

ATTACHMENT ASSEMBLY FOR QUARTZ SLEEVE SUPPORT

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

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TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0001] The present disclosure relates generally to quartz sleeve assemblies, and more particularly to an attachment assembly that eliminates the amount of vibration in a quartz sleeve.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

[0002] There is a need for disinfected and purified water for human consumption as well as various water treatment methods and systems for industrial application. Water filters are very efficient in removing many common contaminants and impurities found in water. However, to disinfect and treat fluids, ultraviolet (UV) light is used to efficiently treat fluids. An ultraviolet water treatment unit includes a cylindrical chamber having a UV source fixed with an O-ring seal at both ends of the quartz sleeve or at one end with a domed quartz sleeve. The quartz sleeve extends from one end to other end of the chamber and is fixed at both ends. The fluid treatment unit or water reactor that contains the UV light source allows light to be absorbed by the fluids that pass through the reactor. Some fluid treatment units provide high flow rate of water to a user. The UV fluid treatment unit contains the UV lamp, which allows UV light to be absorbed by the fluids that pass through the reactor. Some UV fluid treatment units use long UV lamps and quartz sleeves for high flow rate application. Such high flow rate results in quartz sleeve vibration during operation. The high amount of vibration causes lamp and quartz sleeve to contact and accelerates lamp failures. Hence some support assemblies are required to prevent the vibration of quartz sleeve and reduce UV lamp vibration, resulting in improved UV lamp performance.

[0003] Several attachment assemblies have been developed to support quartz sleeve with the goal of reducing the amount of vibration on them during operation. One such ultraviolet water disinfection reactor for installing in an existing water pipeline includes a plurality of sleeves that extend through the body transversely to the axial direction of

flow. However, this reactor fails to provide any means to prevent vibration of the plurality of quartz sleeves. Another UV fluid treatment system for treatment of water resident in a vessel includes one or more UV lamps mounted in quartz sleeves that surround the lamps for immersion in water and that are supported to protect the sleeves and lamps from vibration damage. In this fluid treatment system, a combination of a spring at one end and a resilient O-ring at the other, therefore form a cushioning or shock absorbing suspension or support for the sleeve that shields the sleeve and lamp from damage during periods of severe vibration. However, as the end of the quartz sleeve is domed and secured against the distal wall by a spring and the O-ring is placed over the other end of the sleeve, it only provides support at both ends and cannot effectively minimize vibration. Further, as the system provides support only at both ends, the quartz sleeve bends upwards due to buoyancy inside the UV reactor once the reactor is filled with fluid. Moreover, it is important to keep the UV lamp centered within the quartz sleeve for lamp performance and efficiency. The clearance gap between the UV lamp and the quartz sleeve acts as insulation barrier between water and UV lamp for optimum UV light performance.

[0004] There is thus a need for an attachment assembly for preventing the vibration in the quartz sleeve in a UV water reactor. Such an attachment assembly would provide another point of contact within the cylinder of the UV water reactor to maintain the quartz sleeve in a straight position between the O-ring sealed ends. Such an attachment assembly would support the quartz sleeve at an additional location within the UV reactor/cylinder and provide support around the quartz sleeve at 360 degrees. Further, such an attachment assembly would keep the UV lamp centered within the quartz sleeve for increased lamp performance and efficiency. Such a system would guide the quartz sleeve through the UV reactor, from endplate to endplate and ease the process of installation. The present embodiment overcomes shortcomings in the field by accomplishing these critical objectives.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0005] To minimize the limitations found in the existing systems and methods, and to minimize other limitations that will be apparent upon the reading of this specification, the preferred embodiment of the present invention provides a method and attachment assembly
5 that may eliminate the amount of vibration in a quartz sleeve in an ultraviolet (UV) reactor.

