



**Operation &
Maintenance Manual**

Spel Filter[®]

Cartridge Filter For Tertiary Stormwater Treatment



spel.com.au

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Introduction

Understanding how to correctly and safely maintain the SPELFilter is essential for the preservation of the filter's condition and its operational effectiveness. The SPELFilter is a highly engineered stormwater filtration device designed to remove sediments, heavy metals, nitrogen and phosphorus from stormwater runoff.

The filters can be housed in either a concrete or fibreglass structure that evenly distributes the flow between cartridges.

Flow through the filter cartridges is gravity driven and self-regulating, which makes the SPELFilter system a low maintenance, high performance stormwater treatment device.

This Guide will provide the necessary steps that are to be taken to correctly and efficiently ensure the life of the SPELFilter product



Figure 1 - SPELFilters in a concrete chamber / vault

Features

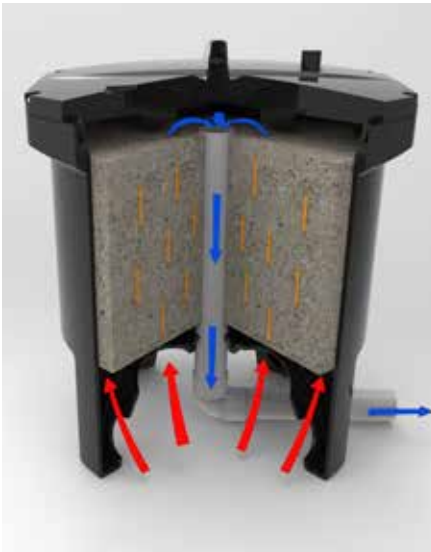


Figure 2 - Diagram of water flow through SPELFilter

The SPELFilter has a patented design that facilitates influent flow over the entire surface area of the media, providing consistent pollutant removal within a small footprint.

The SPELFilter provides highly effective media filtration using gravity flow conditions, without the need for moving parts or floating valves. This eliminates the risk of mechanical failure, such as stuck valves and seizing components during its service life. This provides highly robust treatment performance.

Hydraulic head provided by a suitably sized weir in the filter vault forces stormwater through the filter media via the inlet ports underneath the filter cartridge. Refer to the table below for minimum head required for the SPELFilter cartridges to assist in sizing the weir.

The water to be treated enters the SPELFilter cartridge via an upwards direction as the water level builds up around the SPELFilter. This 'up flow' reduces the amount of sediment that could enter the media cartridge, as the sediment is allowed to drop to the vault floor under gravity. Any remaining sediment in the water is introduced through the filter media under hydraulic pressure and is filtered.

Water is filtered through the media, where dissolved and particulate Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus are removed via reaction with the media, in addition to the removal of Total Suspended Solids / sediment.

SPELFilter Media Self-Backwash feature

A one-way air release valve located at the top of the filter cartridge allows air to escape as the cartridge fills up with water. This creates a siphonic flow condition as the air is completely evacuated from inside the SPELFilter cartridge. Siphonic flow conditions are maintained until such time the water level outside of the cartridge falls beneath the inlet ports underneath the filter. At this moment, the water level inside the SPELFilter cartridge is higher than the surrounding water level. The water inside the SPELFilter cartridge is then expelled upon the break of the siphon, and the water flows down and out of the inlet ports under gravity, onto the vault floor.

This is a highly effective backwash of the media and allows the expulsion of a high proportion of sediment out from the SPELFilter media. The expelled sediment can be removed either manually or with a vacuum from the vault floor.

This backwash effect allows the media to remain highly conductive and is the key to the industry leading longevity of the SPELFilter cartridge system, which does not need replacement for at least 5 years, and typically will achieve up to 6-8 years of service, subject to the SPELFilter being regularly maintained in accordance with this guideline and in accordance with the specific needs of the catchment.



