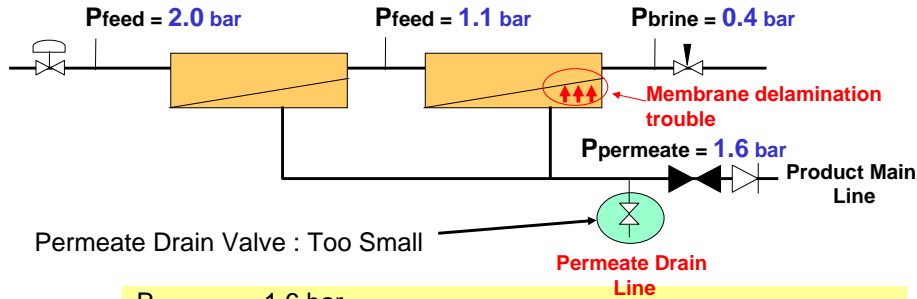
**Air Venting Procedure (2)**

7. After water coming from brine side, increase brine flow rate up to normal operation value.
8. During flushing operation, check carefully for any leaks, and tighten connections where necessary.
9. Check the water condition from air vent line in brine side. Continue flushing until air is not contained in the water. Flushing time should be more than one hour with pre-treated water.
10. Stop flushing and repeat again from step 5 to 8. This repeating flushing is very effective to purge air in dead space.
11. Repeat step 9 until air venting is completed.

Refer handling manuals and training module for more detail information

**Permeate Back Pressure Trouble at Flushing**

If permeate drain valve is not opened or too small, permeate side pressure would be increased almost close to feed inlet pressure.

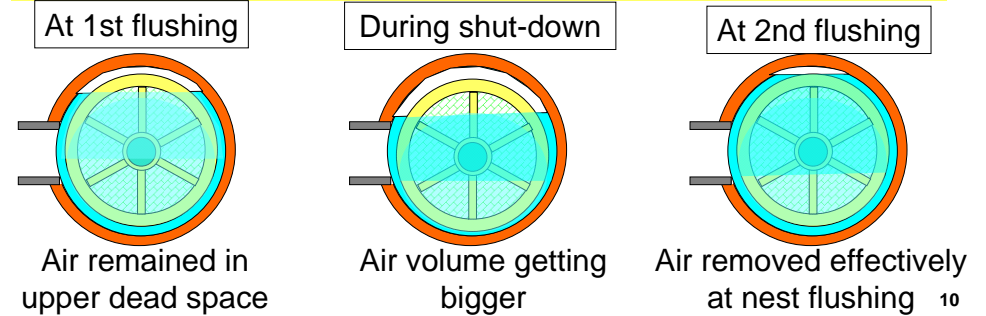


$P_{permeate} = 1.6 \text{ bar}$   
 Maximum back Pressure at 2<sup>nd</sup> bank end position = 1.2 bar  
 → Exceeding back pressure limit (=0.7 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>)  
 → Membrane delamination trouble may occur.

Refer handling manuals and training module for more detail information 9

**Advantage of repeated Air Venting**

1. During air-venting, air will be compressed and remained in the dead space of upper place in pressure vessel and elements. The long time flushing will reduce small amount of this air.
2. During the shut-down after 1st flushing, remaining air volume will be getting bigger by reducing pressure.
3. At the next flushing air could be removed more effectively.



**Important points for proper start-up (1)**

Proper start-up is essential to prepare the membranes for service, and to prevent damage through allowing too high feed / brine flow (causing excessive pressure drop), hydraulic shock or too quick ramp up of pressure increasing.

It is strongly recommended to minimize the start-up frequency.

1. Ensure all relative valves are positioned correctly.  
**Permeate and brine dump line must be opened to drain**, if these lines closed, pipes might burst by excess high pressure.
2. Slow and Steady pressurizing (<0.5bar increase per second). Crack open the feed control valve. After high pressure pump start, slowly open the feed control valve and slowly close the brine control valve. If pressure increasing speed is too quick, review feed valve open speed and brine valve close speed.

Refer handling manuals for more detail information

**Important points for proper start-up (2)**

3. RO feed water must be stable within required quality. (After additional RO train operation, pretreatment flow rate will increase, and it might cause the change of RO feed water quality. Consult your pretreatment supplier how to keep pretreated water quality during additional RO train operation.)
4. Check additions of chemicals after additional RO train operation. (pretreatment coagulant, acid, NaOCl, SBS, etc.)
5. **In case of SBS(NaHSO<sub>3</sub>) dosing for chlorine removal**, min. 0.5mg/l HSO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> must be detectable in brine at any time.
6. Prior to final evaluation of trial run, **operate for minimum two hours at design operating conditions.**
7. Adjust RO operating parameters to targeted permeate and brine flow rate. Do not exceed design recovery ratio during any stage of operation.
8. Proper on-line data logging. (Proper on-line data logging is very important to check start-up sequence and RO membrane performance by normalization)

**Important points for proper start-up (3)**

6. Necessary data taking after initial start-up of new RO elements. (Initial data would be used for checking RO elements performance and used as a standard performance for normalization.)
  - Permeate conductivity for each vessel
  - The data of 1, 24, 48 hour after start-up should be checked carefully.
    - Feed : Feed pressure, Temperature, Conductivity, TDS, SDI, pH, Turbidity(NTU), ORP, Free and Total chlorine (not detectable)
    - Brine : Brine flow, Conductivity, TDS, pH
    - Permeate : Permeate flow of each bank and total system, Conductivity from each bank, total system and each vessel
7. Dump permeate until required water quality is obtained.

Refer handling manuals for more detail information.  
In the case of special RO system, please consult Toray Membrane

In the case of start-up from emergency shut-down, the start-up sequence which previously described must be done.



**Toray RO membrane  
Training Module # 6  
RO System shut - down**

November, 2008

Toray Industries, Inc.,

Note : Refer handling manuals for more detail information

1

**RO Shut – Down Procedure (1)**

**Shut – Down Sequence (1)**

Proper shut-down is another essential matter to keep good membranes performance for service. It is important to prevent damage through allowing too high feed / brine flow (causing excessive pressure drop), hydraulic shock or too quick ramp down of pressure decreasing.

It is strongly recommended to minimize the shut-down frequency.

Refer handling manuals for more detail information

2

**RO Shut - Down Procedure (2)**

**Shut - Down Sequence (2)**

Typical shut - down sequence for a RO system using a feed and concentration control valve.

1. Slowly start to close feed inlet control valve.
2. Slowly start to open concentrate control valve to maintain concentration flow at design value.  
(reverse sequence of start-up is suitable for shut-down. Do not exceed differential pressure limit (=2bar).
3. When high pressure pump discharge flow rate decrease to its minimum flow rate, switch off high pressure pump.

Refer handling manuals for more detail information

3

**RO Shut – Down Procedure (3)**

**Shut – Down Sequence (3)**

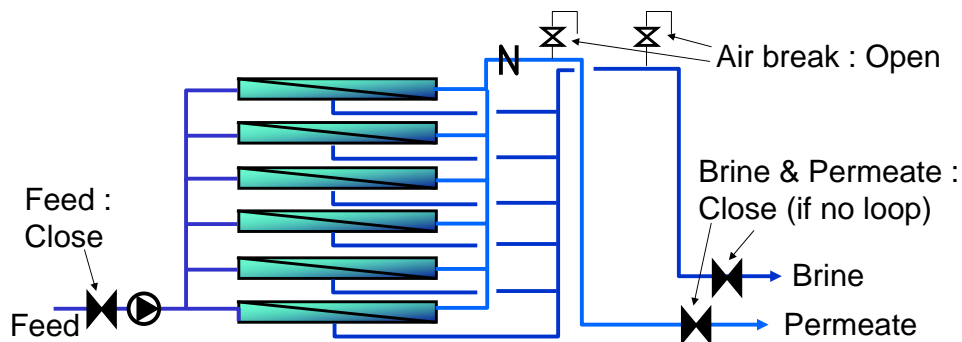
4. RO system should be flushed with pre-treated feed water at low pressure.
5. In case of special RO system such as high pH Boron removal, it is necessary to exchange from special feed water to neutral pH condition. Apply SWRO permeate without containing any chemical for flushing.
6. Continue flush until concentrate conductivity approaches feed conductivity. The objective of the flush is to remove high concentration water from the system. Note that higher flow rate is OK, provided pressure vessel differential pressure does not exceed the limit (=2 bar).
7. After flush, close feed inlet valve completely.
8. Close concentrate and permeate valves, if air break loop is not installed.
9. Take care that permeate back pressure never exceed 0.7bar at flushing and after shutdowns.
10. Adjust chemical dosing for proper pretreatment conditions.

Refer handling manuals for more detail information

4

Shut – Down Sequence (4)

System should be left completely filled with water. It is recommended to install a loop and automatic air break valve on the brine and permeate line to prevent water drain during shut-down by siphon effects.



5

Short – Term Shut Down

Short-term shut-down is for periods where an RO train (plant) must remain out of operation for more than one day, but fewer than four days, with the RO elements in place.

Prepare each RO train as follows:

- Flush the RO section with flushing water, while simultaneously venting any gas from the system.
  - Flushing water Temperature : 5 – 35degC
  - pH Range : 3 – 7
  - Sea water RO system : pretreated feed water (no chlorine)
  - 2nd pass RO system : 1st pass permeate (without any chemicals)
- When the pressure vessels are filled, close the valves.
- Repeat flushing at every 12 hours.
- Do not exceed permeate back pressure limit at flushing (=0.7 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>)

Open permeate side valve to prevent excess permeate back pressure

6

Long – Term Shut Down (1)

Long-term shut-down is for periods where an RO train (plant) must remain out of operation for more than four days with the RO elements in place. Prepare each RO train as follows:

For long-term shut-down, there are two conditions.

- Case 1 : Pre-treated feed water flushing
- Case 2 : Preserved in SBS solution (if Case 1 is not available)

Case 1 : Pre-treated feed water flushing

- Flushing water Temperature : 5 – 35degC
- pH Range : 3 – 7
- Sea water RO system : pretreated feed water (no chlorine)
- 2nd pass RO system : 1st pass permeate (without any chemicals)
- Repeat flushing at every 12 hours.