[0005a] According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided an attachment assembly for supporting a quartz sleeve positioned inside an ultraviolet (UV) cylinder, the attachment assembly comprising: at least one vibration resistant member adaptable to support and prevent vibration of the quartz sleeve; a collar attachment member
10 configured to enclose the at least one vibration resistant member; and a support plate configured to attach the collar attachment member containing the at least one vibration resistant member with the UV cylinder; wherein the at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by the collar attachment member contacts an outer surface of the quartz sleeve and is configured to guide the quartz sleeve therethrough and prevents vibration; and
15 wherein the attachment assembly is configured to be mounted inside of the UV cylinder by means of a mounting means positioned at a fixed position at a distance away between a first end plate and a second end plate of the UV cylinder.

[0005b] According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided an attachment assembly for supporting a quartz sleeve positioned inside an ultraviolet (UV) cylinder for fluid treatment, the attachment assembly comprising: at least one vibration
20 resistant member configured to support the quartz sleeve, the at least one vibration resistant member coupled to the surface of the quartz sleeve; a collar attachment member adaptable to enclose the at least one vibration resistant member, the at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by the collar attachment member such that there is no space left
25 therebetween; and a support plate configured to attach the collar attachment member containing the at least one vibration resistant member with the UV cylinder; wherein the at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by the collar attachment member contacts an outer surface of the quartz sleeve and is configured to guide the quartz sleeve therethrough and holds it steady to prevent vibration; and wherein the attachment assembly is configured
30 to be mounted inside of the UV cylinder by means of a mounting means

positioned at a fixed position at a distance away between a first end plate and a second end plate of the UV cylinder.

[0005c] According to a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for utilizing an attachment assembly for reducing and preventing vibration of a quartz sleeve positioned inside an ultraviolet (UV) cylinder, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing the attachment assembly having at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by a collar attachment member connected with a support plate;
- b) mounting the attachment assembly to a ring positioned at a fixed location at a distance inside the UV cylinder such that the attachment assembly is mounted inside the UV cylinder between a first end plate and a second end plate of the UV cylinder;
- c) inserting the quartz sleeve into the UV cylinder through a first end plate of the UV cylinder;
- d) guiding the quartz sleeve through the at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by the collar attachment member;
- e) attaching the quartz sleeve with a second end plate of the UV cylinder; and
- f) holding and steadily supporting the quartz sleeve by the at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by the collar attachment member to prevent vibration.

[0006] The attachment assembly comprises at least one vibration resistant member, a collar attachment member and a support plate. The at least one vibration resistant member is adaptable to hold and support the quartz sleeve positioned inside a UV cylinder and thereby to prevent its vibration. The at least one vibration resistant member is an O-ring and is made from a material selected from a group consisting of: Teflon, rubber, elastomer, or a metal spring. The collar attachment member is configured to enclose the at least one vibration resistant member. The at least one vibration resistant member is positioned inside the collar attachment member. The at least one vibration resistant member is enclosed by the collar attachment member such that there is little to no space left therebetween and hence limits movement between the members. The support plate is configured to attach the collar attachment member containing the at least one vibration resistant member with the UV cylinder. The attachment assembly can be attached to the UV cylinder directly or can be attached to a ring positioned inside the UV cylinder. When the attachment assembly is attached inside with the UV cylinder, the quartz sleeve is guided through the at least one vibration resistant member from a first end plate to a second end plate of the UV cylinder. The attachment assembly is attached to a ring or directly on the inner side of the UV cylinder of a reactor holding the quartz sleeve.

[0007] The method for utilizing an attachment assembly for preventing vibration of a quartz sleeve positioned inside the UV cylinder comprises the steps of: providing the attachment assembly having at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by a collar attachment member connected with a support plate. Then mounting the attachment
5 assembly to a ring positioned at a fixed location at a distance inside the UV cylinder. Inserting the quartz sleeve into the UV cylinder through a first end plate of the UV and guiding the quartz sleeve through the at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by

the collar attachment member. Attaching the quartz sleeve with a second end plate of the UV cylinder. Holding and supporting the quartz sleeve steadily by the at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by the collar attachment member to prevent vibration.

5 [0008] It is a first objective of the present invention to provide a method and an attachment assembly that reduces and prevents vibration in the quartz sleeve in a UV water reactor.