Figure 3 - Typical Outlet Weir Wall

Features

Self Supporting Feet

Each SPELFilter cartridge stands on 4 feet, which negates the need for the construction of a false floor in the vault. The feet are bolted to the vault floor with the supplied stainless steel angles and M10 bolts. The feet allow a clear height from the vault floor up to the inlet ports of 240mm. The absence of a false floor allows plenty of room for backwashed sediment to evacuate from underneath the cartridges and thereby avoid blocking the inlet ports to the SPELFilter from sediment buildup. It is for this reason that SPEL recommended the sediment buildup not exceed 150mm above the vault floor, so as to avoid blocking the inlet ports of the SPELFilter. Blockage of the inlet ports due to sediment accumulation in the vault floor will cause the SPELFilter to go into bypass and be ineffective. Hence it is important to keep up to date with monitoring and maintaining the SPELFilter vault.



Figure 4 - Bolting the feet



Figure 5 - Underside of the SPELFilter showing the screened inlet ports and the connection for the outlet pipe in the middle



Figure 6 - the top of the SPELFilter showing the location of the one way air valve

Sizes

SPEL Stormwater manufactures two height cartridges for varying site constraints as shown below. Each cartridge is designed to treat stormwater at a flow rate of 1.47 Litres per second and 2.83 Litres per second for the half-height cartridge (model No. SF.15-EMC-M) and full-height cartridge (model No. SF.30-EMC-M) respectively.

	Full Height SF.30-EMC -M	Half height SF.15-EMC-M
SPELFilter total height	874mm	560mm
SPELFilter Diameter	726mm	726mm
Minimum Head required	850mm	550mm
Treatment flow rate	2.83 L/s	1.47 L/s
Height of inlet ports above vault floor	250mm	250mm
Filtered water collection pipe diameter	50mm	50mm

