

7.4.4 Reverse Osmosis Extraction and Membranes

The reverse osmosis technique of sap concentration is acceptable. Only membranes of the reverse osmosis and nano-filtration (ultra-osmosis) types are allowed. The technical specifications of membranes shall be available for inspection. In the off-season, osmosis membranes shall be stored in filtrate in a hermetically sealed container kept in a frost-free location. SMBS (sodium metabisulfite) may be added to the filtrate to prevent mould growth. In that case, the membrane shall be rinsed prior to its use the next spring, with a volume of water equal to the hourly capacity of the membrane (e.g.: 600 gallons of water for a 600 gallon/hour membrane). Off-site washing and storage of the membrane (e.g.: by the membrane supplier) shall be documented and this requires a personalized compliance guarantee in the name of the maple producer, signed by an outside party that provides this service, indicating the products used to wash and store membranes.