Open permeate side valve to prevent excess permeate back pressure

7

Long – Term Shut Down (2)

Case 2 : Preserved in SBS solution

- a) Flush the RO section with RO permeate.
- b) Flush with 500 – 1000 mg/l SBS solution (by circulation)
- c) When the RO section is filled with this solution (make sure that it is completely filled), close all necessary valves to remain the solution in the RO section.
- d) Repeat Steps a) and b) with fresh solution.
  - Every thirty (30) days, if the temperature is below 27deg.C
  - Every fifteen (15) days, if the temperature is above 27deg.C
- e) The pH of preservation solution should be kept above pH 3 at any time.

Open permeate side valve to prevent excess permeate back pressure

8



**Toray RO membrane  
Training Module # 7  
Storage / Preservation**

November, 2008

Toray Industries, Inc.,

Note : Refer to handling manuals for more detail information

**Storage / Preservation Procedure (1)**

**General**

**Note :**

To prevent biological growth on membrane surfaces during storage and performance loss in subsequent operation, RO elements must be preserved in a solution.

Element preservation is needed for long term storage of new and used elements and long term RO system shut-down.

**Safety :**

When using biocide solutions as membrane preservatives, follow accepted safety procedures. Always wear eye protection. Consult the relevant Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) as supplied by the manufacturer of the chemicals prior to use.

**Storage / Preservation Procedure (2)**

**Storage / Handling of New Elements (1)**

Preferably, elements should be stored or shipped as packed by Toray, outside of pressure vessels, and loaded into pressure vessels directly before start-up. Adequate storage conditions will help to minimize bio-growth during storage.

Toray specifies the following optimal storage conditions:

1. Store elements in cool, dark and dry place inside closed building. Keep away from direct sunlight.
2. An ambient air temperature range of 5degC to 35degC. Avoid freezing.
3. New elements are vacuum-sealed in a bag made from oxygen impermeable special plastic and packed in a carton boxes. The carton boxes should be opened directly before installation.

**Storage / Preservation Procedure (3)**

**Storage / Handling of New Elements (2)**

4. Don't stack more than 7 layers of carton boxes. Make sure boxes are kept dry.
5. When open plastic bags, open it at one end and do not tear open, for possible re-use.
6. When open the carton boxes, keep parts of the packaging materials for the event that elements must be removed and stored.



**Storage / preservation of used elements**

- 1) If RO elements were removed from pressure vessel for storage or shipping, they need to be preserved in a 500 – 1,000mg/l SBS solution.

Note : In the case of used RO elements performance investigation by Toray or another party, please consult the preservation solution before preserve RO element in the solution.

- 2) To make up the preservation solution, use food grade SBS.
- 3) Use softened, chlorine-free water; preferably RO or NF permeate. After soaking elements for about 1 hour in the preservation solution, take them out of this solution and package them in an oxygen barrier bag. Seal and label the bag, indicating packaging date. Recommended oxygen barrier bags are sold by Toray or their representatives.
- 4) After the elements are preserved and repacked, recommended storage conditions are the same as for new RO elements.

**Storage Solution pH**

SBS solution as it degrades may produce sulfuric acid, which will lower the pH of the solution in the storage bag. The pH must not go below 3.0. All repackaged elements should be randomly checked for pH during the 3 monthly inspection. If pH is below 3, SBS solution must be refreshed newly.

**Shipping**

When RO elements have to be shipped, RO elements must be preserved with a SBS preservation solution. Ensure following items.

- The plastic bag does not leak.
- The elements is properly identified.
- The preservation solution is correctly labeled.

In the case of used RO elements performance investigation by Toray or another party, please consult the preservation solution before preserve RO element in the solution. Toray recommends to use original plastic bag and polystyrene cap for packing.

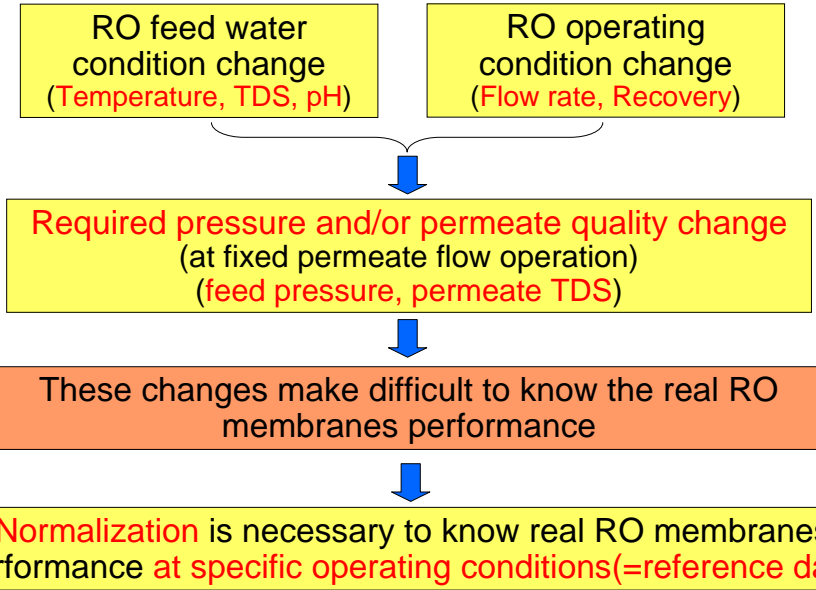


**Toray RO membrane  
Training Module # 8  
RO System  
Normalization**

November, 2008

Toray Industries, Inc.,

**What is normalization ?**



**Advantage of RO system normalization**

**Normalization & Monitoring**

Very useful information to know actual RO membrane performance, and it helps to know the possible reasons at troubleshooting.

**Normalized Data**

Account for following data :  
Feed water pressure, Temperature, Concentration, pH and Recovery

Good accuracy is highly required for data monitoring. If data has big difference from real value or fluctuation, it would show wrong normalized performance.

**If any change is observed in normalized data**

Change of normalized data is the sign of performance change or trouble.

- Check all event at plant operation
- Check all measuring instruments (pressure, flow, conductivity, Temp, pH etc)
- Check feed water condition and operating conditions
- Check product conductivity of each vessel and specify the trouble point

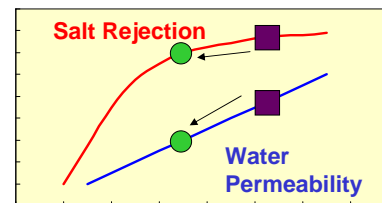
**How to normalize RO performance ?**

Calculate RO performance correction factors from each operating conditions to normalization standard condition (typically, the first day operating conditions are used for REFERENCE data)

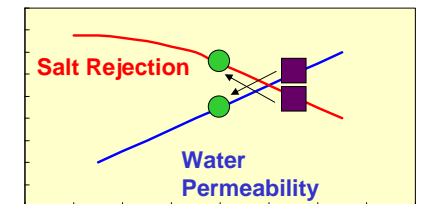
→ Normalized Permeate Flow, Normalized Salt Passage, Normalized Delta-P)

● Reference condition ■ Operating condition

**Feed pressure correction**



**Feed Temperature correction**



**Correcting conditions : Pressure, Temperature, Salinity, Flow Rate, Recovery**

1. TorayTrak is available for

(1) Data Collection

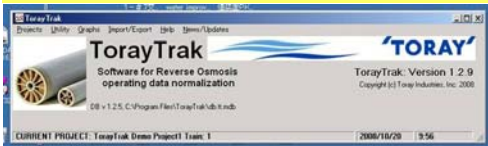
- Important items of RO operation, including feed water information
- Easy transfer of project data to files using export-import tools

(2) RO data normalization

- Normalized performance : permeate flow, salt passage, Delta-P
- Calculation Method : ASTM Standard D-4516

(3) Graph Making

- It is helpful to check the suspected reason of performance trouble from the comparison check between RO feed water information and normalized performance.



Note :  
Refer to TorayTrak manuals for  
more detail information



**Toray RO membrane  
Training Module # 9  
RO System  
Maintenance**

November, 2008

Toray Industries, Inc.,

Note : Refer to handling manuals for more detail information

**RO system maintenance procedure (1)**

In order to be able to track the performance of a RO system, regular and systematic records must be kept.

Apart from tracking performance, the log sheets are valuable tools for troubleshooting, and are required in the case of warranty evaluation.

Potential problems in an RO system can be recognized early by monitoring the changes of permeate flow rate, salt rejection and pressure drop of the RO membrane modules.

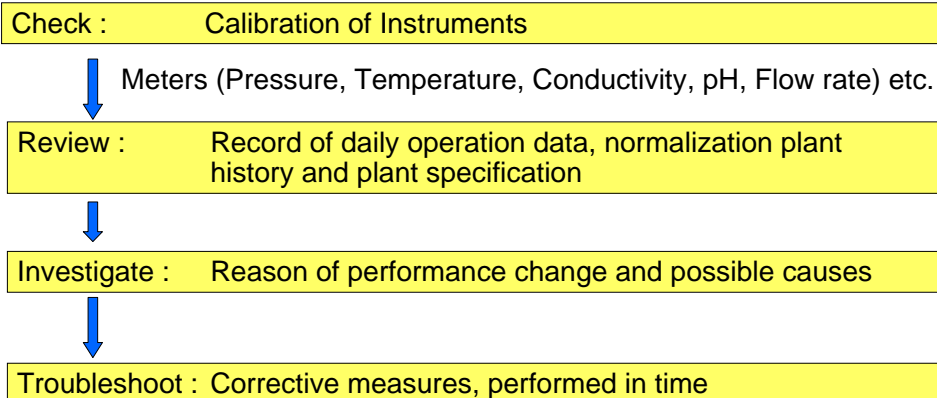
It is, therefore, recommended for the system operator to record and review daily operation data and to take prompt and appropriate countermeasures or to correct any concerns or problems to prevent future complications.

Successful RO System operation could be achieved by good maintenance.

**RO system maintenance procedure (2)**

**Schematic flow for troubleshooting**

The steps of troubleshooting are briefly summarized below



Chemical cleaning, Sterilization, Replacement of necessary parts, Change of operating conditions, etc.

