

# TECHNOSPHERE SAFETY ТЕХНОСФЕРНАЯ БЕЗОПАСНОСТЬ



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## Development of a Calculation Method for a Combined Filter

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### Abstract

**Introduction.** If wastewater treatment becomes less effective, the intensity of treatment facilities should be increased. Several approaches to solving this issue have been described in the literature. For example, to intensify the coagulation process, researchers have used controlled mechanical mixing of coagulants with effluents, mixing with air, and injecting the coagulant using jet or chamber mixers. The authors of this paper propose integrating a vertical clarifying filter (VCF) and a mixing chamber into one housing. This is a novel approach that eliminates the disadvantages of operating separate devices, such as the need for additional space, the possibility of forming aggregates close to the area where they are removed on filters, and avoiding breakage of flakes in connecting pipelines. Experimental evidence has previously demonstrated the effectiveness of this installation. The aim of this study is to develop a scientific methodology for calculating the combined filter, which is essential for widespread adoption.

**Materials and Methods.** The mixing efficiency of the fluidized bed was determined using the Camp criterion, which characterized the energy spent on mixing. Relevant publications on the subject were also taken into account. Special attention was paid to the description of coagulation. Before developing the calculation method, the authors conducted experiments and created a mathematical model of the installation. The operation of a combined filter with a mixing chamber consisting of a rapid mixing tank with a floating load and a settling tank was considered. The main initial data for the calculation method included: maximum wastewater flow rate, water viscosity, filter diameter, distance from load to housing, backwash intensity, and the volume of expansion of load during backwashing.

**Results.** The paper shows that the Camp criterion depends on various factors, including mass, area, contact time, and viscosity of particles in a fluidized bed. The calculation of the mixing chamber of the filter was based on this dependence. The regeneration of filters related to the efficiency of backwashing was taken into account. The method for calculating the mixing chamber was presented, and factors that could reduce the effectiveness of backwashing were discussed. As compensation, it was proposed to increase the intensity of backwashing or reduce the height of the filter layer. It was shown how to calculate the dimensions of the mixing chamber elements — the diameter and height of the tanks. A self-check was included in the calculation to avoid errors.

**Discussion and Conclusion.** For the first time, an improved combined filter design and a method for calculating it are described. The proposed approach makes it possible to determine the dimensions of the mixing chamber and ensure the necessary backwash efficiency. The new solution is of practical interest for enterprises that operate wastewater treatment plants with VCF.

**Keywords:** vertical clarifying filter, combined filter, calculation of a combined filter, Camp criterion for fluidized bed, filtration intensification

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## Разработка методики расчета комбифilterа

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### Аннотация

**Введение.** При ухудшении очистки стоков следует повысить интенсивность работы очистных сооружений. Некоторые подходы к решению данной задачи описаны в литературе. Известно, как в целях интенсификации процесса коагуляции используется регулируемое механическое перемешивание коагулянта со стоками, перемешивание с помощью воздуха, ввод коагулянта посредством струйных или камерных смесителей. Авторы данной статьи предлагают интегрировать в одном корпусе фильтр осветлительный вертикальный (ФОВ) и камеру перемешивания. Такой подход описан впервые. Исключены недостатки, характерные для эксплуатации обособленных устройств: не нужны дополнительные площади, можно расположить рядом зоны образования агрегатов и их удаления на фильтрах, а также избежать разбивания хлопьев в соединяющих трубопроводах. Эффективность установки ранее подтвердилась экспериментально. Цель данного исследования — разработать научно обоснованную методику расчета комбифilterа, что важно для массового внедрения.

**Материалы и методы.** Эффективность перемешивания псевдоожиженного слоя определяли по критерию Кэмпбелла, который характеризует энергию, затрачиваемую на перемешивание. Учитывались публикации, посвященные исследуемой проблеме. Особое внимание уделяется тому, как описана коагуляция. До разработки методики расчета авторы провели эксперименты и создали математическую модель установки. Рассматривается функционирование комбифilterа с камерой перемешивания, которая состоит из чаши интенсивного перемешивания с плавающей загрузкой и чаши успокоивания. Основные исходные данные для методики расчета: максимальный расход стоков, вязкость воды, диаметр фильтра, высота от загрузки до корпуса, интенсивность обратной промывки и объем расширения загрузки при обратной промывке.

**Результаты исследования.** Показано, как критерий Кэмпбелла зависит от массы частиц, их площади, времени контакта и вязкости псевдоожиженного слоя. На этой зависимости основан расчет камеры перемешивания комбифilterа. Принимается во внимание регенерация фильтров, связанная с эффективностью обратной промывки. Приводится методика расчета камеры перемешивания. Учитываются факторы снижения эффективности обратной промывки. В качестве компенсации предлагается усилить интенсивность промывки или уменьшить высоту фильтрующего слоя. Показано, как рассчитать габариты элементов камеры перемешивания — диаметр и высоту чаш. В расчете также заложена самопроверка, которая позволит избежать ошибок.