[0009] A second objective of the present invention is to provide an attachment assembly that would provide another point of contact within the cylinder of the UV
10 water reactor to maintain the quartz sleeve in a fixed straight position without sagging or bending upward due to buoyancy.

[0010] A third objective of the present invention is to provide an attachment assembly that would maintain or stabilize the quartz sleeve at a location within the cylinder and provide support around the quartz sleeve at 360 degrees.

15 [0011] A fourth objective of the present invention is to provide an attachment assembly that would keep the UV lamp centered within the quartz sleeve for increased lamp performance and efficiency.

[0012] Another objective of the present invention is to provide an attachment assembly that would guide the quartz sleeve through the cylinder, from first endplate to
20 second endplate, and ease the process of installation.

[0013] These and other advantages and features of the present invention are described with specificity so as to make the present invention understandable to one of ordinary skill in the art.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] Elements in the figures have not necessarily been drawn to scale in order to enhance their clarity and improve understanding of these various elements and embodiments of the invention. Furthermore, elements that are known to be common and well understood to those in the industry are not depicted in order to provide a clear view
30 of the various embodiments of the invention, thus the drawings are generalized in form in the interest of clarity and conciseness.

[0015] **FIG. 1** illustrates a cross-sectional view of an attachment assembly holding a

quartz sleeve in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

[0016] FIG. 2 illustrates a sectional view of the attachment assembly attached to the ring on the inner side of the UV cylinder holding the quartz sleeve in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

5 [0017] FIG. 3A is a cut out view of the attachment assembly attached directly to the inner side of the UV cylinder of the water reactor holding the quartz sleeve in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

[0018] FIG. 3B is a sectional view of the attachment assembly attached directly to the inner side of the cylinder holding the quartz sleeve in accordance with the preferred
10 embodiment of the present invention; and

[0019] FIG. 4 shows a flow chart of a method for utilizing an attachment assembly for preventing vibration of a quartz sleeve positioned inside the UV cylinder in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0020] In the following discussion that addresses a number of embodiments and applications of the present invention, reference is made to the accompanying drawings that form a part hereof, and in which is shown by way of illustration specific
20 embodiments in which the invention may be practiced. It is to be understood that other embodiments may be utilized and changes may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention.

[0021] Various inventive features are described below that can each be used independently of one another or in combination with other features. However, any single inventive feature may not address any of the problems discussed above or only address
25 one of the problems discussed above. Further, one or more of the problems discussed above may not be fully addressed by any of the features described below.

[0022] As used herein, the singular forms "a", "an" and "the" include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. "And" as used herein is interchangeably used with "or" unless expressly stated otherwise. As used herein, the term 'about' means
30 +/- 5% of the recited parameter. All embodiments of any aspect of the invention can be used in combination, unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

[0023] Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, throughout the description and

the claims, the words ‘comprise’, ‘comprising’, and the like are to be construed in an inclusive sense as opposed to an exclusive or exhaustive sense; that is to say, in the sense of “including, but not limited to”. Words using the singular or plural number also include the plural and singular number, respectively. Additionally, the words “herein,”
5 “wherein”, “whereas”, “above,” and “below” and words of similar import, when used in this application, shall refer to this application as a whole and not to any particular portions of the application.

[0024] The description of embodiments of the disclosure is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the disclosure to the precise form disclosed. While the specific
10 embodiments of, and examples for, the disclosure are described herein for illustrative purposes, various equivalent modifications are possible within the scope of the disclosure, as those skilled in the relevant art will recognize.