**RO system maintenance procedure (3)**

**RO System Start-up Report**

1. Provide a complete description of the RO system, using existing flow diagrams and process and instrumentation diagrams, to show water source, pretreatment details, RO configuration and post treatment details.
2. Include a copy of completed pre-start-up checklist.
3. Provide copies of calibration charts / curves for all major meters and gauges used in the RO system.
4. Record initial performance at 1hour, 24hours and 48hours of operation of RO system and pretreatment system.

Note : Refer handling manuals for more detail information

RO Operating Data (1)

The following data must be logged and recorded into an appropriate log sheet at least once per shift for each operational train.

1. Date, time, hours of operation
2. Pressure drop across pretreatment cartridges and each bank (if installed)
3. Feed, concentrate and permeate pressure for RO array (note if back pressure is applied to any stage / bank, permeate pressure must be recorded separately for each bank)
4. Interbank pressures (may be measured as a pressure between each stage / bank, or using a differential pressure gauge across each bank)
5. Permeate and concentrate flow for each RO array (if flow from each RO stage / bank is measured, each individual flow should be recorded)

Refer to handling manuals for more detail information

RO Operating Data (2)

6. Conductivity of feed permeate and concentrate streams for each array. (if permeate flows are measured separately for each bank, permeate conductivities should also be measured for each bank)
7. **Permeate conductivity of each pressure vessel for every 2weeks.**
8. pH of feed, permeate concentrate streams
9. SDI measurement (before and after cartridge filters of feed stream)
10. Turbidity measurement (feed stream) if can be measured
11. Water temperature of feed stream

Refer to handling manuals for more detail information

RO Operating Data (3)

12. Detail of any instrument recalibration work (all meters + gauges should be checked for calibration according to the manufacturers instructions every 3 months (or more frequently if recommended by manufacturer)
13. Any unusual incidents or events (e.g. pretreatment upsets / loss of dosing etc.)
14. Complete feed water analysis of the feed, permeate and concentrate stream at start-up and the period based on warranty condition. A feed analysis should be made if there is a significant change in the feed conductivity (unrelated to temperature).

Refer to handling manuals for more detail information

Water Analysis Details

Feed Water Analysis should include the following ions :

**Red color : Mandatory items of Shuaibah III warranty condition**

- |                                     |  |           |                         |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|-------------------------|
| - Temperature                       | - pH   | - Calcium | - Magnesium             |
| - Sodium                            | - Potassium  | - Barium  | - Strontium             |
| - Chloride                          | - Sulphate   | - Nitrate | - Fluoride              |
| - Bicarbonate                       | - Silica   | - Boron   | - Iron<br>(once a week) |
| - TDS (by 180degC)<br>(once a week) | - SDI (every shift only)                                   |           |                         |
| - Conductivity                      | - Sodium Bisulphite (feed and brine)<br>(every shift only) |           |                         |
| - Chlorine (after SBS dosing)       |  |           |                         |
| - ORP (Redox)                       | - Turbidity (NTU)  |           |                         |

**Pretreatment Operating Data (1)**

The proper operation of the RO unit will in large part depend on the successful operation of the pretreatment system.

Specific record keeping requirements should be provided by the manufacturer's of the pretreatment unit operations. Those requirements should be strictly adhered to, as problems on the pretreatment will often point to the answer for problems being seen on the RO (fouling / salt passage increase)

Refer to handling manuals for more detail information

**Pretreatment Operating Data (2)**

Typically the following parameters will be recorded.

1. Total chlorine concentration in the RO feed (unless known to be totally absent)
2. Discharge pressure of any well / booster pumps
3. Pressure drop across any filters (at least once per shift)
4. Consumption of all chemicals used (daily)
5. Instrument calibration operations
6. Any unusual incidents which occur (upsets / shutdowns / chemical dosing problems ets.)

Refer to handling manuals for more detail information

**Maintenance Log (1)**

In addition to the process logs referred to above, a maintenance log must be kept :

1. Record all routine maintenance activities carried out
2. Record any mechanical equipment failures and date of return to service
3. Record any changes made to membrane element locations, with element serial numbers
4. Record any additions of element and/or vessels to arrays
5. Record all calibration activities on gauges and meters

Refer to handling manuals for more detail information

**Maintenance Log (2)**

6. Record routine replacement of filters / cartridge filters / pH sensors
7. Record all cleaning / flushing activities carried out on the RO, including :
  - Date carried out
  - Elements being cleaned
  - Solution details
  - Solution pH (before / after cleaning)
  - Solution temperature
  - Flow Rate
  - Detailed description of cleaning sequence (shut down / flush period / recirculation period / soak period)

Refer to handling manuals for more detail information



**Toray RO membrane  
Training Module # 10  
RO System  
Troubleshooting**

November, 2008

Toray Industries, Inc.,

- A table showing following normalized RO system performances give a great deal of insight into what may be causing the problem
  - Normalized Product Flow Rate
  - Normalized Salt Rejection
  - Normalized Differential Pressure Increasing Ratio
- See the following slides for different scenarios.

**Typical signs of RO system trouble (1)**

**Behavior of operation control items and countermeasure**

Cause	Product flow rate	Phenomena		Checking items	Measures
		Rejection	Differential pressure		
Degradation of membrane	↗	↘	↘	Use time, feed liquid temperature, water quality	Cleaning, replacement
Leak in element	↗	↘	↘	Vibration, back pressure or shock	Ditto
Leak from O-ring	↗	↘	↘	Vibration, shock, degradation of material quality	Replacement of O-ring
Brine seal failure	↘	↘	↘	Degradation of material quality, adhesion of vessel	Replacement of seal Normal fitting
Center pipe damage	↗	↘	↘	Excessive differential pressure, high water temperature	Replacement of element
Element deformation	↘	↘	↗	Ditto	Ditto
Contamination of membrane surface (suspended solid)	↘	↘	↗	Pretreatment conditions, quality of raw water	Chemical cleaning
Ditto (scaling)	↘	↘	↗	Ditto	Chemical cleaning
Ditto (organic, oil)	↘	↘	↗	Ditto	Ditto

**Typical signs of RO system trouble (2)**

Raw water and pretreatment	Temperature change	High	↗	↘	↘	Seasonal fluctuation, pump efficiency	Pressure adjustment, cooling
		Low	↘	→	↗	↗	Seasonal fluctuation, heater
Pressure change	High	↗	↗	↘	↘	Pump, valve	Pressure adjustment
	Low	↘	↘	↗	↗	Pump, valve, filter	Ditto
Chang of quantity of brine	Too much	→	→	↗	↗	Feed flow rate, valve	Flow rate adjustment
	Too little	↘	↘	↘	↘	Feed flow rate, valve differenetal pressure	Ditto
pH too high or too low (degradation of membrane)		↗	↘	↘	↘	pH control	pH adjustment
Concentration	High	↘	↘	↘	↘	Water quality check	Pressure adjustment
	Low	↗	↗	↗	↗	Ditto	Ditto
Excessive amount of difficultly soluble substance(Precipitation)		↘	↘	↗	↗	Quality of raw water, recovery ratio, pH	Pressure adjustment recovery ratio adjustment, pretreatment before adjustment
Existence of chlorine, hydrogen peroxide		↗	↘	↘	↘	Quality of raw water, chemical injection pump	Chemical injection condition

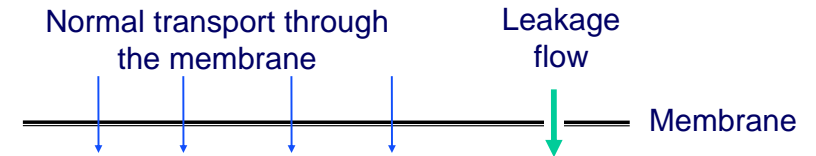
**Note:**  
The small upward arrow mark indicates the increasing trend whereas the downward arrow indicates the reducing trend.  
The extent varies depending on state.  
The large arrows indicate mainly occurring phenomenon.

High Permeate TDS

Poor permeate quality can be caused by the following:

- Changes in operating conditions
- Damage to membrane (oxidants, hydrolysis, etc..)
- Fouling
- Mechanical Leakage

Mechanical leakage is the direct passage of feed water (or concentrate) to the permeate, bypassing the membrane.



Causes of Mechanical Leakage

- O-ring leak
- Interconnector or Permeate Tube crack
- Glue Line failure
- Membrane delamination
- Membrane fracture
- Membrane mechanical abrasion
- Membrane degradation through chemical exposure

Techniques to confirm Mechanical Leakage

- Perform Profile
  - Compare to baseline startup data
  - Probe suspect vessels
- Review rejection of Sulfate ion

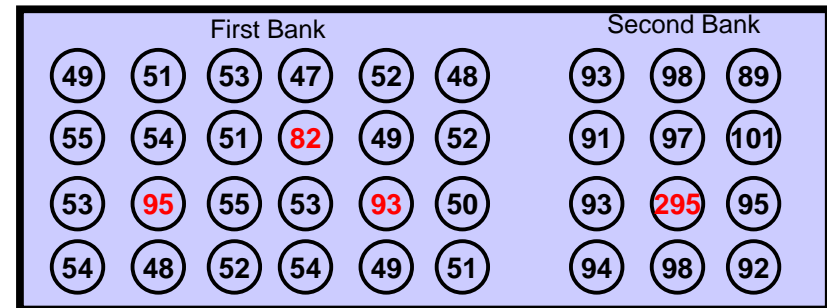


The "Pressure Vessel Profile" is a measurement of the permeate concentration from each individual vessel.

- Identifies which vessels in an array have high salt passage.
- A *Pressure vessel profile* should be taken at startup, as a baseline record.
- Record complete system data whenever a *Pressure Vessel Profile* is performed.

Best recorded by preparing a series of circles arranged similar to the vessel rack assembly and writing each vessel's reading in its respective circle.

