

How to set up extractables and leachables studies for single use systems used in (bio)production

PDA TRAINING WEBINAR Karen Pieters, Ir.

OVERVIEW

- 1. Regulatory requirements for SUS
- 2. Interest groups on standardization
- 3. How to set up extractables and leachables studies for SUS?
	- 3.1 Risk assessment of the materials used in the production process
	- 3.2 Gather extractables data
	- 3.3 Evaluation of extractables data
	- 3.4 Leachables study
- 4. Case study: E&L testing of a sterilization filter

What are SUS?

- Materials or assemblies used in the production of a drug substance or drug product that are discareded as waste after one or a few uses.
- More popular in bioproduction, but also used for small molecule drug products in less extent (mainly bulk storage and filling line)
- Single-Use-Systems (SUS)

Filter capsules bioreactor bioreactor Disposable chromatography columns Single-use assemblies

Storage bags for bulk solution

Storage containers for buffers or intermediates Filter cartridges

Disposable centrifuges

1. Regulatory requirements for SUS

- 2. Interest groups on standardization
- 3. How to set up extractables and leachables studies for SUS?
	- 3.1 Risk assessment of the materials used in the production process
	- 3.2 Gather extractables data
	- 3.3 Evaluation of extractables data
	- 3.4 Leachables study
- 4. Case study: E&L testing of a sterilization filter

1. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR SUS

- Polymeric single-use system (SUS) components offer significant advantages over conventional (i.e. reusable) stainless steel components in terms of flexibility, speed and efficiency of operation
- Use of SUS components in biopharmaceutical manufacturing has increased rapidly in recent years
- BUT, concerns regarding the potential leaching of compounds from the polymeric SUS component(s) into the process stream, resulting in a potential negative impact on product quality and/or process performance
- \rightarrow Regulatory guidelines and regulations for leachables of SUS

PRODUCTION COMPONENTS/MATERIALS

U.S.

Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 211.65 (1)

"...Equipment shall be constructed so that *surfaces that contact components, inprocess materials or drug products shall not be reactive, additive or absorptive so as to alter safety, identity, strength, quality or purity* of the drug product beyond the official or other established requirements...'

EUROPE

ICH Q7 – GMP Practice Guide

"...Equipment should not be constructed so that *surfaces that contact raw materials, intermediates or API's do not alter the quality of the intermediates and API's beyond the official or other established specifications..."*

EU – GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICES

"...Production Equipment should not present any hazard to the products. The parts of the production equipment that come into contact with the product must not *be reactive, additive... That it will affect the Quality of the Product..."*

OBSERVATIONS

- The CFR 211.65 and GMP's do *not only* refer to the *impact on Safety*, but also on:
	- Quality (stability, activity,...) of the DP
	- o Purity
	- o Strength (e.g. adsorptive behavior)
	- **Reactive behavior**
	- o Additive behavior
- Reasoning of Regulators
	- Know your process
	- o Know the impact of SUS on the quality of the product
	- o Prove that you have made an assessment

• **United States Pharmacopeia <665>:**

Plastic materials, components, and systems used in the manufacturing of pharmaceutical drug products and biopharmaceutical drug substance and products

• **United States Pharmacopeia <1665>:**

Characterization of plastic materials, components, and systems used in the manufacturing of pharmaceutical drug products and biopharmaceutical drug substance and products

Published *IN DRAFT* in Pharmacopeial Forum (PF) 45(2) (March/April 2019) A new draft will be published in the Pharmacopeial Forum to address current comments (date unknown)

- 1. Regulatory requirements for SUS
- **2. Interest groups on standardization**
- 3. How to set up extractables and leachables studies for SUS?
	- 3.1 Risk assessment of the materials used in the production process
	- 3.2 Gather extractables data
	- 3.3 Evaluation of extractables data
	- 3.4 Leachables study
- 4. Case study: E&L testing of a sterilization filter

2. INTEREST GROUPS ON STANDARDIZATION

BIO-PROCESS SYSTEMS ALLIANCE

Advancing Single-Use Worldwide

- Trade association of suppliers and users of single-use bioprocess technologies
- Publications:

BPSA

- Recommendations for Extractables and Leachables Testing (2008)
- o Recommendations for Testing and Evaluation of Extractables from Single-use Process Equipment (2010)
- Available at www.bpsalliance.org