**Обсуждение и заключение.** Впервые описаны усовершенствованная конструкция комбифilterа и методика его расчета. Предложенный подход позволяет определить габариты камеры перемешивания и обеспечить необходимую эффективность обратной промывки. Новое решение представляет практический интерес для предприятий, которые эксплуатируют очистные сооружения с ФОВ.

**Ключевые слова:** фильтр осветлительный вертикальный, комбинированный фильтр, расчет комбифilterа, критерий Кэмпбелла для псевдоожиженного слоя, интенсификация фильтрования

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**Introduction.** By the end of 2022, polluted wastewater accounted for an average of 33.4% of the total volume of wastewater in Russia<sup>1</sup>. One of the main reasons for this issue is insufficient cleaning of wastewater. Industrial facilities use not only one- or two-stage systems, but also integrated solutions that provide several stages of cleaning. They consist of components such as raking devices, reverse osmosis membranes, and evaporation plants. Despite the variety and complexity of these systems, there are several obstacles to their efficiency:

- high cost of equipment;
- outdated structures;
- deterioration of wastewater quality.

<sup>1</sup> On the State and Protection of the Environment of the Russian Federation in 2022. The State Report. Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation. (In Russ.) URL: <https://2022.ecology-gosdoklad.ru> (accessed: 26.08.2024).

To address these challenges, there are several methods that can be used to improve the performance of wastewater treatment plants. These methods include mixing coagulants with water in different ways:

- controlled mechanical [1];
- with the addition of air and concentrated coagulant [2];
- due to cavitation resonance effects [3];
- using jet [4] or chamber mixers [5].

However, these technical solutions have their drawbacks. Firstly, additional space is required to accommodate equipment such as a flocculator or flocculation chamber. Secondly, the areas where aggregates form and are removed from the filters are located some distance apart. Thirdly, when flocculation and filtration are separated, flakes break up in connecting pipelines.

To address this issue, we need water purification systems that integrate multiple processes into one unit. This would improve the existing systems and save space. We would like to emphasize that it concerns upgrading the existing equipment. To achieve this goal, it is advisable to use combined filters.

The aim of the work is to develop a scientifically sound method of calculation that would allow for the replication of positive effects of a combined filter with other filters.

**Materials and Methods.** The authors propose a utility model of a combined filter [6]. This is a sand filter with a coagulant mixing chamber built into its body. Earlier, the expediency of this approach was proved by the authors of this article [7]. Combined installations and systems are suitable for solving multiple problems simultaneously. For example, biochar can be used to remove microplastics from water [8], and the hybrid membrane distillation system can produce purified water and generate electricity [9], while reverse osmosis can be powered by a concentrated solar gas engine [10].

According to the authors, the proposed utility model of a combined filter (Fig. 1) represents an effective solution for enhancing filtration in existing industries. The design of the presented filter differs slightly from the original one [6], due to design features identified through computer modeling [7]. These features allowed for an increase in the efficiency of the filter.

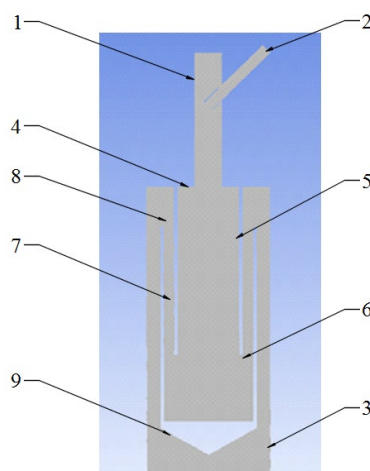


Fig. 1. Design of the combined filter: 1 — source water pipe; 2 — reagent supply pipe; 3 — filter housing; 4 — mixing chamber; 5 — rapid mixing tank with floating load; 6 — lower overflow; 7 — settling tank; 8 — upper overflow; 9 — cone insert

Through pipes 1 and 2, water and coagulant flow into the rapid mixing tank. The coagulant is mixed in the first chamber under the pressure of source water due to the mixing load. After the coagulant treatment, the water is directed through the lower overflow into the settling tank, and then through the upper overflow into the filter housing.

The coagulant helps to neutralize the charge of colloidal particles [11] and form insoluble compounds [12]. The coagulation process includes two stages [13], for each of which specific zones are provided in the mixing chamber.

The first stage, the perikinetic stage, takes place in the mixing chamber. Due to the special loading inside the chamber, the reagents are evenly and quickly distributed, and a high flow velocity gradient is achieved. Contact coagulation will further increase the efficiency of reagent treatment.