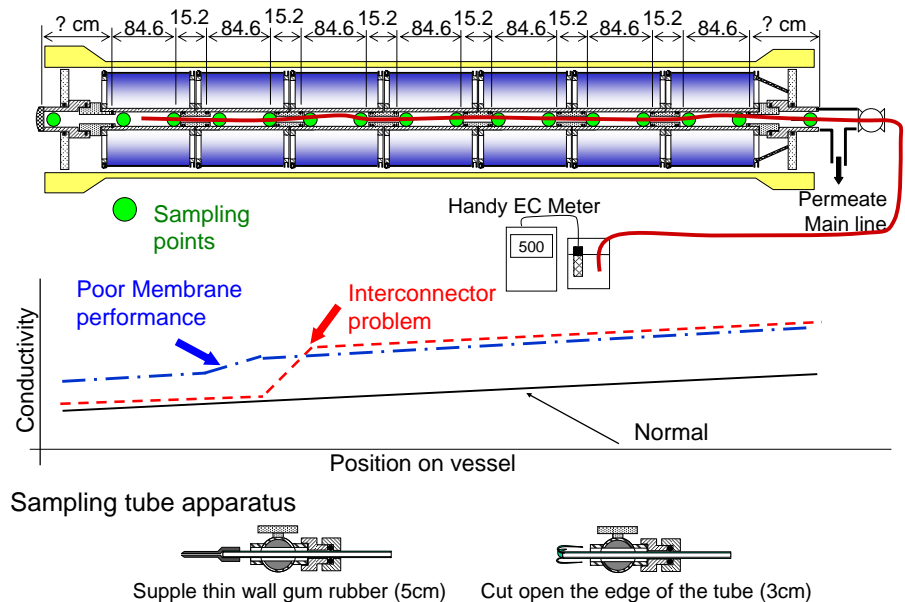
Example: 24:12 array at 75% recovery



A flexible tube is inserted through the permeate port of a vessel to measure the permeate concentration at known intervals through the vessel.

- Performed on vessels identified by the *Pressure Vessel Profile*.
- Locates the elements or o-rings which are the source of high salt passage.

Refer to Training Material for more detail information



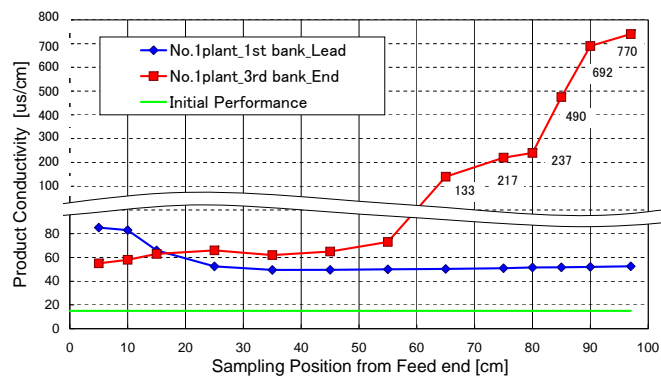


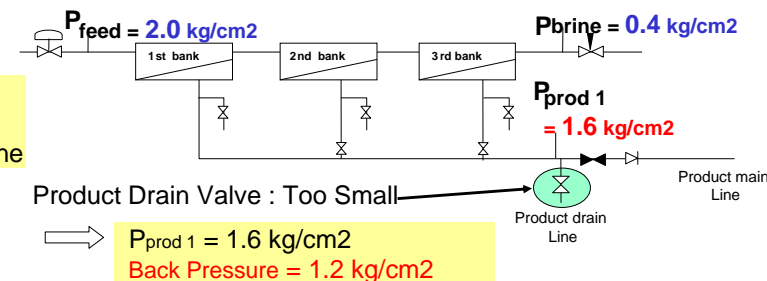
Fig. Result of permeate conductivity measurement by center pipe probing



Caused by - **Excess Permeate Back Pressure**  
 - Mechanical failure in system  
 - Design problem  
 - Operation error

Countermeasures - **Correct excessive back pressure**  
 (< 0.7 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>, preferably < 0.4 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>)

Example)  
 High back-P by  
 too small drain line



- If composite polyamide RO membrane elements are exposed to the oxidizing chemicals such as free chlorine, chloramine, bromine, ozone, or other oxidizing chemicals, irreparable damage is happened to the membrane, normally, evidenced by decrease of salt rejection.
- Lead end elements are typically more affected than the others in case of oxidizing chemical presents in RO feed water.
- If several specific conditions are assembled, chlorine generating problem might be occurred.
  - Dissolved Oxygen,
  - NaHSO3(SBS),
  - Heavy Metal Ion (Cu, Co, Mn, etc. Low concentration, ppb order, is enough)
  - High Salinity Chloride Ion

**Chlorine Generation Mechanism under existing of Heavy Metal**

*Even if RO feed water does not contain Chlorine, Chlorine will be generated.*

- Following substances are required to generate chlorine.
  1. Dissolved Oxygen,
  2. NaHSO3 (SBS)
  3. Chloride Ion
  4. Heavy Metal Ion (Cu, Co, Mn, etc.)
- Following chemical reactions in the process of generating chlorine (e.x. with Copper).



Reference

\*1 : C. H. Barron and H. A. O'Hern, Chemical Eng. Sci. 21(1966) 397-404

**High Operating Pressure (Low Permeate Flow)**

High operating pressure(= low permeate flow) can be caused by the following:

- Membrane fouling
- Differential pressure increase (Plugging of the feed channel)
- Scaling

**Membrane Fouling**

- The deposition of suspended particles on the membrane surface.
  - Foulant on the membrane surface increases the resistance to the flow of water through the membrane.
  - Fouling causes lower productivity at constant net pressure or higher net pressure at constant productivity.
  - Sometimes higher salt passage will be caused by membrane fouling.

Refer to Handling Manuals for more detail information

**Membrane fouling is caused by**

- ◆ Improper pretreatment system
- ◆ pretreatment condition upset
- ◆ Chemical dosing system upset
- ◆ Improper material selection (piping, valve, pump, etc.)
- ◆ Improper flushing after shutdown
- ◆ Scaling by excess recovery ratio
- ◆ Biological contamination in feed water
- ◆ Feed water chemistry change

Refer to Handling Manuals for more detail information

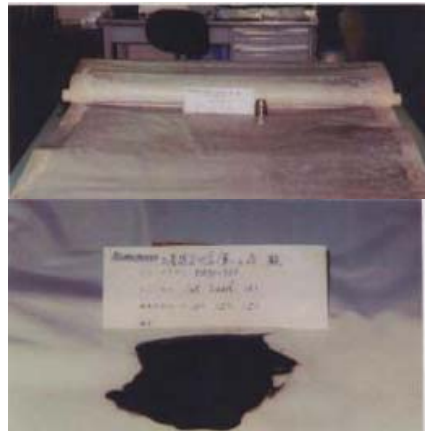
Cause of Trouble : Fouling (Suspended Solid, Coagulant )  
( SS leakage from pretreatment )



Fouling Amount : 62.4g  
(Dry weight)

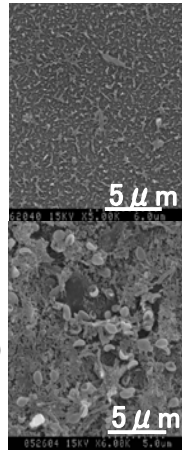
**Ash Ratio : 75.9%**  
(SiO<sub>2</sub>:32%, Al:9.7%, Fe:4.8%)

Cause of Trouble : Fouling (Biological Fouling)



New Membrane

After Fouling  
(Bacteria and Fe)



Fouling Amount : 130g  
(Dry weight)

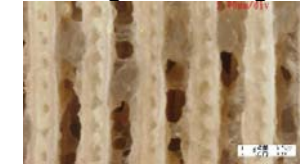
Ash Ratio : 32.2%  
(SiO<sub>2</sub>:11%, Al:5.1%, Na:2.1%)

Differential Pressure Increase = Plugging of the Feed Channel

- ◆ Increase of normalized *Differential Pressure* indicates fouling of feed / brine channel.
- ◆ Typical causes of DP increase.
  - ◆ Upstream :
    - Suspended solids, colloid, bacteria, silt, clay, iron corrosion and pretreatment coagulant in the feedwater
  - ◆ Downstream : scaling
  - ◆ Any stage mainly lead position : Biological fouling

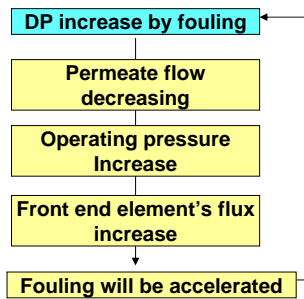
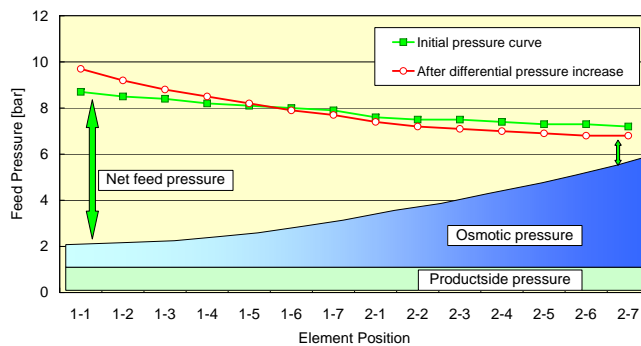
Clean condition

Biological fouling



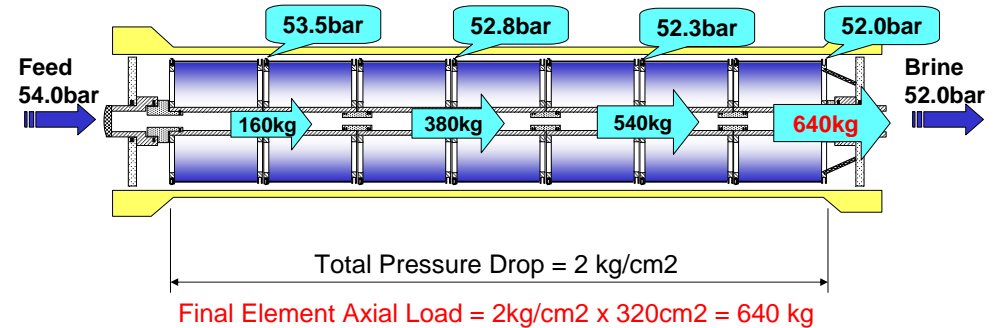
Problem of High Differential Pressure (1)

