Jellyfish™ Filter System
Inspection and Maintenance Information

Jellyfish™ Inspection and Maintenance
Regular inspection and maintenance are proven, cost-effective ways to maximize water resource protection for all stormwater pollution control practices, and are required to insure proper functioning of the Jellyfish filter system. Inspection of the Jellyfish filter system is easily performed from the surface, while proper maintenance requires a combination of procedures conducted from the surface and with worker entry into the structure. The Jellyfish filter system’s patent pending technology has no moving parts, keeping the process simple.

Please refer to the following information and guidelines before conducting inspection and maintenance activities.

When is inspection needed?
- Post-construction inspection is required prior to putting the Jellyfish filter system into service.
- Routine inspections are recommended during the first year of operation to accurately assess the sediment and floatable pollutant accumulation, and to ensure that the automatic backwash feature is functioning properly.
- Specifically for New Jersey installations, regulations require all BMPs to be inspected a minimum four times per year and after every storm with greater than one inch of rainfall.
- Inspections should also be performed immediately after an oil, fuel or other chemical spill.

When is maintenance service needed?
- For optimum performance, the unit should be cleaned out once the sediment depth reaches 12 inches of accumulation. Generally, the minimum cleaning frequency is once annually, although the frequency can be based on historical inspection results.
- Filter cartridges should be cleaned and re-commissioned, or replaced, every 12 months or when the automatic backwash feature no longer functions, whichever occurs first. The automatic backwash function will be disabled if the filter cartridges become saturated with sediment. This saturated condition is indicated if the backwash pool contains more than 3 inches depth of water after 12 or more hours of dry weather have elapsed since the most recent rainfall/runoff event.
- The unit should be cleaned out immediately after an oil, fuel or chemical spill.

What conditions can compromise the Jellyfish filter system’s performance?
- If sediment accumulates beyond 12 inches in depth, filter cartridge life and sediment removal efficiency may be reduced.
- If filter cartridges become saturated with sediment, the system may not provide filtration treatment at the designed water quality flow rate, and unfiltered water may bypass the filter cartridges.
• If an oil spill(s) exceeds the oil capacity of the system, subsequent spills may not be captured and may cause fouling of the filter cartridges.
• If debris clogs the inlet of the system, removal efficiency of sediment, hydrocarbons, and gross pollutants may be reduced.
• If a downstream blockage occurs, a backwater condition may occur in the system and removal efficiency of sediment, hydrocarbons, and gross pollutants may be reduced.

**What training is required?**
The Jellyfish filter system is inspected and maintained by professional vacuum cleaning service providers with experience in the maintenance of underground tanks, sewers and catch basins. Since some of the maintenance procedures require manned entry into the Jellyfish structure, only professional maintenance service providers trained in confined space entry procedures should enter the vessel. Service provider companies typically have personnel who are trained and certified in confined space entry procedures according to local, state, and federal standards.

For typical inspection and maintenance activities, no specific supplemental training is required for the Jellyfish filter system. Information provided in this document or the Jellyfish Filter System Operation and Maintenance Manual (provided to the system owner) contains sufficient guidance to maintain the system properly.

**What equipment is typically required for inspection?**
- Manhole access cover lifting tool
- Oil dipstick or sampling tool
- Sediment probe
- Flashlight
- Camera
- Data log
- Safety cones and caution tape
- Hard hat, safety shoes, safety glasses, and chemical-resistant gloves

**How is the Jellyfish filter system inspected?**
- The Jellyfish filter system can be inspected from the surface through the standard surface manhole access cover or custom doors.
- Sediment and oil depth inspections are performed with a sediment probe and oil dipstick. Sediment and oil depth are measured through the 30-inch diameter maintenance access pipe.
- Visual inspection for floatable pollutant accumulation such as litter and hydrocarbons is also performed by shining a flashlight into the 30-inch diameter maintenance access pipe.
- Visual inspection of the backwash pool (6-inch high kidney-shaped or oval-shaped weir) should also be performed to check for standing water in the pool. If at least 12 hours of dry weather have elapsed since the most recent rainfall/runoff event and the backwash pool contains more than 3 inches of water, this condition indicates that the filter cartridges are saturated with sediment and should be cleaned or replaced.
• Inspections also involve a visual inspection of the internal components of the system for obvious damage.

