



Control strategies and process optimization

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Whey:

Residual liquid from cheese and curd production approx. 94% water, 4-5 % lactose, 0.6-1 % proteins, plus vitamins and minerals.



Vapour condensate:

arises from the evaporation of milk or whey



Treatment process



What are the relevant parameters?

Parameter	Unit	TrinkwV	Drinking water	Vapour condensate
pH-value	-	≥ 6,5 und ≤ 9,5	7,9	6,3
Conductivity	μS/cm	2790	324	15
Turbidity	NTU	1	0,3	1,8
Sodium	mg/l	200	13	< 0,5
Iron (total)	mg/l	0,2	0,008	< 0,02
Ammonium	mg/l	0,5	0,02	2,4
Chloride	mg/l	250	22	< 5
Nitrate	mg/l	50	< 2,5	< 5
COD	mg/I O ₂		0,4	26



Which parameters are relevant for monitoring and controlling the treatment process?





Sampling interval: online vs. offline





Biological treatment steps



- 1. Fixed bed reactor
- 2. Fluidized bed reactor
- 3. Multi-layer filter





Growth bodies



Nutrient removal through biological transformation



The challenge of the biological stages is to efficiently transform nutrients into biomass that is subsequently removed.



What promotes growth in vapour condensates?





What promotes growth in vapour condensates?





Growth bodies





The growth and metabolic activity of the bacteria varies between different growth bodies.







Example of microbiological water profile

dead (membrane-damaged)



- Detection based on fluorescent staining
- Every signal in gated area represents one bacterium
- Detection of either total
 or intact bacteria
- Time demand: 15 min

Bacterial regrowth potential



Day 0







Day 7



Changes of cell concentrations along the treatment train



TCC = total cell count IZZ = intact cell count





Changes in culturable bacteria





Changes of cell concentrations along the treatment train



IZZ = intact cell count





Changes of cell concentrations along the treatment train



IZZ = intact cell count





Changes of regrowth potential along treatment train: linear scale





Biomass vs. dissolved nutrients





Challenge: temporal fluctuations in vapour composition



Samples from different time points

Same type of vapour from the same sampling site, but sampling at different times: strong differences in cell concentrations and regrowth potentials



Questions?















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