- ◆ Fouling will be accelerated
- ◆ RO element mechanical trouble by thrust force
- ◆ Getting difficult to remove by cleaning



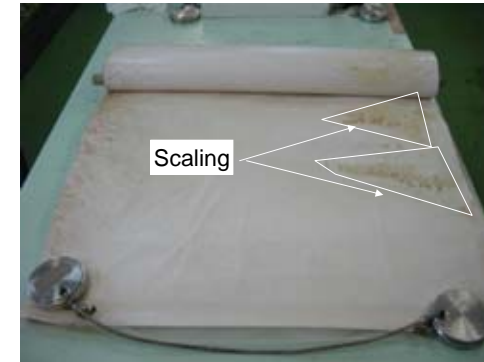
Problem of High Differential Pressure (2)

- ◆ Fouling will be accelerated
- ◆ RO elements mechanical trouble by thrust force
- ◆ Getting difficult to remove by cleaning



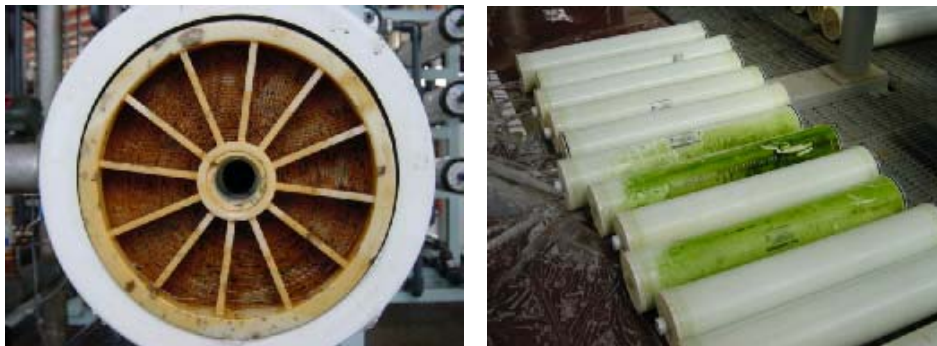
- The deposition of sparingly soluble salts onto the membrane surface and/or the feed channel material.
  - Scaling occurs primarily in the downstream elements because of the higher concentrations existing in this portion of the RO system.
  - Common scalants include calcium sulfate, silica and calcium carbonate.
  - Normalized Product Flow Rate will be decreased.
  - Normalized Salt rejection might be decreased by membrane mechanical ablations caused by scaling.
  - Differential pressure will be increased.

- Cause of Trouble : Scaling
- Scaling caused by :
- Too much high recovery
  - Higher pH operation
  - Lower antiscalant dosing
  - Water chemistry change



Single Element Performance Test on site (1)

- ♦ RO element outside visual checking
- ♦ Single element weight checking
- ♦ Single element performance checking

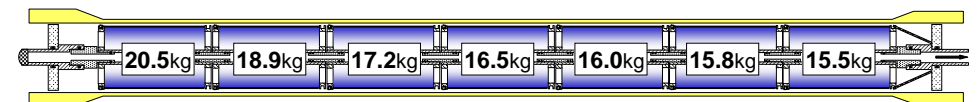


Single Element Performance Test on site (2)

- ♦ RO element outside visual checking
- ♦ Single element weight checking
- ♦ Single element performance checking

Measuring RO element weight after 30 min vertical standing water drain.

- New element weight : around 15 -16kg (depend on water drain condition)
- Weight checking will help to know fouling tendency in the pressure vessel.



**Single Element Performance Test on site (3)**

- ◆ RO element outside visual checking
- ◆ Single element weight checking
- ◆ **Single element performance checking**

Single RO element performance measuring equipment on site is very helpful :

- To check RO membrane performance more reliably.
- To check RO membrane performance before / after cleaning.
- To carry out pre-cleaning test (if single element cleaning test is available)



**Toray RO membrane  
Training Module # 11  
RO System Cleaning**

November, 2008

Toray Industries, Inc.,

Refer to Handling Manual for more detail information

**RO System Cleaning**

RO system cleaning should be done, if RO membrane surface and/or feed channel were subjected to fouling by foreign materials.

**Fouling is caused by**

- ◆ Improper pretreatment system
- ◆ pretreatment condition upset
- ◆ Chemical dosing system upset
- ◆ Improper material selection (piping, valve, pump, etc.)
- ◆ Improper flushing after shutdown
- ◆ Scaling by excess recovery ratio
- ◆ Biological contamination in feed water
- ◆ Feed water chemistry change

**RO System Cleaning – Typical Fouling Materials -**

**Typical fouling materials**

- ◆ Suspended Solid, Colloid, silt, clay
- ◆ Hydrates of metal oxides (Iron, manganese, copper, aluminum, etc.)
- ◆ Pretreatment coagulant
- ◆ Scale (Silica, calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, etc.)
- ◆ Organic chemicals (antiscalant, cationic polymer, nonionic polymer, etc.)
- ◆ Biological contamination and its growth

**RO System Cleaning – Schedule a cleaning when -**

- ◆ Normalized Product Flow Rate decreases by 10% or
- ◆ Normalized Differential Pressure increases by 20% or
- ◆ Normalized Permeate Quality decreases by 20%

If fouling tendency is observed, initiate to carry out followings :

- ◆ Check plant condition by follow the “Troubleshooting”
- ◆ Analyze feed water. Check the potential of fouling and scaling.
- ◆ Check the foulant on cartridge filters.
- ◆ Check the foulant on inside surface of RO feed piping.
- ◆ Check SDI and Bacteria count on several suspected positions to cause fouling from pretreatment discharge to RO inlet.
- ◆ Check RO elements outside conditions.
- ◆ Investigate RO element performance, foulant and suitable cleaning method.

More worse situation might be cause by a wrong choice of cleaning chemicals or conditions.

**When to clean**

- ◆ Normalized Product Flow Rate decreases by 10% or
- ◆ Normalized Differential Pressure increases by 50% or (preferably 30%)
- ◆ Normalized Salt Rejection decreases by 20%

If the time of cleaning is delayed too long, it will be difficult to remove the foulants completely from the membrane surface and the feed channel.

- ◆ Cleaning solutions represent harsh environments for the membrane. Clean only when necessary.
- ◆ pH extremes can damage the membrane. Always measure the pH prior to exposing the membrane.

**pH range and Temperature guideline for cleaning**

Membrane	45 deg.C	35 deg.C	30 deg.C
TM820	3 - 10	2 - 11	2 - 12
TM720	3 - 10	2 - 11	1 - 12

Stronger cleaning conditions may result more effective cleaning, however, can shorten the useful membrane life.

To optimize the useful membrane life, apply mildest cleaning conditions, including pH, temperature and contact time.

**How to clean**

- ◆ Always clean vessels in parallel, never in series. Clean each bank separately, if multi-bank RO is cleaned.
- ◆ If possible, try to dissolve the foulant or scale.
- ◆ Loosen by soaking then breakup and disperse with shear force and flush out of the system. Higher flow rate is preferable in case of sticky undissolve foulant, like biological fouling.

**What to Clean With**

- ◆ Low pH cleaners are designed to dissolve heavy metal hydrates and calcium carbonate scale.
- ◆ High pH cleaners are designed to loose and swell the foulant, then disperse and suspend with the aid of shear force allowing removal from the system.
- ◆ Typically, low pH cleaning followed by high pH cleaning is more effective.
- ◆ If brand name cleaning chemicals are used for cleaning, check the compatibility with the membrane in advance.



### 1. Cleaning Line Checking

Check and flush cleaning line, including cartridge filter before initiate cleaning. Cleaning line may contain rotten water or heavy bacteria growth after last cleaning. RO membrane might be fouled by this dirty solution.

### 2. Cleaning and Flushing Flow Rate

**8inch element : 80 to 150 liter/min** per RO pressure Vessel  
Higher flow rate is preferable to remove sticky foulant, however, never exceed the differential pressure limit (= 2.0kg/cm<sup>2</sup>)

### 3. RO Cleaning Tank

- 100% drainage
- Return line located near the bottom to minimize foam formation when using a surfactant.

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### 4. Instrumentation and monitoring

Temperature, pH, flow rate and pressure should be measured and monitored correctly.

### 5. Sampling points

Sampling valves should be located to allow pH and TDS measurements and cleaning solution sampling.

### 6. Permeate Return Line

Separate permeate return line to cleaning tank is required. During cleaning and flushing, a small amount of permeate will be produced. The permeate return line and valves must be opened to atmospheric pressure during the cleaning and flushing. If permeate line pressure exceed brine pressure, membrane delamination would be caused along with glue lines.

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### 7. RO system cleaning and Flushing procedure (1)

- Clean a lowest pressure as possible (1 - 2bar)
- RO permeate water or De-ionized water should be used for all cleaning and flushing process. It should not contain chlorine, hardness and transition metals.
- Drain initial 20% of returned cleaning solution, if possible. This solution highly contain the foulant.
- Start circulation with slow flow increase. For the first 5 minutes, slowly throttle the flow rate to 1/3 of the target flow rate. For the second 5 minutes, increase the flow rate to 2/3 of the target flow rate, and then increase the flow rate to the target flow rate.
- Readjust the pH back to the target, if it changed more than 0.5 pH unit.

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### 7. RO system cleaning and Flushing procedure (2)

- Drain and flush the cleaning tank.
- After completion of the chemical cleaning procedure, a low pressure cleaning rinse is required for RO system and cleaning system with clean water.
- A second cleaning can be initiate after rinsing of RO system with clean water.
- After final chemical cleaning and clean water rinsing, pretreated feed water flushing will be carried out. The permeate line should remain open to drain at this time.
- After restart-up the RO system, RO permeate should be dumped until it meets the quality requirements of the process (conductivity, pH, etc.).
- It is not unusual to take a period from a few hours to a few days for the RO permeate quality to fully stabilize.

