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Guidance on water conservation techniques of circulating cooling water in thermal power plants

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Contents

	ordv
Introd	uctionvi
1	Scope
2	Normative references
3	Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms 1
4	General2
5	Circulating cooling water quality recommendations2
6	Technical guidance for water conservation of circulating cooling tower4
7	Guidance for managing water conservation of circulating cooling water
Annex	A (informative) Dynamic simulation test of scale and corrosion inhibitor10
Annex	B (informative) Make-up water quality recommendations of circulating cooling water13
	C (informative) Scale and corrosion inhibition test of water treatment agents (laboratory evaluation test)15
Annex	D (informative) Calculation of cycles of concentration
Annex	E (informative) Carbonate hardness limit selection test and cycles of concentration limit test
Annex	F (informative) Calculation of side-stream filtration volume and side-stream softening desalination volume19
Annex	G (informative) Calculation of concentration change with time in intermittent dosing21
Biblio	graphy22

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Introduction

Water plays an important role in transferring energy, cooling and cleaning in the process of thermal power generation. According to the statistics of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and China Water Resources Bulletin, fossil fuel power generation used aroundapproximately 189,6 billion cubic metres of freshwater in 2021, accounting for almost 50 % of global energy system fresh waterfreshwater withdrawals and 5 % of total global freshwater withdrawals. In China, water withdrawal for thermal power generation in 2021 accounts accounted for about approximately 17,7 % of the industrial water withdrawal, of which cooling water in thermal power plants accounts accounted for approximately 50 %. To save water resources, improve circulating cooling water use efficiency and help thermal power plants to enhance water conservations conservation, work efficiently and orderly, and thus improve the economic and social benefits of thermal power plants, it is important to formulate guidance for the conservation of water in thermal power plants which is used as circulating cooling water in thermal power plants.

The quantity, of circulating cooling water used in thermal power plants, ranges from tens to hundreds of thousands of cubic metres based on their operating capacity. The reduction of water use in circulating cooling water, use should consider the water quality, pipe materials, water treatment, chemicals and other factors. Meanwhile, to achieve water conservation purposes, the utilizationuse of residual heat of high temperature circulating water should be considered to reduce the temperature of circulating water in the cooling tower to achieve water conservation purposeshould be considered. Cycles of concentration is an important index for evaluating water conservation of circulating cooling water, while the amount of make-up water is closely related to the cycles of concentration of circulating cooling water. The higher the concentration, the better water conservation efficiency. However, with higher concentrations, the cost and difficulty of water treatment will also increase exponentially.

For different make up water quality, circulating Circulating cooling water quality control index and water conservation processes are also different differ based on the quality of make-up water. Researchers and engineers should standardize the water conservation process of circulating cooling water in thermal power plants based onby fully considering the cycles of concentration and other relevant influencing factors, to provide standardized technical guidance for the targeted stake holders (i.e., policy makers, managers, technical consultants, designers, operators of water treatment systems, etc.).

Through analysis and research on the circulating cooling water conservation technology in thermal power plants, this document sets up a scientific and objective technical control index, management guidance and implementation methods that <u>isare</u> helpful to improve the <u>efficiency of</u> circulating cooling water conservation <u>efficiency</u> and <u>the</u> standardization of technical transformation of thermal power plants.

Starting from the perspective of water conservation management and technology, this document provides acceptable operation control specifications for common processes of circulating cooling water conservation for most stakeholders, to improve the operation efficiency and management level of circulating cooling water conservation, which is conducive to guiding the development of specialization, normalization and standardization of circulating cooling water conservation.

This document establishes the technical guidance and recommendations for circulating cooling water conservation technology, provides research direction of circulating cooling water conservation technology, improves the water conservation efficiency, and promotes the transformation of circulating cooling water conservation technology to higher efficiency, lower energy consumption, environment friendly and resource saving, in the end realizing sustainable development.

Guidance on water conservation techniques of circulating cooling water in thermal power plants

1 Scope

This document provides technical and management guidance for water conservation of indirect open recirculating cooling water systems in thermal power plants. It is applicable to circulating cooling systems that use surface water, underground water, reclaimed water, and treated domestic sewage from thermal power plant as the make-up water and use physicochemical treatment methods to increase cycles of concentration, thus realizing water conservation and increasing water use efficiency.