SPELFilter Full Height- SF.30-EMC-M



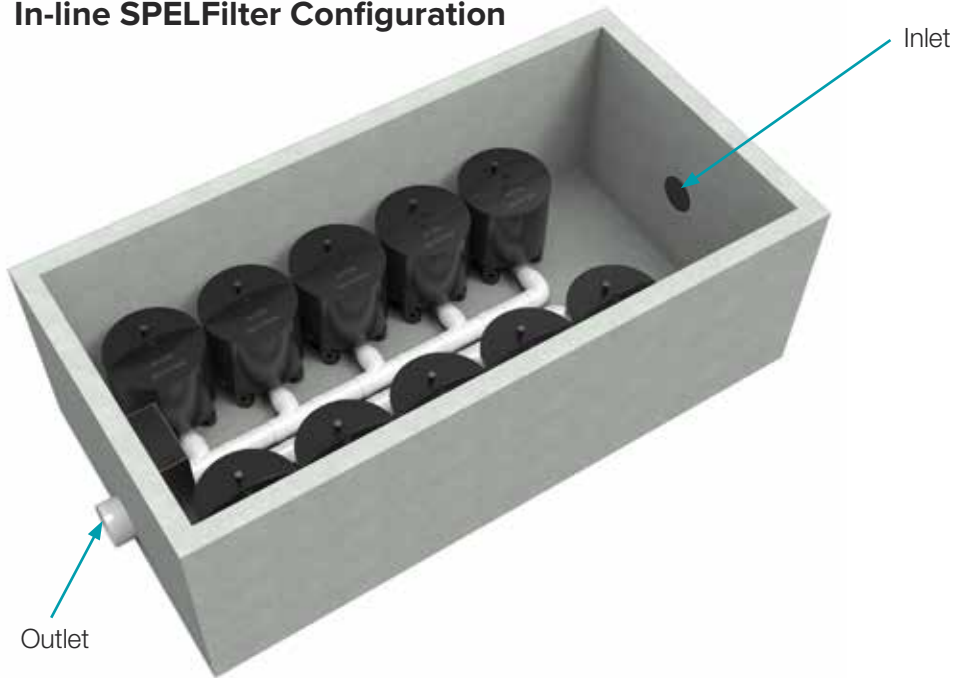
SPELFilter Half Height - SF.15-EMC-M



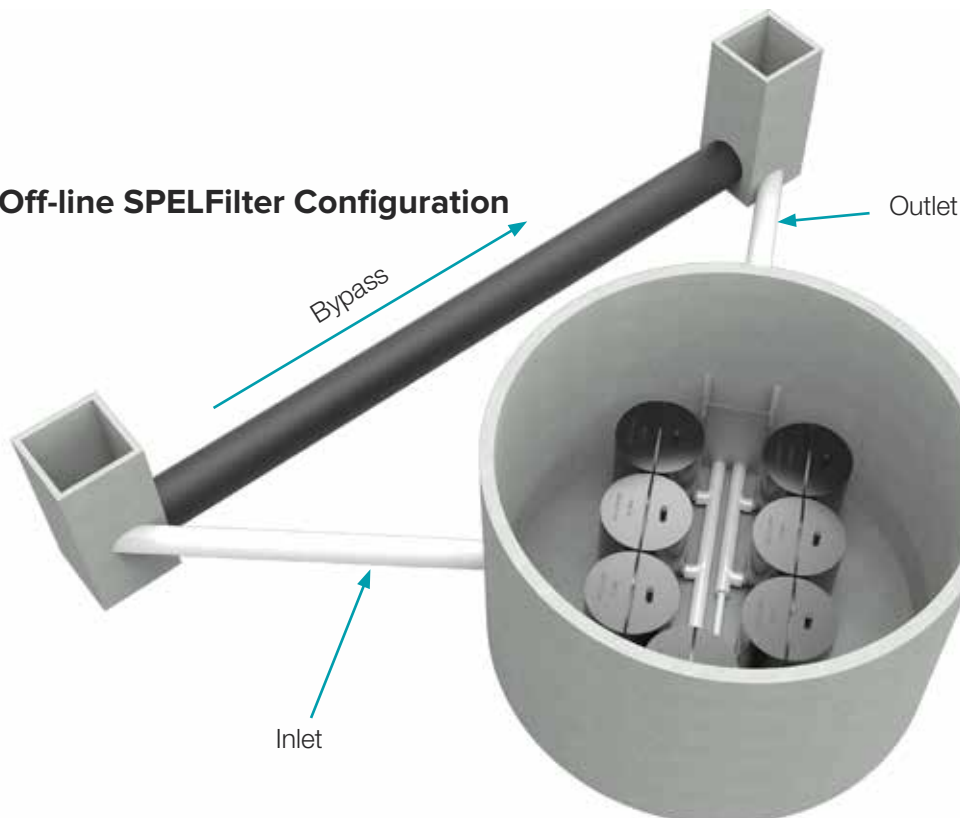
System Configuration

SPELFilter cartridges are installed in concrete or fibreglass tanks commonly referred to as 'vaults'. The vault selection and configuration are based on site characteristics and/or constraints; computational stormwater quality modelling; and selected SPELFilter models. Typical SPELFilter system configurations are shown below.

In-line SPELFilter Configuration



Off-line SPELFilter Configuration



Health and Safety

A. Personal Health & Safety

When carrying out the necessary installation operations of the SPEL Filter all contractors and staff personnel must comply with all current workplace health and safety legislation.

The below measures should be adhered to as practically as possible.

- Comply with all applicable laws, regulations and standards
- All those involved are informed and understand their obligations in respect of the workplace health and safety legislation.
- Ensure responsibility is accepted by all employees to practice and promote a safe and healthy work environment.

B. Personal Protective Equipment / Safety equipment

When carrying out the necessary installation operations of the SPEL Filter, wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment and utilising the adequate safety equipment is vital to reducing potential hazards.