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### 7. RO system cleaning and Flushing procedure (3)

- Record all cleaning / flushing activities carried out on the RO, including :
  - Date carried out
  - Elements being cleaned
  - Solution details
  - Solution pH (before / after cleaning)
  - Solution temperature
  - Flow Rate
  - Detailed description of cleaning sequence  
(shut down / flush period / recirculation period / soak period)



**Toray RO membrane  
Training Module # 12  
RO Elements  
Replacement**

November, 2008

Toray Industries, Inc.,

**RO Elements Replacement**

- RO elements replacement will be carried out, if RO membrane performance is deteriorated.
- Normally, periodical partial RO elements replacement is applied to keep guaranteed permeate water requirement and to minimize the RO elements amounts for replacement (= maximize the RO elements life)
- Only the worse performance RO elements should be replaced and disposed to keep permeate requirement.

**Why Partial Replacement is applied ?**

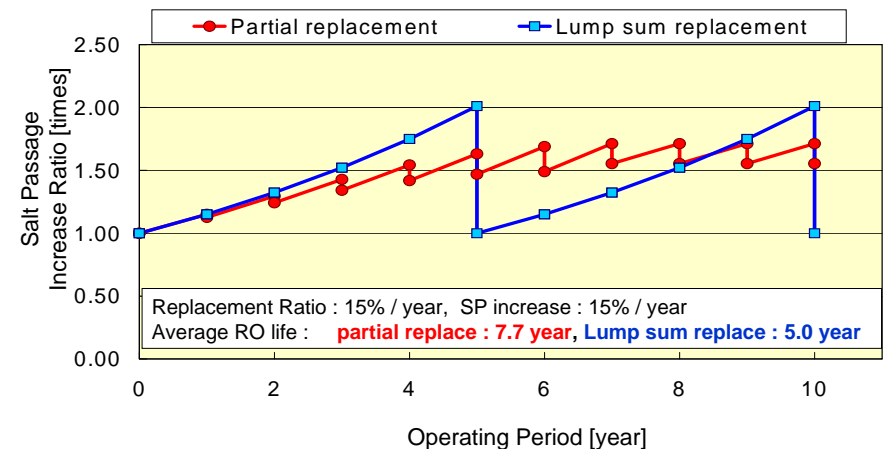
- ◆ Normally, lead side elements are forced under heavy duty conditions. Therefore, lead side elements performance are poorer and highly fouled rather than down stream RO elements.
- ◆ In this case, RO system performance will be improved very much with lead side RO elements partial replacement.

**After 3years used SWRO elements performance in middle east**

Position	Test Time	Weight	Product Flow Rate	Salt Rejection	Differential Pressure
Lead (1st)	Production	18.0 kg	23.3 m <sup>3</sup> /d	99.73 %	10 kPa
	Returned	20.5 kg	16.1 m <sup>3</sup> /d	99.67 %	25 kPa
End (6th)	Production	18.0 kg	21.6 m <sup>3</sup> /d	99.79 %	10 kPa
	Returned	18.5 kg	20.4 m <sup>3</sup> /d	99.78 %	10 kPa

**"Partial Replacement" vs. "All Train Replacement"**

Partial Replacement can expand RO elements life with keeping required permeate quality



- ◆ To minimize the amount of RO elements replacement, check following items prior to decide the RO elements replacement.
  - Pressure Vessel Profile
  - Pressure Vessel Probing
  - Single RO elements performance
- ◆ Single RO elements performance of several loading positions and several pressure vessels should be checked prior to decide the number of replace RO elements.
- ◆ Minimum amount of the worst performance RO elements should be replaced to keep permeate requirement.

- Lowest product flow rate
  - Normally, fouling tendency of one RO train is similar in all pressure vessels.
  - Check relation between the RO elements product flow rate tendency and loading position in the pressure vessel.
- Highest differential pressure
  - Check relation between the RO elements differential pressure tendency and loading position in the pressure vessel.
  - If only lead side RO element has higher differential pressure even though this RO element has good performance for both product flow rate and salt rejection, it might be possible to use this element again in brine side position.

- Lowest salt rejection
  - After the RO system operation, salt rejection performance of each element might have a variation depending on the production performance.
  - Check the worse salt rejection RO elements by pressure vessel profiling and probing. These worse quality membranes should be changed with high priority.
  - If more large number of RO elements have to be replaced to keep required quality addition to above worse RO elements, check the result of single RO elements performance test. Then replace from worse position in worse quality pressure vessels.

## Training Material for Shuaibah III Project : SDI measurement

1	<p><b>SDI Measurement</b></p> <p>Colloidal fouling of RO elements is one of the serious problem for RO plant operation. The source of silt or colloids in RO feed water often includes clay, colloidal silica, iron corrosion products and bacteria. Pretreatment coagulant can also cause fouling if it is not removed in pretreatment correctly.</p> <p>Silt Density Index (SDI) measurement is good technology to check the colloidal fouling potential of RO feed water. Periodical SDI measurement is also effective to check the reason of RO performance problem at the trouble shooting.</p>																											
2	<p><b><u>Procedure of SDI measurement</u></b></p> <p>1) Preparation the equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Handy SDI meter</li> <li>- 47mm diameter membrane filter support</li> <li>- 47mm diameter Millipore membrane filter (0.45micron-m, Type - HA)</li> <li>- Pressurized RO feed water (&gt;2.5bar)</li> <li>- Pressure Regulator (if handy SDI meter is out of service)</li> <li>- 5 bar (70psi) pressure gauge (if handy SDI meter is out of service)</li> <li>- 500ml sample cylinder (if handy SDI meter is out of service)</li> </ul> <p>2) Procedure (if use handy SDI meter, follow its instruction)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Flushing the sampling line carefully (more than 10 min is recommended)</li> <li>b) Place the membrane filter on its support.</li> <li>c) Open isolate valve and adjust feed pressure to 2.1 bar(=30psi). At the same time, start to measure initial time, T0, necessary to filter 500ml of sample water. Feed pressure to be kept constant by continuous adjustment.              Note : T0 measurement is very much important, therefore, if long times passed until pressure adjustment, measure T0 again with another new filter.</li> <li>d) After 5, 10 and 15 min, measure again the time necessary to filter 500ml.  <math>SDI\ 5 = (1 - T0 / T5) \times 100 / 5</math>  <math>SDI\ 10 = (1 - T0 / T10) \times 100 / 10</math>  <math>SDI\ 15 = (1 - T0 / T15) \times 100 / 15</math>              Note : Relation of T0 and T15 for SDI result              T15 is 1.43 times as long as T0 : SDI = 2.0              T15 is 1.82 times as long as T0 : SDI = 3.0              T15 is 2.50 times as long as T0 : SDI = 4.0</li> <li>e) Keep the filter sample in SDI log book with SDI5, SDI10 and SDI15 value. Sampling water pH, raw water Turbidity and Ferric chloride dosing (ppm) are recommended to keep record together. Photo album is recommend for keeping sample.</li> </ol> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-end; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 250px;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date _____</td> <td>Date _____</td> <td>Date _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Time _____</td> <td>Time _____</td> <td>Time _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T5 _____</td> <td>T5 _____</td> <td>T5 _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T10 _____</td> <td>T10 _____</td> <td>T10 _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T15 _____</td> <td>T15 _____</td> <td>T15 _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>pH _____</td> <td>pH _____</td> <td>pH _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RawTur _____</td> <td>RawTur _____</td> <td>RawTur _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FeCl3 _____ ppm</td> <td>FeCl3 _____ ppm</td> <td>FeCl3 _____ ppm</td> </tr> </table> </div> </div>				Date _____	Date _____	Date _____	Time _____	Time _____	Time _____	T5 _____	T5 _____	T5 _____	T10 _____	T10 _____	T10 _____	T15 _____	T15 _____	T15 _____	pH _____	pH _____	pH _____	RawTur _____	RawTur _____	RawTur _____	FeCl3 _____ ppm	FeCl3 _____ ppm	FeCl3 _____ ppm
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RawTur _____	RawTur _____	RawTur _____																										
FeCl3 _____ ppm	FeCl3 _____ ppm	FeCl3 _____ ppm																										

# RO feed SDI measurement Log Sheet

$$SDI = (1 - T_0 / T_{15}) / 15 \times 100$$

<p>Date : _____            Time : _____            T 0 : _____ sec            T 15 : _____ sec            SDI 15 : _____            pH : _____            Turbidity : _____ NTU            FeCl3 dosing : _____ ppm</p>	<p>Date : _____            Time : _____            T 0 : _____ sec            T 15 : _____ sec            SDI 15 : _____            pH : _____            Turbidity : _____ NTU            FeCl3 dosing : _____ ppm</p>	<p>Date : _____            Time : _____            T 0 : _____ sec            T 15 : _____ sec            SDI 15 : _____            pH : _____            Turbidity : _____ NTU            FeCl3 dosing : _____ ppm</p>	<p>Date : _____            Time : _____            T 0 : _____ sec            T 15 : _____ sec            SDI 15 : _____            pH : _____            Turbidity : _____ NTU            FeCl3 dosing : _____ ppm</p>
<p>Date : _____            Time : _____            T 0 : _____ sec            T 15 : _____ sec            SDI 15 : _____            pH : _____            Turbidity : _____ NTU            FeCl3 dosing : _____ ppm</p>	<p>Date : _____            Time : _____            T 0 : _____ sec            T 15 : _____ sec            SDI 15 : _____            pH : _____            Turbidity : _____ NTU            FeCl3 dosing : _____ ppm</p>	<p>Date : _____            Time : _____            T 0 : _____ sec            T 15 : _____ sec            SDI 15 : _____            pH : _____            Turbidity : _____ NTU            FeCl3 dosing : _____ ppm</p>	<p>Date : _____            Time : _____            T 0 : _____ sec            T 15 : _____ sec            SDI 15 : _____            pH : _____            Turbidity : _____ NTU            FeCl3 dosing : _____ ppm</p>

**Training Material for Shuaibah III project : Water Sampling & preparation for Analysis**

1	<p><u>Water Sampling</u></p> <p>Correct water sampling is very important to check the RO performance and successful RO plant operation.</p> <p>Water sampling for ion analysis is not so difficult. But for bacteria count, please strictly follow the recommendation from specialist of your bacteria analysis method.</p> <p>1) Preparation the equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clean sampling bottle with cap (please follow the size by analysis persons request)</li> <li>- Clean plastic hose with union (Ex. 10mm, 1m)</li> <li>- Low TDS water for rinsing (Ex. RO permeate, distilled water)</li> </ul> <p>2) Procedure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Prepare tag paper for each sampling bottle and put it on the sampling bottle. It is recommended to prepare all sampling bottle in laboratory or clean place.</li> <li>b) Put plastic hose to sampling point. This is to prevent corrosion by sea water spattering.</li> <li>c) Flushing the sampling line at least 2 min. If the sampling line is so long from main line, please wait more long time.</li> <li>d) <u>Rinse the sampling bottle 2 times by sampling water.</u></li> <li>e) Fill the sampling water <u>until the all of air go out.</u></li> <li>f) Put the cap to the sampling bottle.</li> <li>g) After taking sample, wash out the sea water by low TDS water.</li> </ol>
2	<p><u>Water preparation for Analysis</u></p> <p>Correct water preparation for water analysis is very much important to check the RO performance and successful RO plant operation.</p> <p>1) Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enough amount of sampling water for sensor rinsing</li> <li>- Analysis instrument, which is calibrated correctly by periodical calibration.</li> </ul> <p>2) Procedure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Rinse the sensor and sample bottle for analysis by distilled water.</li> <li>b) <u>Rinse the sensor and sample bottle for analysis 2 times by water sample.</u> (If water sample is taken just after distilled water rinse, this value might be lower than reality by dilution)</li> <li>c) Read the analysis result</li> </ol>

## Training Material for Shuaibah III project : Preparation for RO Element Loading

1

### Preparation for RO elements loading

Before starting RO elements loading, please confirm following items.