2. INTEREST GROUPS ON STANDARDIZATION

- Global association of biopharmaceutical manufacturers (end users)
- Publications:
	- o "Standardized Extractables Testing Protocol for Single-Use Systems in Biomanufacturing", issued in Nov 2014
	- o "Best Practices Guide for Evaluating Leachables Risk from Polymeric Single-Use Systems used in Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing", issued in March 2017
	- o "BioPhorum Best Practices Guide for Extractables Testing of Polymeric Single-Use Components used in Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing", issued in April 2020
- Available at www.biophorum.com

- 1. Regulatory requirements for SUS
- 2. Interest groups on standardization
- **3. How to set up extractables and leachables studies for SUS?**
	- **3.1 Risk assessment of the materials used in the production process**
	- 3.2 Gather extractables data
	- 3.3 Evaluation of extractables data
	- 3.4 Leachables study
- 4. Case study: E&L testing of a sterilization filter

Why perform a risk assessment?

• Bioproduction process may contain a lot of different SUS

Bioproduction example from a slide from Presentation at IQPC Conference "Disposable Solutions", Munich, 18-20 FEB2014: "BPOG's Extractable Protocol Standardization Journey – Review 2013 Process ande Planning for 2014" Ken Wong (Sanofi-Pasteur), with permission of the Author.

- Many SUS are custom made
	- o Bag from Vendor A
	- Tubing from Vendor B
	- Filter from Vendor C
	- Connectors from Vendor D

• Complete E/L assessment for each component can be a challenging task

Perform a risk assessment

• Instead of testing every SUS for extractables, a **risk based approach** can be applied to focus on the materials with high impact

• GOAL?

Select single-use components with greatest potential for objectable levels of leachables with regard to **safety and quality** of the final product, and with regard to **process performance**

• When?

Best **performed early in the process development** when changes are more easily addressed

Create a list of "product contact materials"

- Understand your manufacturing process from start to finish!
- List any material with potential to leach into the final product through "product contact" with starting materials, intermediates, final DP,...
- Can include:

tubing, bags, filters, connectors, O-rings, tangential flow cassettes, chromatographic resins, final bulk storage vessels,…

"RISK FACTORS" to consider for E/L assessment of "product contact materials"

- 1. Material compatibility
- 2. Proximity to final DP / distance along production stream
- 3. Composition of contact solution
- 4. Surface area to Volume ratio
- 5. Contact temperature and contact time
- 6. Pretreatment steps
- 7. Process performance

RISK FACTOR 1: Material compatibility

- Most formulations are aqueous-based and therefore compatible with most SUS components
- Most biopharmaceutical materials pass USP<87> and USP<88> testing
- First, obtain manufacturers recommended operating parameters such as pH range, temperature, pressure…
	- o Is material being used within these recommended operating parameters?
- Materials with great number and/or level of additives \rightarrow greater total pool of potential extractables

RISK FACTOR 2: Proximity to Final Product

- Materials used in the final filling line have direct risk to the final product
- Locations upstream in the process MAY have reduced risk to the end product
- TRUE in case of processing steps that can remove migrated compounds from the process
	- o Ultrafiltration / diafiltration \rightarrow removal of impurities?
	- \circ Lyophilization \rightarrow removal of volatiles?
	- o Ideally, supporting data should be obtained

Leachables Impact on Toxicological Risk

RISK FACTOR 3: Composition of the contact solution

- Higher regulatory and safety concern for leachables in case of contact solutions with:
	- o Low or high pH-values
	- o High organic contents
	- o Surfactants

RISK FACTOR 4: Surface-to-volume ratio

- The higher the ratio, the higher the risk!!
- High \rightarrow Filters: porous structure leads to large internal surface area
- Low \rightarrow O-ring seals
- Smaller process volumes usually result in higher surface-to-volume ratios

RISK FACTOR 5: Contact temperature and time

- o Evidently, higher risk in case of
	- \circ higher temperatures \rightarrow more rapid migration

and/or

 \circ longer times \rightarrow more time for migration

RISK FACTOR 6: Pretreatment steps

- STERILIZATION tends to change, and possibly increase leachables
	- o Steam sterilization
	- o Gamma irradiation
	- o Ethylene oxide (EtO) sterilization

- RINSING prior to product contact tends to lower leachables o E.g. Preflushing filters with WFI
	- o Flush solution has to be removed from the process stream!

RISK FACTOR 7: Process performance

• Do single-use systems have impact on the performance of the production process?

e.g. bDtBPP (cell growth inhibition)

How to perform a risk assessment?

