



## Calculation of the Langelier Saturation Index

For a more accurate calculation and to cover those cases where the calcium hardness and/or the alkalinity exceed the values given in the various published tables, the following formula takes advantage of the logarithm facility available on most pocket calculators. The improved accuracy and range of this calculating method does not affect the necessity to maintain a slightly positive index of around + 0.2 nor does it affect the basic requirement to have a minimum alkalinity and calcium hardness of 75mg/l, a minimum dissolved oxygen of 6 mg/l and a maximum alkalinity not exceeding 250mg/l (all as CaCO<sub>3</sub>).

$$\text{Langelier Saturation Index} = \text{Actual pH} - \text{Saturation pH}$$

$$\text{Saturation pH} = 9.3 + \text{Temp.Factor} + \text{TDS Factor} - \log_{10} \text{Calcium.Hardness as Ca} - \log_{10} \text{Alkalinity as CaCO}_3$$

### Temperature Factors

15°C. =	2.21
20°C. =	2.10
25°C. =	1.99
30°C. =	1.89
35°C. =	1.79
40°C. =	1.71

### Total Dissolved Solids Factors

500mg/l. =	0.168
1000mg/l. =	0.200
1500mg/l. =	0.217
2000mg/l. =	0.227
3000mg/l. =	0.239
4000mg/l. =	0.245

The factors for other values of total dissolved solids, within the range 100mg/l to 4500mg/l may be calculated by means of the following formula.

$$\frac{2.5 \mu^{0.5}}{1 + 5.3 \mu^{0.5} + 5.5 \mu}$$

where  $\mu = \text{TDS mg/l.} \times 0.000025$  and  $\text{TDS mg/l.} = \text{Conductivity @ } 25^\circ\text{C.} \times 0.7$

For an even more accurate computation which takes into account the monovalent and divalent cation ratios, use the formula in WRC publication TIR 387 or the computer programme 'SICALC' listed in their publication LR1009.