(please refer the detail to handling manual)

#### 1) System Preparation

- a) All control systems and data logging systems for pretreatment and RO are working correctly.
- b) All piping for RO, including RO flushing line, RO cleaning line and RO feed water line, flush to remove any debris, oil, metal residues, solvents, or oxidants to prevent contact with the RO membranes.
- c) Pretreatment stabilization – all upstream processes must be known to be working stably and within specification.
- d) Instrument calibration – all flow, pressure and quality measurement equipment must be checked and calibrated.
- e) All necessary hydraulic testing of pipework must be completed.
- f) Check the high pressure inspection – Pressurized RO system

#### 2) Vessel Preparation

Clean the inside of the vessels before RO elements loading. Simply hosing down the inside of the vessel usually will not be sufficient to clean the vessel. Consult your vessel supplier about the procedure to clean vessel inside wall.

#### 3) O-ring preparation

- 4 pcs of O-rings for 1 interconnector
- 6 pcs or interconnectors for 1 pressure vessel (incase of 7m pressure vessel)
- Glycerin for lubricants

It is strongly recommended that new o-rings for all components (interconnectors and end cap adaptor parts) are used.

- a) Lubricate O-rings by glycerin before put O-ring to interconnectors of adaptors. It is recommended to mix the O-rings and lubricants in plastic bag, if a lot of amount of O-rings are used.
- b) It is recommended that O-rings are expanded slightly to position them over the groove for installation – O-ring is adequately expanded to avoid twisting when it is put on interconnector.

#### 4) Brine seal preparation

- 1 piece of brine seal for each RO element

- a) Lubricate brine seal by glycerin before put brine seal to RO element. It is recommended to mix the brine seal and glycerin in plastic bag, if a lot of amount of brine seals are used.

#### 5) End plate preparation

- a) Remove end plates from both end of pressure vessel after complete flushing. Check the inside of pressure vessel again and if necessary clean mechanically.
- b) Install permeate adaptor with O-ring into the permeate port of brine side end plate. Lubricate both parts using glycerin.
- c) Install brine side end plate with thrust ring into the brine side of pressure vessel. Install retaining ring set according to the instruction manual of pressure vessel supplier.



## Training Material for Shuaibah III Project : RO Element Loading

1

### RO elements loading

#### 1) Preparation

- Number of RO element : M pcs
- Number of Pressure Vessel : N pcs
- Interconnector : M – N pcs
- O-ring for interconnector : 4 x M pcs
- Brine seal : M pcs
- Permeate adopter (feed side) : N pcs
- Loading position logging note.
- Clean white cotton grove

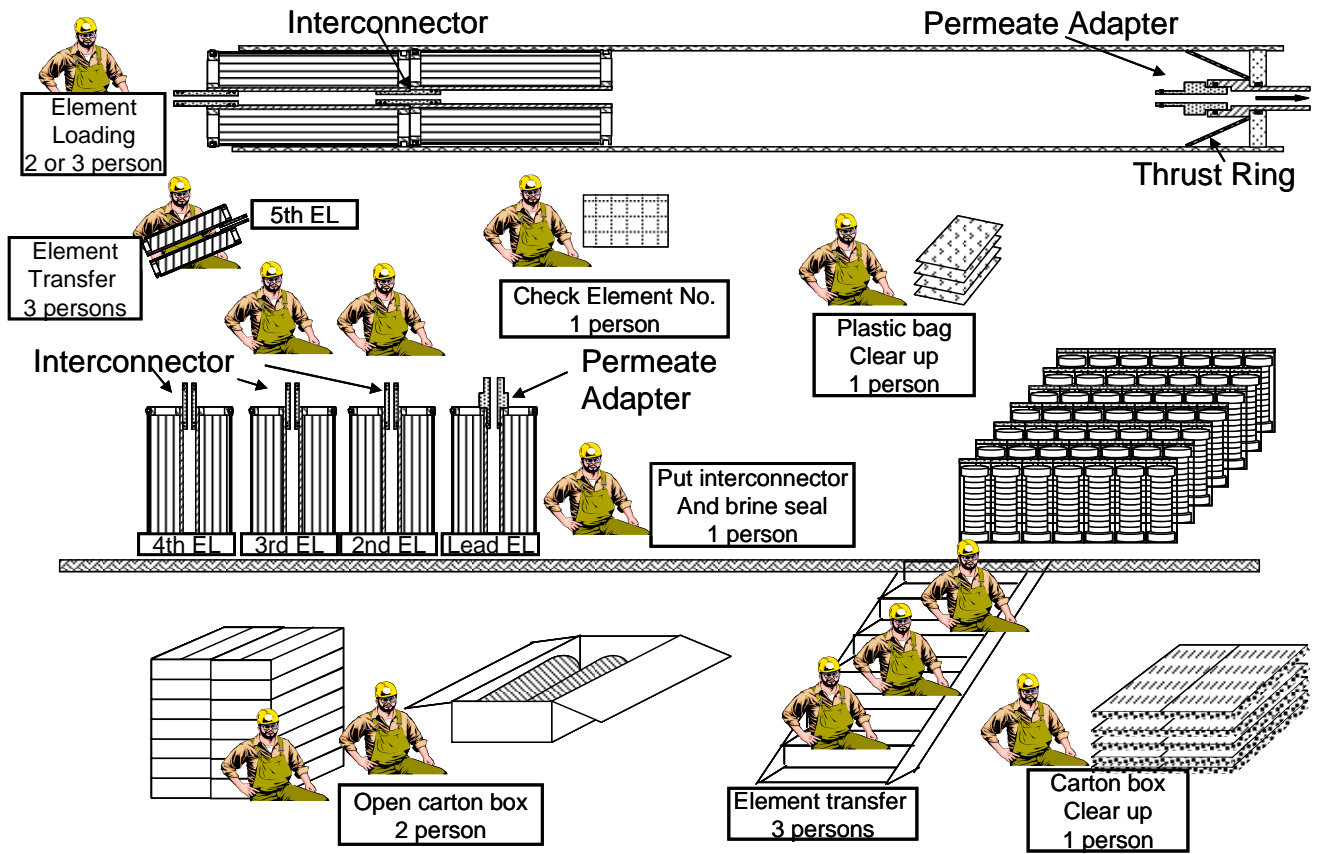
Note : O-rings and brine seals should be lubricated before this procedure and groove them properly.

It is strongly recommended to wear long sleeve working shirt during RO installation to prevent skin problem by GRP element outside.

#### 2) Procedure for RO element loading (refer the schematic drawing in page 2/2)

It is recommended to carry out this procedure by at least 4 persons.

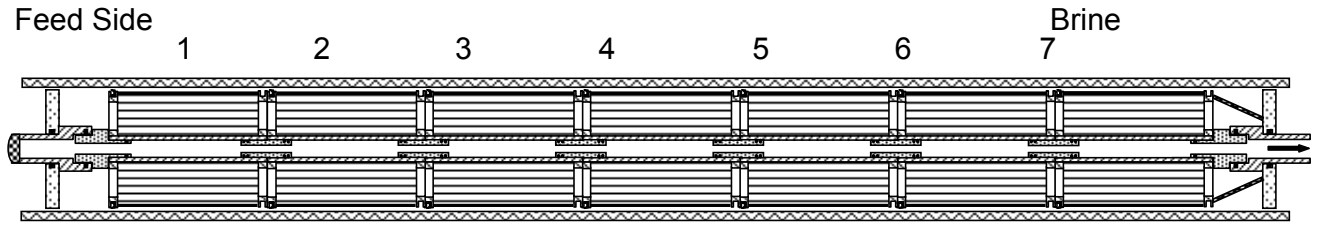
- a) Ensure that all preparation for RO element loading (TM-Shuaibah III-0003) was finished correctly.
- b) Open the carton box and take RO elements out.
- c) Stand RO elements for 1 pressure vessel in one line (7pcs for 7m vessel) with feed side up.
- d) Cut open the plastic bag of top end straight. Some of these bags should be kept and re-used in case any RO elements must be conserved or shipped.
- e) Put brine seal into the groove at feed side end of the element, with the U-cup facing the direction of flow.
- f) Install interconnector (with O-ring) into the feed side of RO element permeate center pipe. For the lead element of vessel, install permeate adopter into permeate center pipe.
- g) Check the number of RO element in loading check sheet.
- h) Insert RO element from the feed side end into the pressure vessel about 2/3, after lubricating brine seals and vessel's inner surface with glycerin.
- i) Connect the two elements at the interconnector, keeping them in line not to load the weight of the element to the interconnector and/or product tube and to avoid damages to interconnector, product tube or brine seal. The partly inserted element is best held in place by a helper. Now push both elements smoothly and firmly into vessel, keeping them in line not to load the weight of the element to the interconnector and/or product tube and to avoid damages to interconnector, product tube or brine seal.
- j) Repeat procedures described in step h) to i). Insert elements one by one into the pressure vessel.
- k) Push the last element home until the first (downstream) element's permeate tube is firmly connected.