- Different company-specific approaches might be used
- Assign numerical values to different risk factors and convert to final risk score
- Risk assessment should be clear and well argumented towards the authorities
- Risk assessment based on ICH Q9 Quality Risk Management

3.1 RISK ASSESSMENT

BPOG: Example of numerical values that indicate the risk level, including weight factors assigned to each risk factor

BPOG E/L Risk Assessment Example of Proposed Risk Assessment

(1): Parameter range definitions in this table represent an example. Individual companies should develop their specific range definitions according to their internal policies / SOPs.

(2): Weight levels used in the table represent an example. In this example, 0.40 is used for DAS rating and 0.15 is used for all other considerations. Individual companies may use equal weight distribution or may assign weight according to their internal policies.

3.1 RISK ASSESSMENT

USP<1665> draft: Example of a risk evaluation matrix

• **Risk evaluation matrix uses a 3-step process**:

Step 1: Establish values for each risk dimension Step 2: Link the numerical risk sequence with a level of characterization Step 3: Use mitigating factors to adjust the characterization level

• E.g. Sterilization filter:

Step 1: $1233 \rightarrow 3321$ (sequence to be given in order of decreasing digit values)

Table A-1 Dimensions Relevant to Risk Level

^a The gaps in the temperature ranges reflect temperature ranges that are rarely experienced in manufacturing processes.

3.1 RISK ASSESSMENT

USP<1665> draft: Example of a risk evaluation matrix

• E.g. Sterilization filter:

Step 1: Establish numerical risk sequence \rightarrow 3321

Step 2: Link numerical risk sequence with a level of characterization

Table A-2. Linking the Numerical Risk Sequence with a Level of Characterization

^a If the Level 2 score is in temperature, solvent, or duration dimensions, then Level C; otherwise, Level B.

^b In these cases the temperature, solvent, or duration dimensions have a greater influence on risk than do material considerations

^c If one of the Level 1 scores is in the material considerations dimension, then Level A; otherwise, Level B.

USP<1665> draft: Example of a risk evaluation matrix

- E.g. Sterilization filter:
	- Step 1: Establish numerical risk sequence \rightarrow 3321
	- Step 2: Link numerical risk sequence with a level of characterization

→ Level C (High risk)

Step 3: Use mitigating factors to adjust the characterization level

- o Clearance after contact processing step?
	- \rightarrow No (no mitigation factor)
- o Clinical use of the final DP?
	- \rightarrow "Duration < 7 days" and "dialy dose < 10 mL" (factor = 1)
- → Level C (High risk) testing is reduced to Level B (Moderate risk)

- 1. Regulatory requirements for SUS
- 2. Interest groups on standardization
- **3. How to set up extractables and leachables studies for SUS?**
	- 3.1 Risk assessment of the materials used in the production process
	- **3.2 Gather extractables data**
	- 3.3 Evaluation of extractables data
	- 3.4 Leachables study
- 4. Case study: E&L testing of a sterilization filter

- 1. Regulatory requirements for SUS
- 2. Interest groups on standardization
- **3. How to set up extractables and leachables studies for SUS?**
	- 3.1 Risk assessment of the materials used in the production process
	- **3.2 Gather extractables data**
	- 3.3 Evaluation of extractables data
	- 3.4 Leachables study
- 4. Case study: E&L testing of a sterilization filter

- Extractables data from the supplier: Is the data suitable for the intended application(s)?
	- o Composition of extraction solvents: organic content, pH, polarity
	- o Extraction conditions: time and temperature
	- o Pretreatments steps: sterilization
	- o Analytical techniques: screening, combination of different techniques
- Can extractables data generated by different suppliers be compared? o Outcome of extractables study is highly dependent upon the set-up
- Increasing demand for standardized extractables protocol for extractables testing performed by the supplier
	- o Cover the majority of the biopharmaceutical applications
	- o Easily compare data from different suppliers

• BPOG extractables protocol (2014):

*Reference: Presentation at 'Bioproduction 2015', Dublin, 14 Oct 2015, presented by D. Buckley and A.Sexto*n

• BPOG extractables protocol (2020):

*Reference: Presentation at 'Bioproduction 2015', Dublin, 14 Oct 2015, presented by D. Buckley and A.Sexto*n

• BPOG extractables protocol (2020):

• USP <665> (draft): Standard Extractables Protocol (SEP)