What equipment is typically required for maintenance?
• Vacuum truck equipped with water hose and jet nozzle
• Small pump and tubing for oil removal, if necessary
• Manhole access cover lifting tool
• Oil dipstick or sampling tool
• Sediment probe
• Flashlight
• Camera
• Data log
• Safety cones and caution tape
• Hard hats, safety shoes, safety glasses, chemical-resistant gloves, and hearing protection for service providers
• Gas analyzer, respiratory gear, and safety harness for specially trained personnel if confined space entry is required
• Replacement cartridges are required if manual cleaning and re-commissioning of existing cartridges is not possible or adequate to restore proper system function.
• Jellyfish Cartridge Backflush Pipe

How is the Jellyfish filter system maintained?
• The Jellyfish filter system can be maintained through the standard surface manhole access cover. All access covers should be removed to provide additional light and ventilation. If custom doors were installed instead of frames and covers, open all doors
• Insert the oil dipstick or sampling tool into the 30-inch diameter maintenance access pipe. If oil is present, pump off the oil layer into separate containment using a small pump and tubing. Some maintenance service providers may elect to use the vacuum hose if the oil amount is small.
• Maintenance cleaning of accumulated floatable litter and sediment is performed with a vacuum hose inserted through the 30-inch diameter maintenance access pipe.
• Using the vacuum hose, decant the water from the lower chamber to the sanitary sewer, if permitted by the local regulating authority, or into a separate containment tank.
• Remove the sludge from the bottom of the unit using the vacuum hose.
• For larger Jellyfish systems, (8-ft, 10-ft, 12-ft diameter), complete sediment removal may be facilitated by inserting a water hose with jet nozzle through a hole in the cartridge deck where a filter cartridge has been removed. Use the water jet to break up sediment on the bottom of vessel that is farthest from the 30-inch diameter maintenance access pipe. Rinse this sediment toward the maintenance access pipe for easy vacuum removal.
• To access the cartridge deck for manual cleaning or replacement of filter cartridges, descend the ladder that is built into structure’s sidewall, observing all precautions for safe and proper confined space entry. Note that the cartridge
deck may be slippery. Care should be taken to avoid stepping directly onto the cartridge heads or onto the backwash pool weir.

- A manual backflush of the cartridges is recommended to remove a high percentage of accumulated sediment from the filtration tentacles, restore flow capacity, and extend the service life of the cartridges. A Jellyfish Cartridge Backflush Pipe (12-inch diameter x 3-feet length threaded plastic pipe with flapper valve) may be purchased from Imbrium Systems that allows each cartridge to be selectively backwashed using water that is supplied from either (a) the previously decanted water stored in a vactor truck compartment; (b) clean water from a separate water truck delivered to the site; or (c) water from a nearby fire hydrant or other clean water source.

- **Manual backflush procedure**: Twist the threaded lid on the cartridge head counter-clockwise to remove the lid and expose the tentacle holes. Carefully screw in the threaded Jellyfish Cartridge Backwash Pipe over the exposed tentacle holes. Do not over-tighten. Fill the Pipe with water (approximately 16 gallons). Pull the cord to open the flapper valve and backflush the water through the cartridge. Refill the Pipe and backflush a second time. The full Pipe contents should drain within approximately 20 seconds to remove a high percentage of accumulated sediment and restore the flow capacity of the cartridge. Remove the Pipe and re-install the lid hand-tight.

- **Inspection of cartridge after manual backflushing**: After manually backwashing the first cartridge, a visual inspection of the filtration tentacles is recommended. With the threaded lid removed, lift the cartridge (using the lifting loops in the cartridge head) so that most or all of the filtration tentacle bundle is exposed. If upon visual inspection the degree or nature of any remaining sediment accumulation on the tentacles shows that the manual backwash was not effective, provisions must be made to replace all the spent cartridges with new cartridges as soon as possible. To re-commission a cleaned and regenerated cartridge, or to install a new cartridge, place the cartridge into the cartridge hole and re-install the threaded lid hand-tight to secure the cartridge.

- New cartridges are lightweight (less than 20 pounds), and can be easily lowered down to a worker on the cartridge deck. Care should be taken not to bend or otherwise damage the tentacles during the handling and installation procedures.