Personal protective equipment / safety equipment in this application includes:

- Eye protection
- Safety apron
- Fluorescent safety vest
- Form of skin protection
- Puncture resistant gloves
- Steel capped safety boots
- Ear muffs
- Hard hat/s
- Sunscreen

C. Confined space

In the event access is required into the vault, confined space permits will be required which is not covered in this Guide. Typical equipment required for confined space entry include:

- Harness
- Gas detector
- Tripod
- Spotter

D. Traffic Control

It is not uncommon for SPEL Filter cartridges to be installed underneath trafficable areas. Minimum traffic control measures will need to be put in place in accordance with traffic control plans set out by respective local and state road authorities.



Vaults are to be treated as confined space. Entry by permit only.



Monitor weather conditions prior to operation maintenance. Do not enter a vault during an episode of heavy rain as this can create a risk of drowning.





Maintenance Frequency

The SPELFilter's design allows for a greater life span when frequently maintained. Maintenance is broken up into three categories which include: standard inspection; general cleaning; and cartridge replacement.

Standard inspection

Standard inspections are conducted at regular four-month intervals. At this time, an approved trained maintenance officer or SPEL representative shall undertake all measures outlined in Maintenance Procedure, Standard Inspection.

General Cleaning

At the end of each standard inspection, trigger measures will identify if general cleaning is required. General cleaning will need to be executed immediately during standard inspections if the following triggers are satisfied:

- Build-up of debris/pollutants within the vault greater than 150mm;
- Accumulation of debris/pollutants on the outlet chamber of the SPELFilter vault;
- After large storm events, tidal or flooding impacts at the request of the owner;

Cartridge Replacement

Stormwater treatment is dependent on the effectiveness of the SPELFilter cartridge system. As the SPELFilter ages, pollutants will inundate the cartridge and ultimately reduce the treatment flow rate. At this point, a SPELFilter flow test apparatus will be utilized to determine if replacement cartridges are required.

Based on the [site] concept modelling (MUSIC) and previous industry experience, we estimate the life of the SPELFilter to be between 6 - 8 years. As a minimum requirement, each SPELFilter cartridge should be replaced within 10 years.

The life cycle of the SPELFilter can be impacted if standard inspections and general maintenance is not undertaken in accordance with this operation and maintenance Guide. Other factors that will affect the above life cycle of the SPELFilter include:

- Installation of cartridge system during construction phase and impacted by construction sediment loads;
- Neglecting to install pre-treatment using an industry approved GPT or a surface inlet pit trash bag such as the SPEL StormSack.
- Unforeseen environmental hazards affecting the SPELFilter functionality.

Maintenance Procedures

Stormwater pollutants captured and retained by the SPELFilter system need to be periodically removed to ensure environmental values are upheld. All associated maintenance works is heavily dependent on the site's operational activities and generated stormwater pollutants. To ensure the longevity of the installed SPELFilter treatment system, it is imperative that the procedures detailed in this Guide are followed and all appropriate measures are actioned immediately.

Standard inspection

The standard inspection requires personal experience of SPEL products to visual inspection the vault and filter conditions.

Confined space requirements may not be required if a full inspection and assessment of each SPELFilter can be achieved at surface level without being deemed a confined space entry.

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Site Inspection Procedures

1. Implement Pre-start safety measures.

Ensure that the area in which operational works are to be carried out is cordoned off, to prevent unauthorised access. Adequate safety barriers must be erected. Area in which work is to be carried out must be clean, safe and hazard free. (Refer to figure 4.)

2. Set-up Gantry Tri-pod above Manhole.

Assemble and position the gantry above the manhole safely and as practically as possible. Attach the winch or chain block to the gantry for lifting the SPEL Filters. Perform safety procedures ie. Attach harnesses etc. (if confined space).

3. Open manhole lid.

Once you have sent up the Gantry and ensured that the area is safe to operate in, you can proceed to open the manhole lid, using lid lifters.

4. Conduct Gas tests.

(If tank is classed confined space)

Once the lids have been removed to a safe distance to prevent tripping, you must then proceed to conduct gas tests. Perform necessary gas tests according to the confined space regulations.