This document is applicable to recirculating cooling in thermal power plants <u>fueledfuelled</u> by coal, oil, natural gas, and biomass.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp
- IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1 Terms and definitions

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water conservation of circulating cooling water

process to increase cycles of concentration $(3.1.2 \frac{(3.1.2)}{1.2})$ thus increasing water use efficiency

3.1.2

cycles of concentration

ratio of the concentration of specific ions in the circulating cooling water to the concentration of the same ions in the make-up water

[SOURCE: ISO 16784-2:2006, 3.6]

3.2 Abbreviated terms

BOD₅: biochemical oxygen demand at five days

COD: chemical oxygen demand

NH₃-N: ammonia-nitrogen

NTU: nephelometric turbidity unit

TDS: total dissolved solids

TSS: total suspended solids

BOD₅ biochemical oxygen demand at five days

ISO/DTS 21152:(en)

<u>CFU</u> <u>colony forming unit</u>

<u>chemical oxygen demand</u>

NH₃-N ammonia-nitrogen

NTU nephelometric turbidity unit

TDS total dissolved solids
TSS total suspended solids

4 General

The following principles should be followed for water conservation of circulating cooling water in thermal power plants:

- DevelopUsers should develop efficient circulating cooling water treatment technology, improve the cycles
 of concentration under the premise of ensuring system safety and energy saving;
- Be <u>Users should be</u> aware of the requirements of local environment protection regulation;
- Use waterWater treatment chemicals with high efficiency, low toxicity and good chemical stability, should be used; biodegradable water treatment chemicals should be given priority; toxic and harmful water treatment chemicals should be strictly restricted.

5 Circulating cooling water quality recommendations

5.1 Water quality recommendations of make-up water

When surface water, underground water, seawater, reclaimed water, and treated domestic sewage from thermal power plants are used as make-up water for circulating cooling water system in power plants, the source water quality, water quality of the source water and of the circulating cooling water and the working conditions should be analyzed, and technical and economic comparison should be made to select the appropriate cycles of concentration. Table B.1 See Table B.1 in Annex BAnnex B for contains water quality recommendations when surface water, underground water is used as make-up water for circulating cooling water system after pre-treatment. Table B.2 See Table B.2 in Annex BAnnex B for contains water quality recommendations when reclaimed water is used as make-up water for circulating cooling water system after pre-treatment. When treated domestic sewage from thermal power plant is used as make-up water for circulating cooling water system, the water quality after treatment should not be lower than the recommendations of Table B.2 in Table B.2 Annex B. See Table B.3 in Annex B. Table B.3 in Annex BAnnex B contains water quality recommendations when seawater is used as make-up water of circulating cooling water system.

5.2 Water quality recommendations of circulating cooling water system

The water quality of circulating cooling water <u>systems</u> using surface water, underground water, reclaimed water, and domestic sewage from thermal power <u>plantplants</u> as make-up water should meet the recommendations of <u>Table 1.</u>

Table 1 — Water quality recommendations of circulating cooling water <u>systems</u> using surface water, underground water, reclaimed water, and domestic sewage from thermal power <u>plantplants</u> as make-up water

Parameters	Units	Recommended values
рН (25 °С) °С)	_	[7,5 , <u>to</u> 8,8]

ISO/DTS 21152:(en)

Parameters	Units	Recommended values
TSS	mg/l	≤ 100
$(CO_3^{2-}) + (HCO_3^{-})^a$	mg/l	[400 <u>, to</u> 500]
SiO ₂	mg/l	[150 <u>, to</u> 200]
(Mg ²⁺) <u>÷</u> (SiO ₂) ^a	mg/l	≤ 60 000
(Ca ²⁺) <u></u> (SO ₄ ²⁻) a	mg/l	≤ 2,5 × <u>×</u> 10 ⁶
$(Ca^{2+} + Mg^{2+}) \stackrel{\cdot}{=} (CO_3^{2-})^a$	mg/l	2 <u>×</u> ×10 ⁶ <u>• to</u> 4××10 ⁶
Cl-	mg/l	According to the material of heat exchange
COD_Cr	mg/l	≤ 100
NH ₃ -N	mg/l	≤ 10 (≤ 5 for copper tube condenser)
TDS b	mg/l	≤ 5 000
Conductivity ^b	μS/cm	≤- <u>8500</u> _8 <u>500</u>

 $^{^{}a}$ Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, HCO₃- and CO₃²⁻ are calculated by CaCO₃(mg/l).