- For maximum safety, it is recommended that each spent cartridge be removed and replaced one at a time, such that there is never more than one cartridge hole exposed. Removable cartridge hole cover plates can be purchased from Imbrium Systems if required.

- Remove spent cartridges from the vessel.

- After cartridge service has been completed, the backflush water may be removed by vacuum hose.

- Re-fill the lower chamber with water where required by the local jurisdiction.

What is required for proper disposal?

- Disposal requirements for recovered pollutants and spent filter cartridges may vary depending on local guidelines. In most areas the sediment and spent filter cartridges, once dewatered, can be disposed of in a sanitary landfill. It is not anticipated that the sediment would be classified as hazardous waste.
What about oil spills?

- Petroleum-based pollutants captured by the Jellyfish filter system (oil/chemical/fuel spills) should be removed and disposed of by a licensed waste management company.
- Although the Jellyfish filter system captures virtually all free oil, a sheen at the outlet does not mean the unit isn’t working. A rainbow or sheen can be visible at oil concentrations of less than 10 mg/L (ppm).

What factors affect the costs involved with inspection/maintenance?

- Inspection and maintenance costs are based on unit size, cartridge count, sediment/oil/hazardous material loads, transportation distances, tipping fees, disposal requirements and other local regulations. Maintenance costs are anticipated to be substantially lower in instances where dirty cartridges are manually cleaned and re-commissioned rather than replaced with new cartridges.
**System schematic and component functions**

Below is a schematic of the Jellyfish filter system with key components identified and their functions briefly described (6-ft diameter system is depicted).

*Jellyfish™ Filter System*

- **Maintenance Access Pipe**
  Access for removal of sediment and floatable by vacuum hose. Inspection point for oil and floatable litter accumulation.

- **Pressure Relief Pipe**
  Ensures influent continues to receive pretreatment in the event of total occlusion of the filtration tentacles.

- **Untreated Stormwater**

- **Draindown Cartridge**
  During the automatic backwash, the displaced water from the lower chamber exits through this cartridge.

- **Separator Skirt**
  A pretreatment channel is formed between the vessel wall and the separator skirt. The pretreatment zone isolates oil, floatable litter and coarse sediment from the filtration zone.

- **Vessel**
  A vertically-oriented, precast concrete cylinder is separated into upper and lower chambers by the cartridge deck. Vessels are available in 5 sizes ranging from 4 to 12 ft in diameter.

- **Backwash Pool Weir**
  An enclosed weir forms a pool of filtered water during a storm event. This pool provides automatic backwash self-cleaning of the cartridges as the runoff event subsides.

- **Cartridge Deck**
  The deck contains Jellyfish cartridges, allowing the filtration tentacles to be extended into the lower chamber. Oil and floatable litter are trapped beneath the deck outside the filtration zone.

- **Filtered Effluent**

The Jellyfish filter system has no moving parts to wear out and therefore maintenance activities are generally focused on pollutant removal and filter cartridge service.
Lightweight Jellyfish filter cartridges are easily inserted into and removed from the cartridge deck by hand. The top view schematic (above right) and top view photo (below right) depict the 6-ft diameter system. Note the 6 standard cartridges enclosed by the kidney-shaped backwash pool weir. A single draindown cartridge is located outside the weir.

The depth of sediment and oil can be measured from the surface by using a sediment probe or dipstick tube equipped with a ball check valve and inserted through the 30-inch maintenance access pipe. This large port provides convenient access for inspection and vacuum removal of water and pollutants.
A maintenance worker stationed on the surface uses a vacuum hose to evacuate water, sediment, and debris from the system.

The benefits of regular inspection and maintenance are many – from ensuring maximum operation efficiency, to keeping maintenance costs low, to the continued protection of natural waterways – and provide the key to the Jellyfish filter system's long and effective service life.

**Ordering Replacement Parts**

Jellyfish filter cartridges, cartridge hole cover plates, Jellyfish Cartridge Backflush Pipes (for manual backflushing), and other system components can be ordered by contacting:

Imbrium Systems Corporation  
1-888-279-8826  
[www.imbriumsystems.com](http://www.imbriumsystems.com)

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