

LifeASSURE™ IMC Filter Cartridges

High Efficiency Membrane Cartridges for Industrial Applications



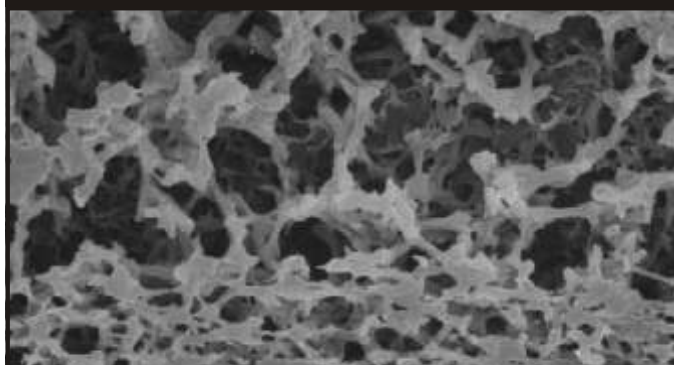
Cuno Incorporated



LifeASSURE IMC filter cartridges are high efficiency naturally hydrophilic Nylon 6,6 filter elements designed to meet the exacting requirements of DI water, critical parts cleaning, and chemical applications. Utilizing CUNO's FlexN™ Multi-Zone Membrane⁽¹⁾ and Advanced Pleat Technology™ (APT™)⁽²⁾, LifeASSURE IMC filter cartridges provide superior flow characteristics with minimal pressure drop. Increasing flow while maintaining filter efficiency results in particle specifications being achieved in less time. This decrease in processing time results in lower total filtration costs – reduced energy consumption, pump wear, and labor.

The naturally hydrophilic Nylon 6,6 membrane in an all polypropylene construction, provides low extractables, increased filter life, and superior contaminant removal as compared to other membrane cartridges. LifeASSURE IMC filter cartridges are ideally suited for DI water, critical parts cleaning, and numerous chemical applications where high efficiency contaminant removal at 0.1, 0.2, 0.45, 0.65, and 0.80 µm is required.

Figure 1. - SEM Showing the Multi-Zone Structure



Applications

DI Water	Ink Jet
Parts Cleaning	Optical Fiber
Plating Solutions	High Purity Chemicals

Features

- Multi-Zone Naturally Hydrophilic Nylon 6,6 Membrane

- Advanced Pleat Technology™

Benefits

- No IPA pre-wetting and system flushing required – eliminates a potential source of contamination and chemical interaction, while reducing downtime and hazardous waste disposal
- Reduces potential for microbubble formation by not dewetting in outgassing fluids unlike hydrophobic membranes such as Polypropylene, Polyethylene, and PTFE
- Enhanced contaminant removal capacity results in longer lifetime than competitive filter cartridges
- Economic alternative to PTFE filter cartridges
- Superior flow characteristics in a compact design reduces the number of required filter elements
- Increased flow rates provide faster bath clean-up and reduced energy consumption
- Provides a low differential pressure to minimize micro-bubble formation
- Increased throughput and filter lifetime which lowers cost-of-ownership

⁽¹⁾US Patents 6,056,259; 6,090,441; 6,264,044; 6,267,916; 6,280,791 ⁽²⁾US Patent 6,315,130

NEW

FlexN Multi-Zone Membrane Technology

LifeASSURE IMC filter cartridges incorporate CUNO's patented FlexN Multi-Zone membrane technology to maximize contaminant holding capacity while maintaining particle removal efficiency. FlexN membrane creates a multi-zone membrane that consists of a higher porosity (more open) zone on the upstream section and a lower porosity (tighter) section on the downstream side. The higher porosity zone on the upstream side provides effective pre-filtration of large particles resulting in higher contaminant removal capacity and increased filter lifetime. The lower porosity zone on the downstream section provides a sharp retention cut-off at the rated pore size. As shown in SEM micrograph (Figure 1) the multi-zone structure enhances the surface area, lowers pressure drop, and increases contaminant holding capacity and filter lifetime thereby eliminating the need for more costly filters constructed with a double layer of membrane.

Superior Gel Removal Provided by APT

Normally a small amount of gel particles can be found in DI water and chemicals. Their removal from these fluids is highly dependent on differential pressure across the filtration system. Since these gels are deformable, they can extrude through a filter at high differential pressures. At low differential pressures, the forces that would deform gels are correspondingly lower and the gels are retained by the membrane media. CUNO has been able to maximize filtration surface area, which assures a low differential pressure, making it ideal for gel removal. The increase in filtration surface area is achieved by using the patented Advanced Pleat Technology.