The water quality of circulating cooling water <u>systems</u> using seawater as make-up water should be determined through the dynamic simulation test of scale and corrosion inhibitor <u>(Annex A),</u> or it should be controlled according to the recommendations of <u>Table 2-Table </u>

Table 2 — Water quality recommendations of circulating cooling water <u>systemsystems</u> using seawater as make-up water

Parameters	Units	Recommended values
https://standaTSS.iteh.ai/catalog/	$\frac{130/D}{\text{standar}}$ mg/l $\frac{130/D}{0/c929}$	39a-76bf-48b8-b6c8-4f≤300d2c329/iso-dts-21152
Turbidity	NTU	≤ 20
рН (25 <mark>°С) °С)</mark>	_	[8,0 <u>, to</u> 9,0]
M alkalinity (calculated by CaCO₃)	mg/l	≤ 350
Ca ²⁺	mg/l	≤ 1 000
Mg ²⁺	mg/l	≤- <u>3200_3 200</u>
Total Fe	mg/l	< 1,0
Cl-	mg/l	≤ 45 000
SO ₄ ² -	mg/l	≤ 6 000
(Cu ²⁺) ^a	mg/l	≤ 0,1
Oils	mg/l	< 5
residualResidual chlorine b	mg/l	0,1 to 1,0 (or lower, meet environmental requirements)
TDS ^c	mg/l	100 000
Conductivity ^c	mS/cm	≤ 150

^a Monitor The copper ion concentration in seawater circulating cooling water systems containing copper materials should be monitored.

^b Conductivity and TDS are non-binding parameters, only for reference. Common parameters having great effect on corrosion and scaling in water have been listed in this table. Although other dissolved ions contribute to the conductivity and TDS, they generally have little effect on corrosion and scaling, so these two parameters are only given as reference indicators for water quality.

ISO/DTS 21152:(en)

Parameters	Units	Recommended values
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b The concentration of free residual chlorine should be controlled when adding oxidizing biocides.

The total number of heterotrophic bacteria in circulating cooling water should not be more than 1 $\times \times 10^5$ CFU/ml, and the amount of biological slime should not be more than 3 ml/m³.

6 Technical guidance for water conservation of circulating cooling tower

6.1 Basic guidance

- **6.1.1** The selection of cycles of concentration in circulating cooling water system should comprehensively consider the water source conditions, water quantity and water quality balance, environmental protection requirements, circulating cooling water system material and other factors. Scale and corrosion inhibition test (Annex C(Annex C)) should be performed, and technical and economic comparisons should be made, dynamic simulation test of scale and corrosion inhibitor should be used when necessary. Within the safe range of scale and corrosion inhibition, the cycles of concentration should be increased as much as possible. The calculation of cycles of concentration should refer to Annex DAnnex D.
- **6.1.2 <u>Side A side-stream</u>** treatment system should be set up if **the** key **index**indexes such as TSS, NH₃-N and salt content significantly exceed the water quality recommendations of the circulating cooling water system after increasing cycles of concentration, leading to potential risks of system corrosion, blockage and scaling.
- **6.1.3 <u>Caracteristics</u>** side-stream treatment of circulating cooling water includes side-stream filtration, softening or desalination process. The selection of <u>a</u> side-stream treatment process should be determined by a comprehensive comparison of the circulating cooling water quality, the type and volume of pollutants to be removed and other factors. The calculation of side-stream treatment volume should refer to <u>Annex Fannex</u> <u>F.</u>
- **6.1.4** Side-stream filtration treatment should be set up after technical and economic comparison when **the** there are more than 5 cycles of concentration of circulating cooling water system are more than 5, or if there is severe seasonal sandstorm.
- **6.1.5** When reclaimed water is used as make-up water for circulating cooling water, if the water quality does not meet the recommendations of <u>Table B.2</u> in <u>Annex BAnnex B</u>, then <u>the</u> treatment process and operation control scheme of circulating cooling water should be determined by scale and corrosion inhibition test and dynamic simulation test of scale and corrosion inhibitor.
- **6.1.6** When <u>a</u> clarification tank is used to treat circulating cooling water blowdown, the influence of **influent** temperature fluctuation on the treatment effect should be taken into account. Automatic temperature regulation device and air separation device should be installed. The influent temperature variations of <u>the</u> clarification tank should not be more than $2^{\circ}C/$ h.

6.2 Guidance for treatment of circulating cooling with water quality stabilizer

6.2.1 General

Water quality stabilization treatment is essential to circulating cooling water treatment, whether it is to adopt natural balance of pH treatment or other treatments such as softening, adding acid, desalting or partial desalting. Water quality stabilization treatments includes scale and corrosion inhibition, microbial control and other technologies.

^c Conductivity and TDS are non-binding parameter, only for reference. Common parameters having great effect on corrosion and scaling in water have been listed in this table. Although other dissolved ions contribute to TDS, they generally have little effect on corrosion and scaling, so these two parameters are only given as reference indicators for water quality.