Table 3. Standard Extraction Protocol for Components or Systems That are Designated as High Risk by Application of the Risk Evaluation Matrix

Solution C1: pH 3 (HCl/KCl) Solution C2: pH 10 (PO4 buffer) Solution C3: 50% EtOH in UPW

PF 45(2): March / April 2019

- What if no supplier data are available or suitable?
	- **If is the responsibility of the end user to demonstrate that the** single-use system is **suitable** for his end application and that it does not alter the quality or safety of his end product.
- Single-use systems used for **specific application**
	- o Simulated extractables study might be considered
	- o Simulation solvent: pH, polarity, organic content
	- o Worst case contact temperature and time versus real use
	- o Pretreatment steps: sterilization

- 1. Regulatory requirements for SUS
- 2. Interest groups on standardization

3. How to set up extractables and leachables studies for SUS?

- 3.1 Risk assessment of the materials used in the production process
- 3.2 Gather extractables data

3.3 Evaluation of extractables data

- 3.4 Leachables study
- 4. Case study: E&L testing of a sterilization filter

- Impact on **process performance**
	- o e.g. Bis(2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl)hydrogen phosphate (bDtBPP) causing cell growth inhibition
- Impact on the **final product**:
	- o **Safety impact**: related to the toxicity of the extractables (potential leachables)
		- Is there a safety risk towards the patient?
		- e.g. Mutagenic compounds ending up in the final product administered to the patient

o **Quality impact**:

- e.g. Compounds promoting the formation of protein aggregates

o **Efficacy impact**:

- e.g. Compounds altering the tertiary structure of the protein causing loss of activity

3.3 EVALUATION OF EXTRACTABLES DATA

• Safety evaluation based on the toxicity of the compound

- o literature data often very limited or non existent:
	- *polymer oligomers*
	- *polymer degradation compounds*
	- *polymer additive degradation compounds*
	- *reaction products*

- o (Q)SAR ((Quantitative) Structure Activity Relationship) software packages might assist in assessing the safety risk of extractables
	- E.g. Derek Nexus, Sarah Nexus, MultiCase, Leadscope
- PQRI: Product Quality Research Institute
	- o safety concern thresholds dependent on the administration route of the final product

3.3 EVALUATION OF EXTRACTABLES DATA

• **Parenteral Drug Products (PDPs) –** *to be published*

ANALYTICAL EVALUATION THRESHOLD (AET)

→ Translating the SCT into Analytical Thresholds for Extractables studies

$$
AET\left(\frac{\mu g}{test\ item}\right) = \frac{SCT\left(\frac{\mu g}{day}\right)}{\text{number of doses/day}} \times \frac{\text{number of doses}}{\text{test item}}
$$
\n
$$
AET\left(\frac{\mu g}{test\ item}\right) = \frac{1.5\frac{\mu g}{day}}{1\ \text{dose/day}} \times \frac{1000\ \text{doses}}{\text{filter}} = 1500\frac{\mu g}{\text{filter}}
$$

- 1. Regulatory requirements for SUS
- 2. Interest groups on standardization

3. How to set up extractables and leachables studies for SUS?

- 3.1 Risk assessment of the materials used in the production process
- 3.2 Gather extractables data
- 3.3 Evaluation of extractables data

3.4 Leachables study

4. Case study: E&L testing of a sterilization filter

- Monitor compounds of concern with regard to
	- o Safety
	- o Quality
	- o Efficacy
	- o Process performance
- Quantitative determination of target leachables
	- o LOQ should be at or below the AET level of the corresponding threshold level/PDE
	- o Combined with screening analyses to screen for unexpected leachables

Set-up:

- **Before and after the process step**
- **Integrated in the container leachables study**
	- o Blank reference should not have been in contact with the process materials
	- o Sometimes not possible to generate a true blank, since the DS is manufactured in single-use
	- o Use placebo solution as a blank, but cause differential peaks originating from the DS

Final leachables results to be subjected to thorough **toxicological assessment** to classify the SUS as safe for use in the bioproduction process

- 1. Regulatory requirements for SUS
- 2. Interest groups on standardization
- 3. How to set up extractables and leachables studies for SUS?
	- 3.1 Risk assessment of the materials used in the production process
	- 3.2 Gather extractables data
	- 3.3 Evaluation of extractables data
	- 3.4 Leachables study
- **4. Case study: E&L testing of a sterilization filter**

STEP 1: EXT / SIM STUDY – SET-UP

Sponsor info:

