Claims:

1. A settling tank comprising:

a tank body;

a distributor for raw-water introduction provided in a lower part of the tank body;

a stirring member provided between a bottom surface of the tank body and the distributor;

a sludge outlet provided in a side of the tank body at a higher position than the distributor;

a sludge-receiving chamber connected to the sludge outlet; and

a sludge-discharging portion provided to the sludge-receiving chamber,

wherein a height $H_3$ from the bottom surface of the tank body to a bottom surface of the distributor is 1 to 30% of a height $H_1$ from the bottom surface of the tank body to the sludge outlet, and

the distributor includes a horizontal tubular portion provided with a liquid-outflow opening in a bottom surface of the horizontal tubular portion.

2. The settling tank according to Claim 1, wherein the stirring member is rotatably provided immediately above the bottom surface of the tank body.

3. The settling tank according to Claim 2, wherein the tank body has a circular-cylindrical shape, and a rotation diameter of the stirring member is 0.6 to 0.95 times a bore (diameter) of the circular-cylindrical tank body.

4. A method of operating the settling tank according to any one of Claims 1-3, comprising: performing stirring such that a stirring intensity (G-value) of the stirring member in a space between the bottom surface of the tank body and the bottom surface of the distributor is 5 to 200 $s^{-1}$.

5. The method of operating the settling tank according to Claim 4,

wherein a difference between a specific gravity $d_1$ of liquid supplied to the distributor and a specific gravity $d_2$ of liquid in the tank body is 0.0001 to 0.1, and $d_2 > d_1$.

6. The settling tank according to Claim 1, wherein a height $H_2$ from the bottom surface of the tank body to a bottom surface of the stirring member is 5% or smaller of the height $H_1$ and is 10 mm or larger.

CLAIMS:

1. A settling tank, comprising:

a tank body;

a distributor for raw-water introduction provided in a lower part of the tank body;

a stirring member provided between a bottom surface of the tank body and the distributor;

a sludge outlet provided in a side of the tank body at a higher position than the distributor;

a sludge-receiving chamber connected to the sludge outlet; and

a sludge-discharging portion provided to the sludge-receiving chamber,

wherein a height $H_2$ from the bottom surface of the tank body to a bottom surface of the distributor is 1 to 30% of a height $H_1$ from the bottom surface of the tank body to the sludge outlet, and

the distributor includes a horizontal tubular portion provided with a raw-water-outflow opening in a bottom surface of the horizontal tubular portion.

2. The settling tank according to Claim 1, wherein the stirring member is rotatably provided immediately above the bottom surface of the tank body.

3. The settling tank according to Claim 2, wherein the tank body has a circular-cylindrical shape, and a rotation diameter of the stirring member is 0.6 to 0.95 times a bore (diameter) of the circular-cylindrical tank body.

4. The settling tank according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein a height $H_2$ from the bottom surface of the tank body to a bottom surface of the stirring member is 5% or smaller of the height $H_1$, and is 10 mm or larger.

5. A method of operating the settling tank according to any of Claims 1-4, comprising: performing stirring such that a stirring intensity (G-value) of the stirring member in a space between the bottom surface of the tank body and the bottom surface of the distributor is 5 to 200 $s^{-1}$..

6. The method of operating the settling tank according to Claim 5,

wherein a difference between a specific gravity $d_1$ of raw-water supplied to the distributor and a specific gravity $d_2$ of liquid in the tank body is 0.0001 to 0.1, and $d_2 > d_1$.