The lower overflow is located between the mixing and flocculation chambers and performs the key function of protecting the mixing load from being carried further into the tank and into the filter. It also helps to reduce flow turbulence.

With a mixing intensity of no more than  $G = 50 - 60 \text{ C}^{-1}$  [14] optimal conditions for the formation of flakes are created in the chambers.

The second stage of the coagulation process is orthokinetic. It takes place in a settling chamber is accompanied by an increase in the size of colloidal particles greater than  $1 \mu\text{m}$  [15]. It implements the functionality of a flocculation chamber.

The source water, together with the formed flakes, enters the filter housing through the upper overflow. A conical insert in the lower part of the housing is needed to eliminate swirls that can destroy the flakes.

When developing the calculation methodology, the authors summarized the literature data, conducted laboratory tests, and performed mathematical modeling. The results of the laboratory studies confirming the effectiveness of the proposed solution are given in [7]. To evaluate the criteria for the processes, the Camp criterion was selected, which evaluated the energy spent on mixing. The literature analysis allowed us to find out how the effectiveness of backwashing depended on its intensity and the degree of load expansion. In addition, the value of the gradient for the fluidized bed was known from publications.

## Results

*1. Fluidized bed mixing intensity.* Fluidized bed mixing intensity was used as a criterion of work efficiency. Based on this indicator, it was possible to use a mixing chamber with filters of various sizes and ensure the previously obtained result [7]. According to [16], the intensity of mixing of the reagent with water was characterized by the Camp criterion:

$$\Theta = G \cdot t, \quad (1)$$

where  $t$  — residence time in the mixing chamber, s;  $G$  — velocity gradient,  $1/\text{s}$ .

Residence time in the mixing chamber:

$$t = \frac{V}{Q}, \quad (2)$$

where  $V$  — volume of the mixing tank,  $\text{m}^3$ ;  $Q$  — flow rate of source water,  $\text{m}^3/\text{s}$ .

Velocity gradient:

$$G = \sqrt{\frac{\Delta p}{\mu t}}, \quad (3)$$

where  $\Delta p$  — pressure drop in the mixing chamber, Pa;  $\mu$  — dynamic viscosity of water,  $\text{Pa}\cdot\text{s}$ ;  $t$  — mixing time, s.

According to [17], the pressure drop for a fluidized bed is determined by the formula:

$$\Delta p = \frac{m_q g}{S}, \quad (4)$$

where  $m_q$  — mass of all particles, kg;  $g$  — acceleration of gravity,  $\text{m}/\text{s}^2$ ;  $S$  — cross-sectional area of the mixing tank,  $\text{m}^2$ .

Combining (1)–(4), we obtain the equation of the Camp criterion:

$$\Theta = \sqrt{\frac{m_q g}{S \mu t}} \cdot \frac{V}{Q}. \quad (5)$$

Using formula (5) for laboratory bench [7], the Camp criterion was calculated. It was accepted equal to 100 units.

*2. Mixing chamber calculating methodology.* The following is a method for calculating the mixing chamber and the required initial data for the calculation.

Initial data:

- the Camp criterion,  $\Theta$ ;
- maximum flow rate of the treated water,  $Q$ ,  $\text{m}^3/\text{h}$ ;
- dynamic viscosity of water,  $\mu$ ,  $\text{Pa}\cdot\text{s}$ ;
- bulk particle density  $\rho_{m_q}$ , kg;
- acceleration of gravity,  $g$ ,  $\text{m}/\text{s}^2$ ;
- filter diameter,  $d_\phi$ , m;
- height from loading to housing,  $H$ , m;
- backwashing intensity,  $\text{НОП}_1$ ,  $1/(\text{s} \cdot \text{m}^2)$ ;
- volume of load expansion during backwashing,  $V_{\text{expl}}$ ,  $\text{m}^3$ .

By converting formula (5), system of equations (6) can be obtained, which is used to determine the dimensions of the mixing chamber.

$$\begin{cases} d_{\text{q.п.}} \cdot H_{\text{q}} = 2 \cdot \vartheta \cdot Q \sqrt{\frac{\mu \cdot t}{\pi \cdot m_{\text{q}} \cdot g}} \\ t = \frac{\pi \cdot d_{\text{q.п.}}^2 \cdot H_{\text{q}}}{4Q} \\ m_{\text{q}} = \rho_{m_{\text{q}}} \cdot \frac{\pi \cdot d_{\text{q.п.}}^2 \cdot H_{\text{q}}}{Q} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

Here  $d_{\text{q.п.}}$  — mixing tank diameter, m;  $H_{\text{q}}$  — height of the mixing tank and the settling tank, m.