- Capsule filter: PES membrane & PP housing
- Filter used for sterilization of solution in formulation step
- Composition contact solution:
	- o Biological product composed of 10% organic content, PS80 and Phosphate buffer
- Contact time & temperature:

 \circ 2 h at room temperature (< 25 °C)

• Pretreatment:

o Filter is flushed with contact solution before use in process

Extractables study / simulation study set-up:

- Preflush of the filter (sponsor instructions)
- Dynamic extraction by circulation (see next slide)
- 3 h at 30 °C (sponsor request) (worst case for "2 h at room temperature")
- Simulation solvents:
	- o 50% Isopropanol (IPA) in Ultrapure water (UPW)
	- o UPW
- Analytical techniques:

 \circ IC \rightarrow Acetate / formate / sulphate anions

Extractables study / simulation study set-up:

Reporting limit set at 3000 µg/L (~15000 µg/filter) or lower

Dynamic extraction by recirculation

- Filter extraction:
	- \circ Simulation solvent (5 L) in glass bottle is put in water bath $(30 °C)$
	- o Solvent is circulated by peristaltic pumping through Silicone tubing and filter for 3 h
- Blank circulation:
	- \circ Simulation solvent (5 L) in glass bottle is put in water bath $(30 \degree C)$
	- o Solvent is circulated by peristaltic pumping through Silicone tubing for 3h without any contact to the filter

Blank circulation

HS-GC/MS screening analysis:

- 50% IPA : no compounds > RL of 330 µg/filter
- UPW: no compounds > RL of 25µg/filter

GC/MS screening analysis:

- 50% IPA: 11 compounds > RL of 130 µg/filter
- UPW: 2 compounds > RL of 25 µg/filter

HRAM-UPLC/MS screening analysis

- 50% IPA: 16 compounds > RL of 130 µg/filter
- UPW: 4 compounds > RL of 25 µg/filter

Results 50% IPA extract

- Selection of targets for 'leachables study'
	- o 5 targets detected by both techniques
	- o 8 targets only detected by 1 technique \rightarrow 2 targets covered by 'marker compound'
	- o Unidentified compounds detected above the final AET that require attention during LEA study

GC/MS HRAM-UPLC/MS

STEP 1: EXT / SIM STUDY – SET-UP

Results UPW extract

GC/MS

- Additional target compounds?
	- o 1 unique compound compared to 50% IPA, but in low concentration

IC

o No Acetate/formate/sulphate detected

HRAM-UPLC/MS

ICP/MS

o No Mercury detected

Results UPW extract (2)

ICP/OES

 \circ Additional target element \rightarrow Silicon

STEP 2: EVALUATION EXT DATA - TARGETS

Overview selected organic target compounds

→ Used as targets in Method Suitability Test

- <u>ynamic extraction by recirculation</u>
	- o Filter extraction:
		- \circ Pre-flush (8 L) of filter with Drug product (DP)
		- \circ DP (5L) in glass bottle is put in water bath (25 $\rm{°C}$)
		- o DP is circulated by peristaltic pumping through tubing and filter for 2 h
	- o Blank circulation
		- \circ DP in glass bottle is put in water bath (25 $\rm{°C}$)
		- o Solvent is circulated by peristaltic pumping through tubing for 2h without any contact to the filter

"Worst case leachables study" (compared to real-use conditions as performed by sponsor)

o Final AET: 3000 µg/L or lower (cf. Extractables study)

Filter Pump Reservoir

HS-GC/MS

o No compounds detected $> 65 \mu g/L$ (Final AET: 3000 $\mu g/L$)

Only 1 target compound detected, but < Final AET (3000 µg/L)

HRAM-UPLC/MS

Evaluated using "Extracted ion chromatograms"

Only 1 target compound detected, but < Final AET (3000 µg/L)

APCI-

Blank

 \mathbf{S} Blank: 16-B7028-N21 **MST**

STEP 3: LEACHABLES STUDY - RESULTS

HRAM-UPLC/MS – MST results

 \Rightarrow OK!

- o Spiked at AET level: 6000 µg/L
- o Detected level in MST: 3200 µg/L
- o Detected result in sample: 1500 µg/L

* Corrected for the concentration in the blank solution (16-B7028-N20/N21);

Remark: Spiked concentrations were rounded to 3 significant figures; measured concentrations and the calculated ratio were rounded to 2 significant figures.

For further questions, please do not hesitate to contact: kpieters@nelsonlabs.com