[0025] Referring to **FIG. 1**, a cross-sectional view of an attachment assembly **100** holding a quartz sleeve **104** in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present
15 invention is illustrated. The attachment assembly **100** for supporting the quartz sleeve **104** comprises at least one vibration resistant member **102**, a collar attachment member **108** and a support plate **110**. The at least one vibration resistant member **102** is adaptable to hold and support the quartz sleeve **104** positioned inside an ultraviolet (UV) cylinder **106** of a water reactor (**not shown**) and thereby to prevent its vibration. The at least one
20 vibration resistant member **102** is an O-ring which is made from a material selected from a group consisting of: Teflon, rubber, elastomer, or a metal spring. The collar attachment member **108** is configured to enclose the at least one vibration resistant member **102**. The at least one vibration resistant member **102** is positioned inside the collar attachment member **108** and surrounds the quartz sleeve **104** to hold it in a straight
25 position. The collar attachment member **108** has a structure to hold the at least one vibration resistant member **102**, preferably the O-ring, steady. The at least one vibration resistant member **102** is enclosed by the collar attachment member **108** such that there is little to no space left therebetween and hence allows no free movement between the members. The support plate **110** is configured to attach the collar attachment member
30 **108** containing the at least one vibration resistant member **102** with the UV cylinder **106**. The attachment assembly **100** can be attached to the UV cylinder **106** directly or can be attached to a ring **112** positioned inside the UV cylinder **106**. When the attachment

assembly **100** is attached inside with the UV cylinder **106**, the quartz sleeve **104** is guided through the at least one vibration resistant member **102** from a first end plate **114** to a second end plate **116** of the UV cylinder **106**. Thus the at least one vibration resistant member **102** enclosed by the collar attachment member **108** guides the quartz sleeve **104** therethrough and prevents its vibration.

[0026] FIG. 2 illustrates a cross-sectional view respectively of the attachment assembly **100** attached to the ring **112** on the inner side of the UV cylinder **106** of the water reactor (**not shown**) holding the quartz sleeve **104**. The support plate of the attachment assembly is attached to the ring as shown in FIG. 2. The ring **112** is positioned at a fixed position at a distance away from the first end plate **114** and the second end plate **116** of the UV cylinder **106**.

[0027] FIGS. 3A and 3B illustrate a cut out view and cross-sectional view respectively of the attachment assembly **100** attached directly to the inner side of the UV cylinder **106** holding the quartz sleeve **104**. The attachment assembly **100** is fixed inside the UV cylinder **106** at a distance away from the first end plate **114** and the second end plate **116**.

[0028] The attachment assembly **100** allows the quartz sleeve **104** to be supported by the at least one vibration resistant member **102** to ensure that it is maintained in a fixed straight position. The at least one vibration resistant member **102** stabilizes the quartz sleeve **104** while it is supported by the attachment assembly **100**. The attachment assembly **100** is designed to provide another point of contact with the cylinder **106** which otherwise was only supported at both end plates **114** and **116**. By providing another point of contact with the cylinder **106**, the attachment assembly **100** reduces the amount of vibration of the quartz sleeve **104** during operation. Thus the at least one vibration resistant member **102** and the collar attachment member **108** of the attachment assembly **100** provide 360 degrees of support around the quartz sleeve **104** which reduces and eliminates vibration during operation.

[0029] FIG. 4 shows a flow chart of a method **200** for utilizing an attachment assembly for reducing and preventing vibration of a quartz sleeve positioned inside the UV cylinder. The method comprises the steps of: providing the attachment assembly having at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by a collar attachment member connected with a support plate as shown in block **202**. Mounting the attachment

assembly to a ring positioned at a fixed location at a distance inside the UV cylinder as indicated in block **204**. Then inserting the quartz sleeve into the UV cylinder through a first end plate of the UV cylinder as indicated in block **206**. As indicated in block **208**, guiding the quartz sleeve through the at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by the collar attachment member and attaching the quartz sleeve with a second end plate of the UV cylinder as indicated in block **210**. Holding and steadily supporting the quartz sleeve by the at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by the collar attachment member to prevent vibration as indicated in block **212**.

