Claims

1. An inflow control device for a well screen comprising;

a body having an internal bore, said body mountable in line with a base pipe of said well screen;

a plurality of body apertures in a wall of said body, said apertures spaced longitudinally and circumferentially from each other, about said wall;

a slide member in sliding engagement with an inner surface of said body, said slide member having a plurality of slide apertures;

wherein the inflow control device is arranged to selectively and progressively increase the aperture area through the body through sliding the slide member, so as to align at least one of the body apertures with at least one of the slide apertures, thereby opening or closing the body and slide apertures, such that a flow of fluid entering into the well screen is restricted;

wherein the slide apertures are arranged into a first group, a second group and a third group of slide apertures;

said slide member arranged to slide to a plurality of positions, each position aligning one of said slide aperture groups with said body apertures;

such that in a first position, the first group aligns with a first body aperture;

in a second position, the second group aligns with the first and a second body aperture, and;

in a third position, the third group aligns with the first, second and a third body aperture.

2. The inflow control device according to claim 1 wherein said device is arranged to receive an interruption tool for engaging and sliding said slide.

3. The inflow control device according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein positions associated with the slide correspond to the placement of said apertures.

4. The inflow control device according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein an external diameter of the body is arranged to be matching to that of the base pipe such that on connection to the well screen a flush connection is achieved.

5. The inflow control device according to any one of claims 1 to 4 further including a screen to the inflow control device and positioned over said apertures.

6. The inflow control device according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the slide member is arranged to slide longitudinally parallel to an axis of said well screen.

7. The inflow control device according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the slide member is arranged to slide rotationally about the axis of the well screen.

8. The inflow control device according to claim 1 wherein said groups correspond to varying percentages of the total body aperture area such that the slide member is arranged to increase or decrease the available percentage of body aperture opening on moving from one position to another.

9. The inflow control device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said slide member includes an engagement portion, said engagement portion arranged to receive an engagement portion of an interruption tool for biassing the slide member from one position to another.

10. The inflow control device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein first group includes one slide aperture, the second group includes two slide apertures and the third group includes three slide apertures.