Figure 2. - Conventional pleat design

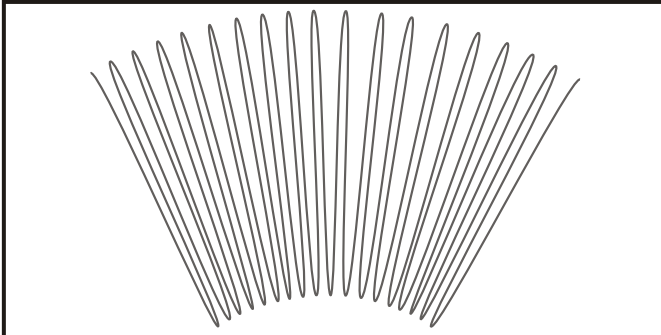
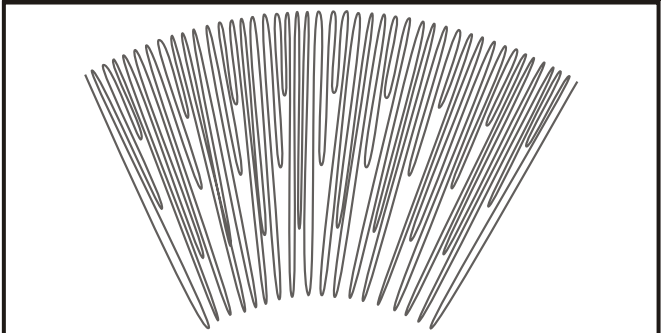


Figure 3. - Advanced Pleat Technology

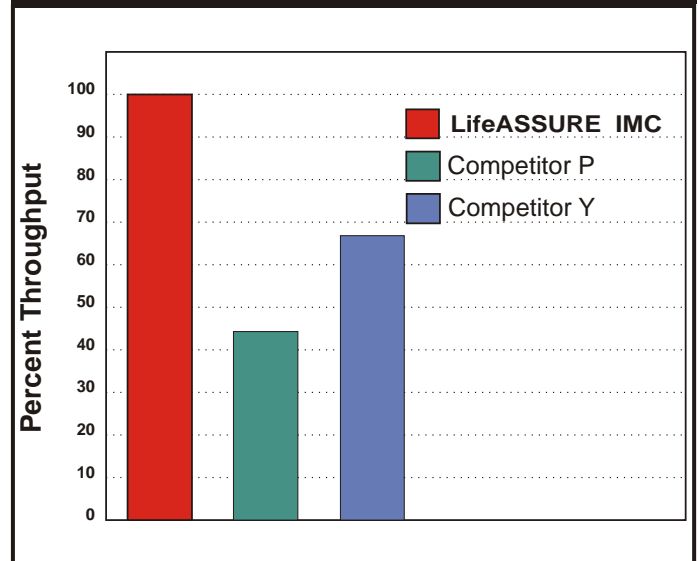


The service life of a pleated filter cartridge is often dictated by the accessible surface area. Conventional pleated filters may offer a large gross surface area, but when the media is packed into the cartridge, only part of the surface area is used resulting in both flow restrictions and limited contaminant holding capacity. The "blind" or unused area commonly occurs near the inside diameter (Figure 2) where the pleats are most tightly compressed. The LifeASSURE IMC filter cartridge is manufactured using a staggered and stepped configuration (Figure 3) which reduces the open space between the outside pleats. This novel technology maximizes capacity by increasing the open area which allows for greater particle loading at the inside diameter, while the shorter stepped pleats take advantage of existing open space closer to the outside diameter of the cartridge. The result is a fully used surface area that provides superior filter life.

Enhanced Filter Lifetime

The data in Chart 1 illustrates the throughput advantage of the LifeASSURE IMC filter – indicative of both enhanced service life and greater contaminant holding capacity. When compared to competitive products, the available grades of LifeASSURE IMC allow the users to select equivalent effluent quality with vastly superior life, or, improve the effluent quality with reduced, yet competitively superior, service life. Either way the result is the same - LifeASSURE IMC filters allow significantly more throughput than competitive filters and provide as much as twice the service life.