5. Once confined space has been deemed safe to operate in, enter tank safely.

Once you have carried out the required gas test and the work area is deemed safe, you may then enter the pit via a ladder or winch system to assess the work area you will be operating in. Ensure all confined space

6. SPELFilter system assessment.

Perform a review of the SPELFilter system using the SPELFilter assessment report/checklist. Sign off and forward a copy of the report to property manager and SPEL representative.

7. Reinstate SPELFilter system and disposal.

At the completion of the site inspection, ensure the site is reinstated back to its initial state and all pollutants are removed from the site in line with pollutant disposal procedures.

8. Sign off and forward a copy of the report to property manager and SPEL representative.

General Cleaning

Vacuum out of Filter tank, removal, and disposal of pollutants at the completion of a standard inspection, general cleaning may be deemed necessary immediately or scheduled for a future date. Steps undertaken for general cleaning should be in general accordance with the procedure outlined below but not limited.

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6. SPELFilter system assessment.

Perform a review of the SPELFilter system using the SPELFilter assessment report/checklist.

7. Pollutant removal from tank.

Perform clean-up using a licenced vacuum truck contractor or wet/dry vacuum, depending on level of sediment built up and/or tank size.

8. Reinstate SPELFilter system and disposal.

At the completion of the site inspection, ensure the site is reinstated back to its initial state and all pollutants are removed from the site in line with pollutant disposal procedures.

9. Sign off and forward a copy of the report to property manager and SPEL representative.

Cartridge Recycling and Replacement

SPELFilter cartridges can be swapped out for new cartridges. The spent SPELFilter cartridges can be collected from site and sent to SPEL Stormwater's facilities – where the spent media will be removed from the cartridge in factory conditions and disposed of in accordance with environmental regulations.

The SPELFilter cartridge will be recharged with new media – thereby recycling and repurposing the cartridge.

SPEL Filter replacement procedures may vary depending on the configuration of the SPEL Filters, the type of vault and engineers' specs. Replacement instructions for manhole SPEL Filter systems and precast vault SPEL Filter systems are contained in this section.

At the completion of a standard inspection, SPEL Filter replacement may be deemed necessary immediately or scheduled for a future date. Steps undertaken for cartridge replacement should be in general accordance with the procedure outlined below but not limited.

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Ensure that the area in which operational works are to be carried out is cordoned off, to prevent unauthorised access. Adequate safety barriers must be erected. Area in which work is to be carried out must be clean, safe and hazard free.

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5. Once confined space has been deemed safe to operate in, enter tank safely.

Once you have carried out the required gas test and the work area is deemed safe, you may then enter the pit via a ladder or winch system to assess the work area you will be operating in. Ensure all confined space procedures are followed.

6. Remove exhausted cartridges.

Disconnect all internal pipe work from inside the vault. Un-bolt anti-floatation measures and remove cartridges from the vault using Gantry Tri-pod method.

7. Pollutant removal.

Using a wet/dry vacuum or sucker truck, suck out all the residual pollutant from the vault.