[0030] The foregoing description of the preferred embodiment of the present invention has been presented for the purpose of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed. Many modifications and variations are possible in light of the above teachings. It is intended that the scope of the present invention not be limited by this detailed description, but by the claims and the equivalents to the claims appended hereto

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An attachment assembly for supporting a quartz sleeve positioned inside an ultraviolet (UV) cylinder, the attachment assembly comprising:
5 at least one vibration resistant member adaptable to support and prevent vibration of the quartz sleeve;
a collar attachment member configured to enclose the at least one vibration resistant member; and
a support plate configured to attach the collar attachment member
10 containing the at least one vibration resistant member with the UV cylinder;
wherein the at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by the collar attachment member contacts an outer surface of the quartz sleeve and is configured to guide the quartz sleeve therethrough and prevents vibration; and
wherein the attachment assembly is configured to be mounted inside of
15 the UV cylinder by means of a mounting means positioned at a fixed position at a distance between a first end plate and a second end plate of the UV cylinder.
2. The attachment assembly of claim 1 wherein the at least one vibration resistant member is an O-ring.
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3. The attachment assembly of claim 1 wherein the at least one vibration resistant member is made from a material selected from the group consisting of: Teflon, rubber or elastomer.
- 25 4. The attachment assembly of claim 1 wherein the at least one vibration resistant member is in contact 360° around the outside surface of the quartz sleeve.
5. The attachment assembly of claim 1 wherein the at least one vibration resistant member maintains the quartz sleeve in a straight position.
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6. The attachment assembly of claim 1 wherein the at least one vibration resistant member is enclosed by the collar attachment member such that there is substantially no gap left therebetween.

7. The attachment assembly of claim 1 wherein the configuration of the collar attachment member and the at least one vibration resistant member allows substantially no movement therebetween.
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8. The attachment assembly of claim 1, wherein the attachment assembly is mounted directly inside the UV cylinder at a distance away from the first end plate and the second end plate.
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9. An attachment assembly for supporting a quartz sleeve positioned inside an ultraviolet (UV) cylinder for fluid treatment, the attachment assembly comprising:
- at least one vibration resistant member configured to support the quartz sleeve, the at least one vibration resistant member coupled to the surface of the quartz sleeve;
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- a collar attachment member adaptable to enclose the at least one vibration resistant member, the at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by the collar attachment member such that there is no space left therebetween; and
- a support plate configured to attach the collar attachment member
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- containing the at least one vibration resistant member with the UV cylinder;
- wherein the at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by the collar attachment member contacts an outer surface of the quartz sleeve and is configured to guide the quartz sleeve therethrough and holds it steady to prevent vibration; and
- wherein the attachment assembly is configured to be mounted inside of
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- the UV cylinder by means of a mounting means positioned at a fixed position at a distance between a first end plate and a second end plate of the UV cylinder.
10. The attachment assembly of claim 9 wherein the at least one vibration resistant member is an O-ring.
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11. The attachment assembly of claim 9 wherein the at least one vibration resistant member and the collar attachment member provide support and stability around the quartz sleeve.

12. The attachment assembly of claim 9 wherein the at least one vibration resistant member is made from a material selected from the group consisting of: Teflon, rubber or elastomer.
- 5 13. The attachment assembly of claim 9 wherein the at least one vibration resistant member maintains the quartz sleeve in a straight position.
- 10 14. The attachment assembly of claim 9 wherein the configuration of the collar attachment member and the at least one vibration resistant member allows substantially no natural movement therebetween.
- 15 15. The attachment assembly of claim 9, wherein the attachment assembly is mounted directly inside the UV cylinder at a distance away from the first end plate and the second end plate.
- 20 16. A method for utilizing an attachment assembly for reducing and preventing vibration of a quartz sleeve positioned inside an ultraviolet (UV) cylinder, the method comprising the steps of:
- a) providing the attachment assembly having at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by a collar attachment member connected with a support plate;
 - b) mounting the attachment assembly to a ring positioned at a fixed
 - 25 location at a distance inside the UV cylinder such that the attachment assembly is mounted inside the UV cylinder between a first end plate and a second end plate of the UV cylinder;
 - c) inserting the quartz sleeve into the UV cylinder through a first end plate of the UV cylinder;
 - 30 d) guiding the quartz sleeve through the at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by the collar attachment member;
 - e) attaching the quartz sleeve with a second end plate of the UV cylinder; and

f) holding and steadily supporting the quartz sleeve by the at least one vibration resistant member enclosed by the collar attachment member to prevent vibration.