Chart 1. - Comparative Throughput



Benefits of Higher Per-Cartridge Flow Rates

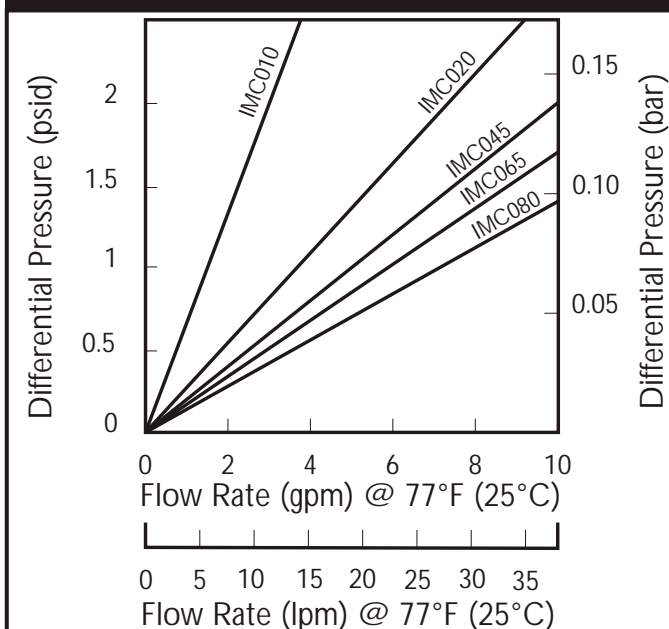
The novel construction of the LifeASSURE IMC results in a higher per cartridge flow rate at the same pressure drop as compared to competitive filters. This can reduce filtration costs two ways:

Less Frequent Filter Changeouts – For existing applications at a given flow rate, filter cartridges with more surface area per cartridge have a lower flux (flow per unit

surface area) than filters cartridges with less surface area. Since filter lifetime is inversely proportional to flux (lower flux = longer filter life) in most applications. LifeASSURE IMC filter cartridges provide longer life and require fewer filter cartridge change-outs.

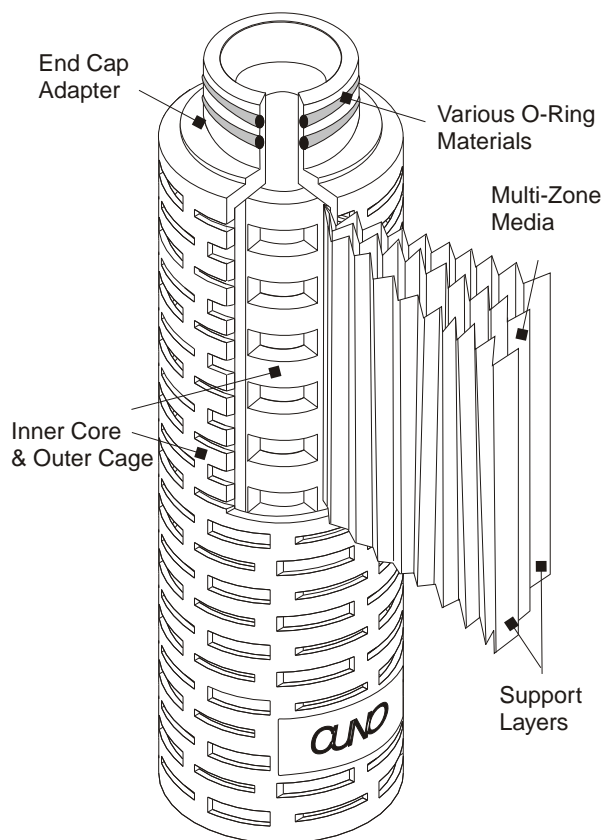
Reduced Filter Housing Costs – A filter cartridge that can deliver a higher flow rate at the same pressure drop when compared to competitive products will reduce filtration costs because fewer filters are required for the system. This in turn, allows for the use of smaller and less costly filter housings which reduces initial capital investment, filter change-out time, and total cost-of-ownership for the life of the process. Chart 2 provides the typical flow rate vs. pressure drop data for the five grades of LifeASSURE IMC (0.1 µm, 0.2 µm, 0.45 µm, 0.65 µm, 0.80 µm) available.

