

Stormwater Manufactured Treatment Devices *Certification Guidelines*

Joint Task Committee on Guidelines
for Certification of Manufactured Stormwater BMPs

Edited by
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Sponsored by the
Sustainable Stormwater Infrastructure Committee of the
Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Council and the
Wet Weather Flow Technologies Committee of the
Urban Water Resources Research Council of the
Environmental and Water Resources Institute of the
American Society of Civil Engineers



Published by the American Society of Civil Engineers

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Joint Task Committee for Certification of Manufactured Stormwater BMPs, author.
| Guo, Qizhong, editor.

Title: Stormwater manufactured treatment devices certification guidelines / Joint Task Committee on Guidelines for Certification of Manufactured Stormwater BMPs ; edited by Qizhong Guo, Ph.D., P.E., D. WRE ; sponsored by the Sustainable Stormwater Infrastructure Committee of the Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Council and the Wet Weather Flow Technologies Committee of the Urban Water Resources Research Council of the Environmental and Water Resources Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Description: Reston, Virginia : American Society of Civil Engineers, 2017. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2017032835 | ISBN 9780784414798 (soft cover : alk. paper) | ISBN 9780784480670 (PDF) | ISBN 9780784480687 (ePUB)

Subjects: LCSH: Urban runoff--Management--Standards.

Classification: LCC TD657 .J65 2017 | DDC 628/.210284--dc23 LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017032835>

Published by American Society of Civil Engineers

1801 Alexander Bell Drive

Reston, Virginia 20191-4382

www.asce.org/bookstore | ascelibrary.org

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Errata: Errata, if any, can be found at <https://doi.org/10.1061/9780784414798>.

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ISBN 978-0-7844-1479-8 (print)

ISBN 978-0-7844-8067-0 (PDF)

ISBN 978-0-7844-8068-7 (ePUB)

Manufactured in the United States of America.

Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
Preface	ix
<i>Qizhong Guo</i>	
Terms and Definitions	xiii
<i>Laboratory Testing Subcommittee</i>	
1 Laboratory Testing	1
<i>Laboratory Testing Subcommittee</i>	
1.1 Laboratory Testing Objectives.....	2
1.2 Laboratory and Data Analyst Qualifications.....	2
1.3 Removal Efficiency Testing of Hydrodynamic Separators.....	3
1.4 Sediment Retention/ Scour Testing of HDSs.....	5
1.5 Filtration Testing	9
1.6 Quality Assurance and Control.....	14
1.7 Reporting Test Results.....	15
References	18
2 Scaling Relations.....	19
<i>Physical Scaling Subcommittee</i>	
2.1 Need for Scaling Relations.....	19
2.2 Dimensionless Numbers and Scale Effects.....	20
2.3 Scaling of Removal Efficiency for Hydrodynamic Separators	21
2.4 Flow and Head Loss in Hydrodynamic Separators	22
2.5 Settling and Rise in Hydrodynamic Separators.....	23
2.6 Scour in Hydrodynamic Separators.....	23
2.7 Removal Efficiency for Filters.....	24
2.8 Summary of Proposed Scaling Relations.....	25
2.9 Notation.....	26
References	27
3 Field Testing	29
<i>Field Testing Subcommittee</i>	
3.1 Components of Field Verification.....	30
3.2 Sampling and Analysis.....	34
3.3 Methods.....	39

3.4	Major Components of Field Testing	42
	References	45
4	Field Data Analysis and Performance Evaluation	49
	<i>Data Evaluation Subcommittee</i>	
4.1	Potential Data Analysis Approaches	49
4.2	MTD Performance Evaluation	52
	References	61
5	Data Reporting.....	63
	<i>Data Reporting Subcommittee</i>	
5.1	Background.....	63
5.2	Reporting Framework.....	64
5.3	International Stormwater BMP Database.....	64
	References	66
6	Inspection and Maintenance	69
	<i>Maintenance Subcommittee</i>	
6.1	Designing for Maintenance	69
6.2	Maintenance Triggers	70
6.3	Maintenance Fundamentals	72
6.4	Hydrodynamic versus Filter-Based MTDs	72
6.5	Responsible Party to Conduct Maintenance.....	73
6.6	Training Responsibility	74
6.7	Disposal of Wastes	74
	References	75
7	Existing Verification and Certification Programs and Processes	77
	<i>James Lenhart and Shirley Clark</i>	
7.1	TAPE.....	78
7.2	TARP	80
7.3	WEF	81
7.4	Other Organizations	82
	References	82
8	Conclusions and Recommendations	83
	<i>Qizhong Guo</i>	
8.1	Laboratory Testing	84
8.2	Scaling Relationships.....	85
8.3	Field Testing	85
8.4	Field Data Reporting	85

8.5 Field Data Analysis and Performance Evaluation..... 85
8.6 Inspection and Maintenance 85
8.7 Verification and Certification Programs and Processes..... 86
Index..... 89

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Acknowledgments

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Preface

Since the passage of the U.S. Clean Water Act in 1972 and subsequently through the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) amendment in 1983, many local, state, and industrial entities are obligated to treat stormwater runoff before discharge to receiving waters. Initially with NPDES Phase I permits, regulatory compliance was only applicable to communities with a population higher than 100,000. Since 2002, NPDES Phase II permits extended the same regulatory framework to communities with populations of 10,000 or more and to areas along the urban fringe that together have a residential population of at least 50,000 and an overall population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile. For this reason, demand for the use of compact stormwater treatment systems has increased rapidly where land space is not readily available to accommodate other types of systems. Numerous manufacturers have responded and developed a wide range of structural best management practices (BMPs), now referred to as stormwater control measures (SCMs) to remove different pollutants. For purposes of this report, these compact stormwater treatment systems are called manufactured treatment devices (MTDs).

Most MTDs function either as hydrodynamic separators (HDSs) or as filters. HDSs utilize the difference in density (between the water and stormwaterborne particles) and flow patterns to separate by inertia and/or settle by gravity stormwaterborne particles to the bottom of the device and to retain floatables, such as hydrocarbons and trash, at the surface of the device, while the effluent flows through an intermediate elevation. Filters use a medium to retain particles of a given size while the effluent flows through the filter. These devices are generally placed below ground in high population density locations and retrofits to existing infrastructure.

In recent years, the use of MTDs has increased rapidly in response to escalating water quality regulatory requirements, particularly in redevelopment and new development areas where land space is limited and potential use of other SCMs is not practical. As the use of MTDs has increased, the demand for verification of and certification for pollutant removal and meeting water quality standards has also increased. Agencies have started to realize that without a program, the process of approving, sizing, and providing regulatory oversight of MTDs is problematic. However, the establishment of a program is time consuming and expensive and requires multidisciplinary expertise. While several verification and certification programs have been proposed at the federal, state, and regional levels (e.g., TAPE, TARP, and ETV, as discussed in Chapter 7), there is no consistent protocol at a national level.