

## Water Load Test

Each water test shall consist of pumping the hopper out to its lowest level and then filling the hopper to capacity with water, taking ullage and draft measurements at both levels to determine hopper volume and displacement. The objective of the water test is to assure data consistency by comparing the system-calculated water specific gravity to the value determined by analyzing a water sample retrieved from the hopper.

If the results of the water test indicate that the system is not operating within acceptable accuracy, the Contractor shall be required to correct the deficiencies causing the error and repeat the water test until the results are acceptable.

**Purpose:** The objective of the water test is to assure accuracy of the dredge's reported displacement and hopper volume. In order to conduct this test successfully, proper operation of ullage and draft sensors is necessary. By filling the hopper with water, the calculated density of the water can be compared to that of the water sampled from the hopper, and the value of Tons Dry Solids can be calculated and should equal zero.

### Material Required:

- 1) A copy of the SI Water Load Test spreadsheet and portable computer
- 2) Auxiliary vessel to observe vessel hull draft markings
- 3) Handheld radio to communicate with bridge and auxiliary vessel
- 4) Water sampling device to retrieve a water sample from the hopper
- 5) A refractometer with automatic temperature compensation to determine the specific gravity of the hopper water sample. The refractometer shall be capable of measuring the hopper water's specific gravity with a resolution of 0.001 and minimum accuracy of  $\pm 0.001$ . Distilled water should be available for calibration of the refractometer.

### Procedure:

*Note: It is strongly recommended that all instrumentation is in calibration prior to this test being conducted by a COR.*

With the dredge light and washed clean of dredge material, the hopper is filled with just enough water so that the ullage sensors have a uniform fore and aft surface to provide a consistent measurement, and manual soundings can be taken relative to the hopper datum (zero ullage) in the vicinity of the sensor. Three soundings are taken forward and aft, at port, starboard and centerline. While these measurements are being taken, the launch will read the draft marks in feet and tenths of feet. These manual draft measurements are communicated to the inspector on the scow. These measurements are taken simultaneously to insure that the readings are reflective of a steady state ship. The inspector on the bridge also records the corresponding electronic readings from the SI system. The lightship weight and residual hopper volume are also read from the SI OPS screen and records these values on spreadsheet.

The hopper is then filled by pumping water through the drag pipes in such a manner as to keep foam generation to a minimum the above steps are repeated. Calculated displacement and hopper volumes from the SI OPS screen are recorded on the

spreadsheet. While the hopper is full, a small water sample from the hopper is collected to calculate the specific gravity of water. Use the refractometer to determine its density. Record this value in the spreadsheet. From the DPIP enter the horizontal offsets between the ullage sensors and the horizontal offsets between the draft sensors.

After all values are entered into the spreadsheet, observe the calculated value of Tons Dry Solids. The acceptable accuracy is from -200 LT to +200 LT. The difference between the hopper measured water density and the spreadsheet calculated water density should be within (plus or minus) 5%. The calculated value of trim-trim angle should be 0.3 degrees or less.

Discharge the water and continue regular operations. If the calculated water density is outside the acceptable range look at the draft and ullage sensor difference. If either of these differences is outside the acceptable range for the corresponding sensors then the long hand calculation sheet should be completed by someone experienced with stability and trim calculations, contact the SI support center if you need assistance. If the draft and ullage values are within acceptable ranges, both light and loaded, then discretion should be taken and numbers should be re-checked. If the water test results still don't agree, then the validity of the tables will come into question and other redundant methods of calculation should be attempted though use of the stability and trim booklets on the vessel and/or its hydrostatic tables.

Water Load and Trim-Trim Test						
	Time	Zone			Time	Zone
<b>START</b>					<b>End</b>	
Light Drafts						
	Manually Measured			SI Drafts		
	Port	Stbd	Average (ft)	Instruments	Difference (ft)	
<b>Fwd</b>			0		0	
<b>Aft</b>			0		0	
Light (residual/almost empty) Hopper-Level Check						
	Manually Measured			SI Ullage		
	Port	Stbd	Center	Average (ft)	Instrument	Difference (ft)
<b>Fwd</b>				0		0
<b>Aft</b>				0		0
<b>Light Ship Displacement (Long Tons)</b>				<b>Residual Hopper Volume (yrds^3)</b>		
Loaded Drafts						
	Manually Measured			SI Drafts		
	Port	Stbd	Average (ft)	Instruments	Difference (ft)	
<b>Fwd</b>			0		0	
<b>Aft</b>			0		0	
Loaded (Full) Hopper-Level Check						

	Manually Measured				SI Ullage	
	Port	Stbd	Center	Average (ft)	Instrument	Difference (ft)
<b>Fwd</b>				0		0
<b>Aft</b>				0		0
<b>Loaded Displacement (Long Tons)</b>				<b>Loaded Hopper Volume (yrds^3)</b>		
Was overflow used to minimize foam generation?					Yes/No	
<i>Did SI system show doors open?</i>					Yes/No	
Water Specific Gravity in Hopper						(kg/cubic meter)
Longitudinal separation of ullage sensors						(ft)
Longitudinal separation of draft sensors						(ft)
Light Ship - Loaded Ship Weight				Loaded hopper weight/Weight of dredged material (LT)		
Mass of Dredged material (kg)				Mass of Dredged material (kg)		
Hopper volume - Residual*0.7646				Volume (cubic meters)		
Density of Solids (kg/cubic meter)			2750			
Density of Water * 1000 mass/volume equals density				Water Specific Gravity in Hopper		
Calculated Tons Dry Solids				TDS calculation (kg)		
Calculated water density				TDS calculation (LT)		
% difference				Calculated water density		
Ullage Angle				Percent water density error		
Draft Angle						
TrimTrim Angle (Delta)						
<b>Check Results:</b>			pass		fail	
<b>Remarks:</b>	-					