New approach

Lewatit® MDSTP 260 is a new macroporous, monodisperse AMPA-chelating resin with very small particle diameter (approx. 0.42 mm) used for brine purification. Compared to the standard Lewatit® TP 260 and Lewatit® MonoPlus TP 260 it provides clear economic benefits by cost savings in energy, maintenance, and brine purification. Due to its higher total capacity, faster kinetics, and improved osmotic and mechanical stability following advantages arise:

- Up to 100% higher operating capacity enabling
  - longer cycle times
  - significantly decreased chemical costs
  - lower labor costs
  - less wastewater
  - longer resin lifetime
- Lower leakage levels and thereby longer lifetime of electrolyzer membranes
- Removal of strontium and notably barium is considerably improved

Operating conditions and results

Recommended typical operating conditions for Lewatit® MDSTP 260 in brine purification are as follows:

- SV = 20 BV/h
- Bed depth approx. 1 m
- T = 60 to 75 °C, pH = 8.5 to 10.5
- Backwash: < 4 m/h (@ T < 20°C)
- Regeneration: 150 g/l HCl, 80 g/l NaOH
- Operating capacities up to 32 g Ca²⁺/Mg²⁺ per liter of resin
- Leakage levels below 5 ppb Ca²⁺/Mg²⁺ attainable

Figure 1: Microscopic image of Lewatit® MDS TP 260 and Lewatit® MonoPlus TP 260. Monodispersity and the difference in bead size can be clearly seen.
Due to the smaller beads of Lewatit® MDS TP 260 there are a few things to consider before use – especially if it is planned to equip an existing filter with the new type of resin:

- Strainer nozzles with 0.3 mm slits can be used but 0.2 mm is preferable
- Freeboard = 100% BV
- Backwash linear velocity needs to be reduced by a factor of 3.5 compared to the standard
- Backwash duration increased by a factor of 2 to 3
- Suspended solids load of filter bed should be strictly limited
- Uptown conditioning with 4% NaOH to be carried out with LV = 3 m/h; depending on column size downflow conditioning preferred in order to avoid fluidization of resin bed
- In case iron(III) is present in brine feed, use of Lewatit® MDSTP208 is recommended

Operating conditions at exhaustion cycle shown above:
- Ca, feed: 5 ppm
- NaCl, feed: 300 g/l
- pH: 10
- SV: 20 BV/h
- T: 60 °C
- Breakthrough: 20 ppb calcium

Operating capacity found in exhaustion cycle above:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resin Type</th>
<th>Calcium Capacity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lewatit® MonoPlus TP 260</td>
<td>18.2 g Ca/l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewatit® MDS TP 260</td>
<td>32.3 g Ca/l</td>
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</tbody>
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