# RO Membrane Loading Check Sheet " Train " Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Feed Side → Brine Side

Vessel No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Number of Shims



## Training Material for Shuaibah III Project : Procedure for Shimming

1

### Shimming

After installing all RO elements, use shim rings provided by pressure vessel supplier to reduce the free space in the vessel. (Please refer the detail in handling manual)

#### Advantage of Shimming

- Helps to minimize element movement inside the vessel when the system is shut-down and re-started.
- Helps to minimize O-ring movement against the sealing surface, so reducing wear and possibility of “rolling” O-rings. This reduces leakage.

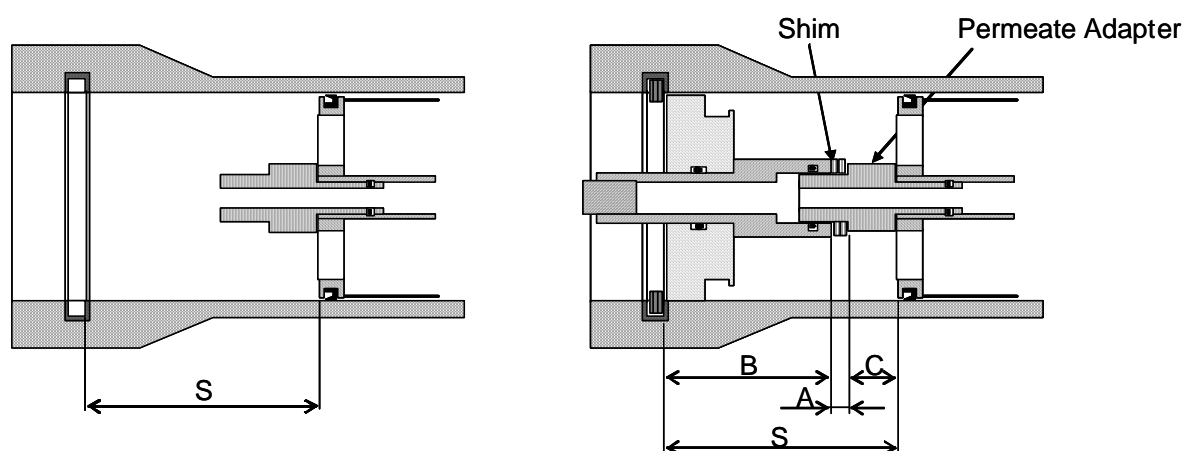
#### 1) Preparation

- Shim rings : plastic ring material, PVC etc. 5 mm thickness
- Measuring scale

#### 2) Procedure

- a) Ensure that all elements are installed into pressure vessel correctly. Push elements firmly into the pressure vessel so they are completely located into the down stream end plate.
- b) Measure the distance S : Feed side edge of lead element to retaining ring groove inside edge
- c) Free space D is calculated by following.
 
$$S = A - (B + C)$$
  - A : Free space
  - S : Distance between element edge to retaining ring groove inside edge
  - B : Distance of end plate + permeate port
  - C : Distance of permeate adapter
- d) Decide the number of shims for this pressure vessel

Number of shims =  $(A - 1\text{mm}) / \text{thickness of shim}$  (truncate the decimal place)  
Distance



### **Training Material for Shuaibah III Project : Pre-Start-up check list**

No.	Check	<u>Checking Items</u>
1		Corrosion resistant materials used throughout pretreatment / RO, including chemical dosing equipment, piping, pump wetted parts
2		All piping and equipment are compatible with the pH range expected (normal operation and cleaning operations)
3		All pretreatment filters backwashed / rinsed and in clean condition
4		New / clean cartridge filters installed correctly in the housings
5		Filter cartridges must be free of surfactants, lubricants, and textile aides.
6		Feed line flushed / purged (usually done before high pressure pump + RO connected)
7		Chemical addition points correctly installed, and chemical addition equipment operational (including spares)
8		Check valves correctly installed on chemical lines
9		Adequate mixing for pretreatment chemicals with the feed water before entering RO
10		Provision made to prevent RO operation if dosing pumps are shut down / chemical flow stops
11		Provision made to prevent chemical addition / dosing pumps operating if the RO is shut down
12		If chlorine is used anywhere on the pretreatment, ensure chlorine is completely removed before contact with RO membrane
13		Planned instrumentation is adequate to allow plant monitoring / data normalization
14		Planned instrumentation is installed / operational / calibrated
15		Pressure relief protection is installed and correctly set
16		Provision exists for the prevention of product pressure from exceeding feed / concentrate pressure by more than 0.7 kg/cm <sup>2</sup> at any time
17		All interlocks, time delay relays and alarms are correctly set and tested
18		Provision exists for permeate sampling on all RO vessels
19		Provision exists for sampling of feed, concentrate and permeate streams
20		Provision exists, and pipework is correctly installed for normal operation and cleaning mode
21		Pressure vessels are securely attached to the frame
22		All pressure vessels have been loaded with membrane elements, and end caps are installed with retaining assemblies correctly installed
23		All vessel connections are correctly made, and secure
24		Permeate header is open, with no closed valves
25		Permeate flow is directed to drain
26		Reject control valve is in the open position
27		Feed flow valve is throttled / bypass line is partly open to limit feed flow to < 50% of operating feed flow

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Checked by \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmed by \_\_\_\_\_

## Training Material for Shuaibah III Project : Pressure Vessel Probing

### 1 Center Pipe Probing

Center pipe probing is very much important to investigate salt rejection problem at site. It is possible to know the suspected reason of deterioration such as O-ring trouble, permeate adaptor trouble, etc.

If one or some of pressure vessels show significantly higher permeate conductivity, these pressure vessels should be probed by this method.

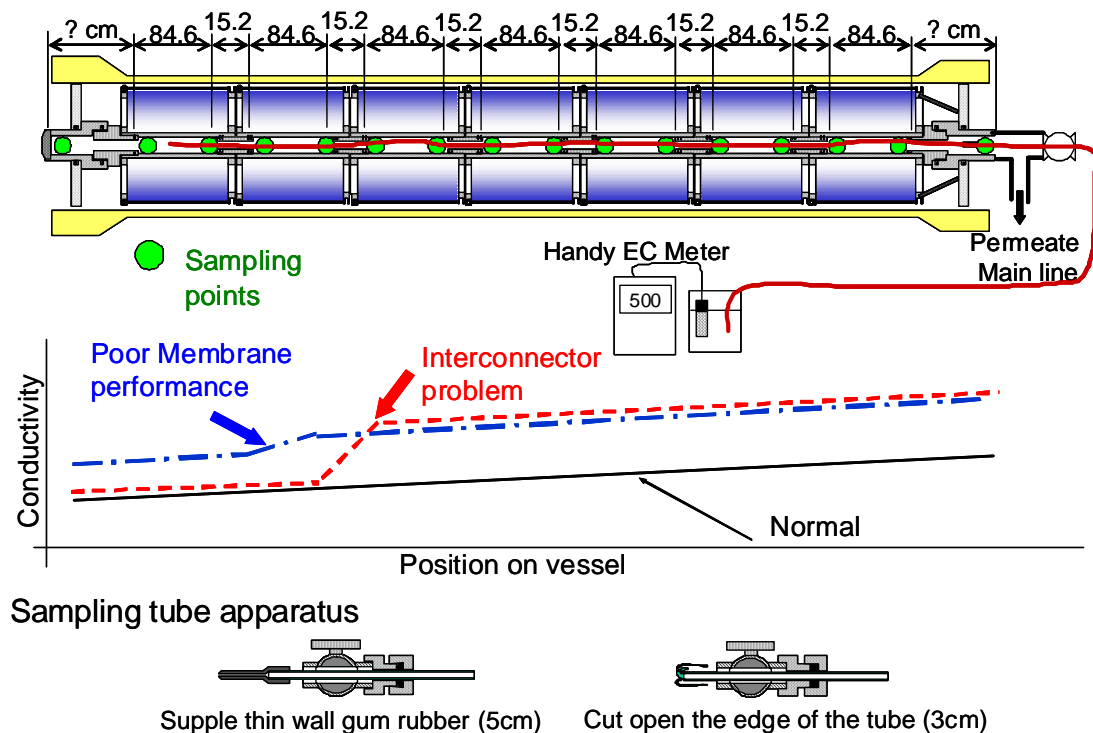
#### 1) Preparation

- 6mm plastic flexible tube (12m, sampling point should be marked before installation)
- 1/2 inch Ball valve (inner ball should be bigger than 10mm diameter)
- Water sampling cup (300ml)
- Handy type conductivity meter
- Measuring scale

#### 2) Procedure for center pipe probing

- a) Connect 1/2 inch Ball valves to individual pressure vessel permeate manifolds, where are plugged at normal operation.
- b) Start RO system and wait several hours to stabilize the system performance.
- c) Connect the probing tube to one of the valve and install 6mm plastic flexible tube to the end of pressure vessel (check the installed distance by maker)
- d) A few minutes should be waited to rinse out the tube, then, measure conductivity of sample.
- e) Pull the tube to next position. Sample should be taken at least before and after interconnector. After pulling the tube, wait few minutes again to rinse out the tube.
- f) Repeat step e) to the end of pressure vessel.
- g)

A normal profile result shows a steady increase of permeate conductivity from the feed side to brine side. If an usual large deviation is observed in the result, this profile locates the source of the high salt passage problem.



# PRODUCT WATER QUALITY CHECK SHEET "Train \_\_\_\_\_"

DATE : \_\_\_\_\_

TIME : \_\_\_\_\_

Measured by : \_\_\_\_\_

Temperature : \_\_\_\_\_

Conductivity Feed Permeate

Feed Permeate

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ us/cm

Final \_\_\_\_\_ us/cm

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	
12																	12
11																	11
10																	10
9																	9
8																	8
7																	7
6																	6
5																	5
4																	4
3																	3
2																	2
1																	1
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	