8. Install pipework and SPEL Filters.

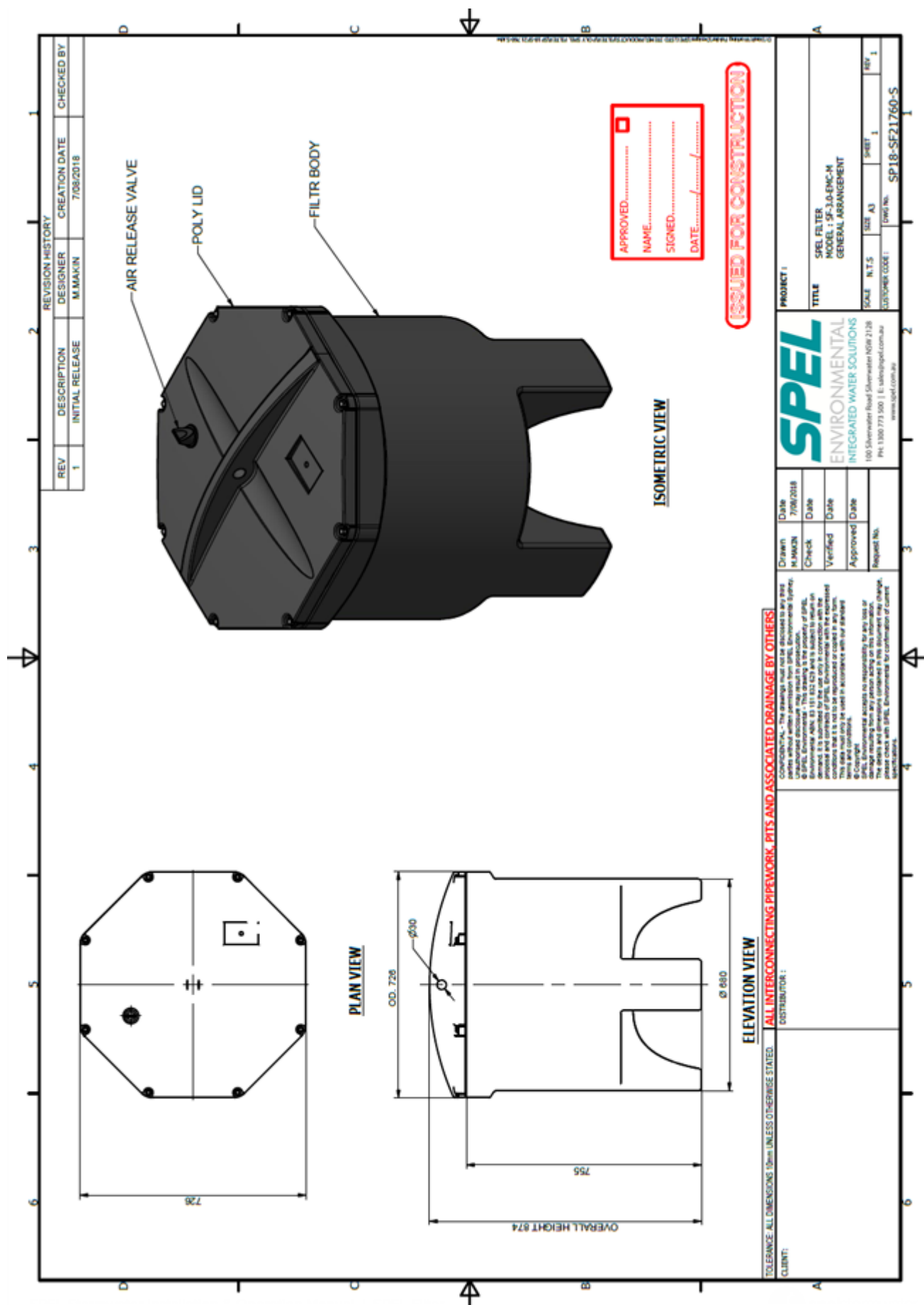
Please refer to the below standard install diagrams for the SPEL Filters. Then refer to your site specific drawings, as site requirements may require something different to the standard layout. Lower filters into tank, position into place, connect filter outlet pipework with the supplied fittings.

