

# Odor Treatment Microbes

## OCM 2020

### Organic Odor Control Microbes

Targets sulfide and related odors in wastewater treatment and collection systems



Objectionable odors continue to rise on the list of major process considerations in industrial and municipal wastewater treatment and collection. The intolerance for odors combined with increased development in proximity to treatment facilities and collection systems has driven the sensitivity. Although a multitude of odor control products and strategies exist, many fall short because they are unable to comprehensively moderate the conditions that facilitate odor formation.

#### **Odor Formation**

Odors are often caused by anaerobic conditions in the resident biological systems found in wastewater treatment and collection systems. An anaerobic environment can be signaled by a sufficiently negative oxidation reduction potential (ORP) and little or no dissolved oxygen (DO). Anaerobic environments may allow microorganisms with a sulfate respiratory pathway to predominate. These organisms are collectively referred to as sulfate reducing bacteria (SRB). When sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ) is reduced, sulfide is formed.

Sulfide exists in wastewater in three forms; dissolved hydrogen sulfide ( $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ ), non-volatile sulfhydryde anion ( $\text{HS}^-$ ), and sulfide ( $\text{S}^{2-}$ ). The ratio of the three species of sulfide;  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ ,  $\text{HS}^-$ , and  $\text{S}^{2-}$  is dependent on pH. For example, at a pH of 6, 90% of the sulfide will be present as  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ . The higher the  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  concentration, the greater the tendency for it to volatilize. At a pH of 7 hydrogen sulfide is easily purged from the liquid and ultimately responsible for odors, corrosion, and potentially hazardous atmospheres.

Mercaptans, a group of foul smelling molecules, are primarily formed during the anaerobic metabolism of sulfur containing amino acids and other sulfur containing organic compounds.

Many of these compounds have odor thresholds in the parts per billion range. Experience demonstrates that mercaptans actually account for many odor complaints. Programs targeting sulfides alone may not be capable of controlling odors from mercaptans.

The anaerobic fermentation of sugars and certain amino acids gives rise to the formation of volatile organic acids including VFA. These molecules are often responsible for objectionable odors as well.

#### **Odor Control Options**

Sulfide odor control approaches that use only chemicals or masking agents often do not produce satisfactory results. Some chemical additions target the pH of the system, others attempt to react with sulfide, while others target the destruction of the SRB that create sulfide. Another set of options involves the addition of oxygen through either aeration or a chemical like hydrogen peroxide ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ).

Alternatives to oxygen have been used to offer an alternative respiratory pathway to the indigenous bacterial population. This approach makes the tenuous assumption that the indigenous population contains microorganisms capable of sulfide oxidation. Finally, masking agents are sometimes deployed to temporarily hide the odor. Chemicals targeted at most other odors are equally unreliable.

The main problem with a pure chemical approach centers on accurate dosing. Odors formed by biological activity are driven by inherently dynamic biological processes. Most purely chemical strategies compensate by over dosing product. This translates into programs that are not cost effective.

## **OCM2020 - Chemistry and Biology**

**OCM 2020** offers a superior way to treat sulfide odors and odors associated with mercaptans and volatile organic acids including VFA. A strategy featuring **OCM 2020** approaches the problem from two angles.

First, **AOS 2008** (IFM's Alternate Oxygen Source), or another electron acceptor is dosed at a sufficient rate to shut down the sulfate respiratory pathway by offering a respiratory pathway with a higher energy yielding transaction for biological respiration. This is accomplished using at least 3 moles of nitrate oxygen, or equivalent, per mole of hydrogen sulfide. Since only a small fraction of the biological community can use these alternate electron acceptors, specialized microorganisms must be introduced.

**OCM 2020**, formulated with specialized bacterial strains, is capable of oxidizing sulfides, mercaptans, and volatile organic acids including VFA using oxygen, nitrate, or other alternate electron acceptor. The key strain in **OCM 2020** produces enzymes that allow nitrate to be reduced more efficiently thereby reducing the amount of nitrate required. Once the correct biological population is established, an approximate 1 to 1 molar ratio of nitrate oxygen to hydrogen sulfide is adequate to maintain control. When nitrate is reduced, harmless nitrogen gas (N<sub>2</sub>) is generated. Without augmenting the indigenous biological community, optimal results will be hard to achieve.

An odor control strategy based on **OCM 2020** offers superior odor control because it provides an equally responsive capability to the dynamic manner in which odors are generated in wastewater treatment and collection systems. **OCM 2020** can make a chemical addition program more effective while lowering overall program costs.

## **Product Characteristics**

Bacterial Count	3.1 billion cfu/gram
Stability	Loss of 1.0 log/year when stored under recommended conditions
Appearance	Tan, free flowing powder
Odor	Yeast like

## **Dosage Recommendations**

Product dosage will vary according to the specific situation and objectives. Contact IFM for recommendations.

## **Available Packaging**

- 25 lb pail of 1 pound *SoluPaks* (metric equivalent also available)

## **Optimum Conditions for Use**

The bacteria contained in **OCM 2020** perform within a pH range of 6.0 to 9.0, with optimum activity near pH 7.0. Temperature affects the growth rate of the bacterial population, and activity improves with increasing temperature up to 40°C (104°F). No appreciable activity can be expected below 5°C (40°F).

## **Storage and Handling**

Store in a cool dry place. Recommended storage temperature of 1°- 23°C (34°- 73°F). Avoid excessive inhalation. Avoid contact with eyes. Wash hands thoroughly with warm, soapy water after handling.

**Industrial Fluid Management**  
IFM, Inc.  
2926 US Highway 6  
McClure, Ohio 43534  
www.ifmenviro.com

**Customer Service/Orders:**  
phone: 419-748-7438

**Fax Orders:**  
419-748-7460

**E Mail Orders:**  
ifminfo@ifmenviro.com

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