Chart 2. - 10" Cartridge Typical Water Flow Rates



LifeASSURE IMC Cartridge Construction

LifeASSURE IMC filter cartridges are constructed of high efficiency, naturally hydrophilic, single layer patented* Nylon 6,6 membrane. The cage, core, end caps, and membrane supports are made of polypropylene. No adhesives, binders, or surfactants are used in the manufacturing process. Cartridges are manufactured and bagged in a clean environment under an ISO certified quality system using advanced thermosplastic welding techniques to ensure filter integrity out of the package.



* US Patent 5,458,782

Cartridge Component

Membrane	FlexN Multi-Zone Naturally Hydrophilic Nylon 6,6
Cage, Core, End-Caps, and Media Support Layers	Polypropylene

Cartridge Dimensions

Filtration Surface Area	5" element = 5.0 ft ² (0.465 m ²), 10" element* = 11.0 ft ² (1 m ²)
Nominal Outside Diameter	2¾" (7 cm)
Nominal Length	5, 10, 20, 30, and 40 inches (12.7, 25.4, 50.8, 76.2, and 101.6 cm)

Operating Parameters

Maximum Operation Temperature	176°F (80°C) for 30 minutes
Maximum Differential Pressure	Forward: 80 psid @ 77°F (5.5 bar @ 25°C) 35 psid @ 176°F (2.4 bar @ 80°C)
Recommended Filter Change-out Differential Pressure	35 psid (2.4 bar)
Removal Ratings	0.1, 0.2, 0.45, 0.65, 0.80 Microns

* For 20, 30, and 40" elements multiply by 2, 3, and 4 respectively.

LifeASSURE™ IMC Filter Cartridge Ordering Guide

Cartridge	Removal Rating (µm)	Configuration	Length (Inches)	End Modification	Gasket/O-ring Material
IMC	010 - 0.1	F	01 - 10	B - 226 O-ring & Spear (Code 7)	A - Silicone
	020 - 0.2		02 - 20	C - 222 O-ring & Spear (Code 8)	B - Fluorocarbon
	045 - 0.45		03 - 30	D - Double Open End (10" length)	C - EPR
	065 - 0.65		04 - 40	E - Double Open End (9 ¾" length)	D - Nitrile
	080 - 0.80		50 - 5 *	F - 222 O-ring & Flat Cap (Code 3)	H - Silicone (clear)*
					K - Teflon Encapsulated Viton*

* Available with B, C, and F End Modifications only.

WARRANTY

Seller warrants its equipment against defects in workmanship and material for a period of 12 months from date of shipment from the factory under normal use and service and otherwise when such equipment is used in accordance with instructions furnished by Seller and for purposes disclosed in writing at the time of purchase, if any. Any unauthorized alteration or modification of the equipment by Buyer will void this warranty. Seller's liability under this warranty shall be limited to the replacement or repair, F.O.B. point of manufacture, of any defective equipment or part which, having been returned to the factory, transportation charges prepaid, has been inspected and determined by the Seller to be defective. THIS WARRANTY IS IN LIEU OF ANY OTHER WARRANTY, EITHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, AS TO DESCRIPTION, QUALITY, MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE, OR ANY OTHER MATTER. Under no circumstances shall Seller be liable to Buyer or any third party for any loss of profits or other direct or indirect costs, expenses, losses or consequential damages arising out of or as a result of any defects in or failure of its products or any part or parts thereof or arising out of or as a result of parts or components incorporated in Seller's equipment but not supplied by the Seller.

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Fluid Purification

CUNO Filtration Asia Pte Ltd
18 Tuas Link 1 (3rd Floor)
Singapore 638599

CUNO Pacific Pty Ltd
140 Sunnyholt Road
Blacktown, NSW 2148
Australia

CUNO Latina Ltda
Rua Amf Do Brasil 251
18120 Mairinque-Sp
Brazil

Cuno Filtration Shanghai Co, Ltd
No. 2 Xin Miao San Rd,
Xin Miao Town,
Song Jiang District,
Shanghai. China. 201612

CUNO K.K.
Hodogaya Station
Building 6F
1-7 Iwai-cho, Hodogaya-ku
Yokohama 240-0023 Japan

CUNO Ltd
21 Woking Business Park
Albert Drive
Woking, Surrey GU215JY
United Kingdom

Cuno Incorporated

400 Research Parkway
Meriden, CT 06450, U.S.A.
Tele: (800) 243-6894
(203) 237-5541
Fax: (203) 238-8977