The flow rate in the settling tank should be equal to the flow rate in the filter housing. To determine the diameter of the settling tank (the entire chamber as a whole), we use the formula:

$$d_{\text{q.у.}} = \sqrt{\frac{d_{\text{ф}}^2 + d_{\text{q.п.}}^2}{2}}, \quad (7)$$

where  $d_{\text{q.у.}}$  — settling tank diameter, m.

Let us check whether the chamber fits into the filter housing. To do this, we take into account:

- height of cone insert  $H_{\text{cone}}$  (1/4 of the diameter of the chamber);
- margin of the distance from the cone to the load with a minimum height of 1/16 of the diameter of the chamber.

$$H - H_{\text{q}} - \frac{d_{\text{q.у.}}}{4} - \frac{d_{\text{q.у.}}}{16} \geq 0. \quad (8)$$

Let us check that the camera size is correct:

$$d_{\text{q.у.}} < d_{\text{ф}}. \quad (9)$$

If conditions (8) or (9) are not met, then it is necessary to return to (6) and adjust the dimensions of the mixing chamber.

Let us calculate the volume occupied by the mixing chamber:

$$V_{\text{chamber}} = \frac{\pi \cdot d_{\text{q.у.}}^2}{4} \cdot \left( H_{\text{q}} + \frac{d_{\text{q.у.}}}{12} \right). \quad (10)$$

Let us define the condition for ensuring the necessary load expansion:

$$\frac{\pi \cdot d_{\text{ф}}^2}{4} \cdot H_{\text{q}} - V_{\text{chamber}} \geq V_{\text{exp1}}. \quad (11)$$

If the condition is not met, the backwashing efficiency may be reduced. To address this issue, it is important to understand how backwashing effectiveness can be maintained.

1. By increasing the intensity of backwashing, we find new backwashing intensity  $\text{ИОП}_2$  [18]:

$$\text{ИОП}_1 \cdot V_{\text{exp1}} = \text{ИОП}_2 \cdot \left( \frac{\pi \cdot d_{\text{ф}}^2}{4} \cdot H - V_{\text{chamber}} \right). \quad (12)$$

2. By reducing the loading height, we find the height value from the housing to the load  $H_{\text{new}}$ , which will provide the necessary volume for the load expansion:

$$H_{\text{new}} = \frac{V_{\text{exp1}} + V_{\text{chamber}}}{\frac{\pi \cdot d_{\text{ф}}^2}{4}}. \quad (13)$$

Let us calculate how much the load height needs to be reduced:

$$\Delta H_{\text{load}} = H - H_{\text{new}}. \quad (14)$$

3. For calculations related to changes in the intensity and volume of loading, we use formulas (12) and (13), taking into account the necessary conditions. For example, based on the capabilities of specific wastewater treatment plants, we use (13) to set the permissible value for reducing the loading height, set it to (12) and calculate the desired backwashing intensity.

Let us determine the volume of mixing tank  $V_{\text{q.п.}}$  and settling tank  $V_{\text{q.у.}}$ :

$$V_{\text{q.п.}} = \frac{\pi \cdot d_{\text{q.п.}}^2}{4} \cdot H_{\text{q}}, \quad (15)$$

$$V_{\text{q.у.}} = \frac{\pi \cdot (d_{\text{q.у.}}^2 - d_{\text{q.п.}}^2)}{4} \cdot H_{\text{q}}. \quad (16)$$

Let us calculate the required volume of mixing load  $V_{load}$ :

$$V_{load} = \frac{1}{3} V_{q.n.} \quad (17)$$

Let us calculate water residence time in the mixing and calming tanks:

$$t_{q.n.} = \frac{3600 \cdot V_{q.n.}}{Q}, \quad (18)$$

$$t_{q.y.} = \frac{3600 \cdot V_{q.y.}}{Q}. \quad (19)$$

**Discussion and Conclusion.** The scientific research results of presented in the paper suggest that it is reasonable to use the proposed method for calculating the filter's performance. Firstly, this method is based on reliable data from published sources. Secondly, its relative simplicity — consisting of only 19 concise formulas — makes it practical for real-world applications. After completing this research, the authors verified the previously obtained findings. It was crucial to demonstrate that the simulated mixing chamber enhances the filtration process and improves coagulation activity. Therefore, we can use the mixing intensity of a fluidized bed as a measure of efficiency. The method of calculating a mixing chamber allows us to determine its size and ensure the required backwash efficiency. This solution can be applied to vertical clarifying filters of various types and sizes. Therefore, this technique can be applied to any production facility that uses such equipment.

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***Claimed Contributorship:***

**BS Ksenofontov**: development of the concept.

**AA Shirniekh**: conducting research.

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***All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript.***

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