9. Install anti-floatation system.

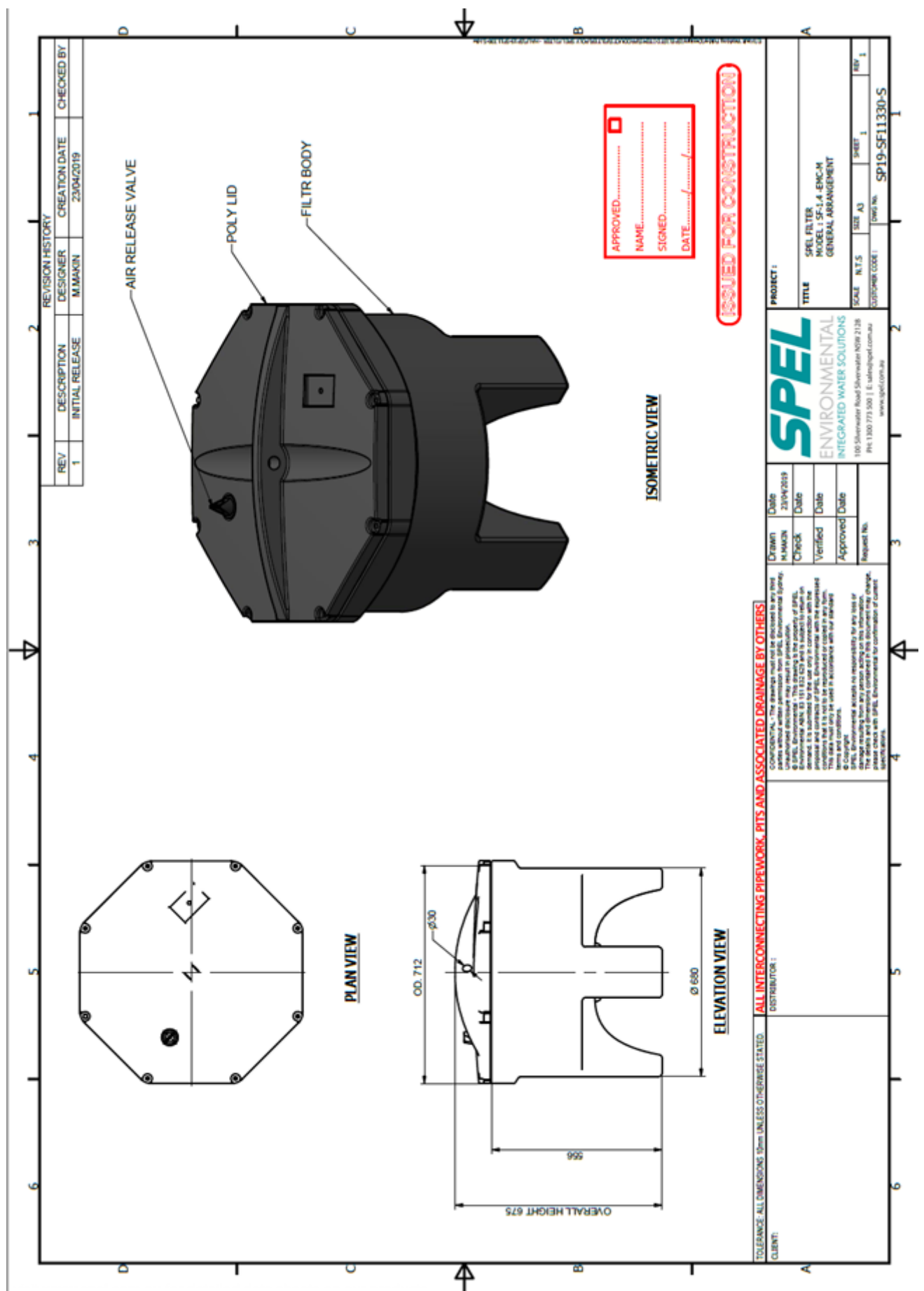
Please refer to the detailed drawings showing how the Anti – Floatation (Anchor) bars are to be installed.

10. Sign off and forward a copy of the report to property manager and SPEL representative.

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Standard Drawings - Half Height



Site Exit & Clean Up

At the end of the scheduled maintenance, approved contractors or SPEL maintenance crew are required to reinstate the site to pre-existing conditions. Steps included but limited to are:

- Ensure all access covers are securely inserted back into their frames;
- Remove and dispose collected pollutants from the site in accordance with local regulator authorities;
- Retrieve all traffic control measures and maintenance tools; and
- Return all exhausted and/or damaged SPEL products to SPEL Stormwater to begin recycling program.





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