Inspector selection and Qualification

Markus Lankers, PhD November 2021









Topics

- Selection criteria
- Trainings process
- Test Kits
- Performance Monitoring
- Breaks







Objective of the Manual Inspection Process:

Detect and remove units of drug product with predefined defects in a reproducible manner in a controlled process











You have to know what your are looking for: Training is essential





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Selection Criteria



- Pre-employment Health check
- •Pre-employment eye test requirement > 90
- % corrected

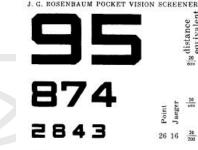
All operators should have a near vision visual acuity / color blindness test prior to inspector training For near vision. 14/14 (the ability to read what the average person can read at a distance at 14 in.)





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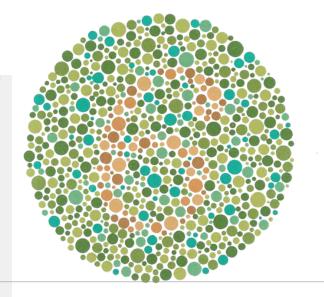


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Card is held in good light 14 inches from eye. Record vision for each eye separately with and without glasses. Presbyopic patients should read thru bifocal segment. Check myopes with glasses only.







Selection Criteria





The inspector should realize the importance of his task
The inspector should be able to perform repetive work
Ability to learn and adapt new ideas
The inspector should have good observation skills and
should also be patient







Training

The training of personnel to perform the 100% visual inspection does not include:

b. Verification of operators abilities to detect defects at speeds used in production for the sorting machines.c. A provision for recertification.

a. Inspectors for final finished product vials are not provided the training to assure adequate abilities to detect particulates smaller than one millimeter.



Parenteral Drug Association Parenteral Drug Association connecting People, Science and Regulation®

Training of Visual Inspectors



- 1. Eye inspections are performed prior to employment and at least once annually
- 2. Training of relevant SOPs and Work-Instructions
- 3. Introduction to defects using training kits
- 4. Learning individual defects using training kits and defect libraries
- 5. Qualification as an inspector
- 6. Requalification once a year







Training of Visual Inspectors ¹⁰

Example Introduction

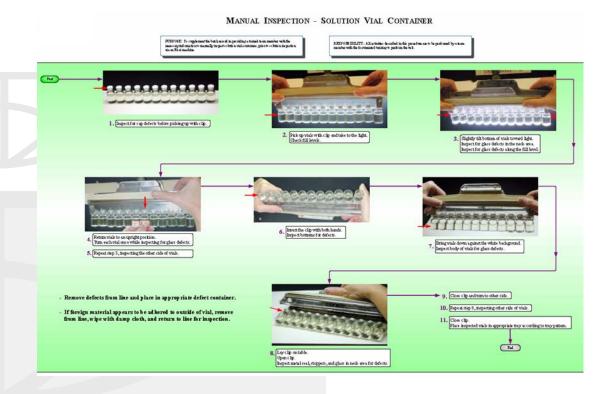
- All training is defined in a SOP
- Classroom instruction
- Product specific physical characteristics
- Small number of defect vials with large particles
- Introduce manipulation methods
- Move to real inspection station
- Practice manipulation, timing & detection
- Seeded containers no blanks familiarization.





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Training of Visual Inspectors

- Seeded containers diluted with blanksfamiliarization.
- Distinguish particle types.
- Distinguish bubble forming Drug Products.
- Timing.
- Use of tools (e.g. clip)





Training of Visual Inspectors



- Best inspectors offer 'tricks', methods, advice
- Visual inspection under supervision and 100 % reinspection (T-o-J)
- Further introduction to defects using test kits
- Qualification using test kits
- Requalification once a year



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Training – Special Tools





Inspection Clip







Defect set

- a. The type of particles/defects are not always representative of the current manufacturing process or reflective of complaints received which may be generated from the equipment, components and materials used in the manufacturing process.
- b. Examples of particles in suspensions. The set of vials used in training includes only vials of clear solutions with particles.









- Inspectors must demonstrate proficiency of removing defects from a seeded population of typical "in-house" defects.
- Definition: Defect library : "Bible" of observed defects for one product / Constant growing library
- Test Kits: defects are selected from Defect Library.
 Multiple examples of known defects. Consider criticality
- Requirement for adding new defect types to the library refreshing the defect library/test kits and annual assessment.
- Test kit should contain 5-15 % rejects





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Building Test Kits:

Points to consider

- Take rejects from process (best source but not always available)
- Particle types, sizes and properties Characterize the particles in your process
- Defect Library characterizations (knowledge)
- Define: Critical, Major, Minor and particle types
- For artificial defects consider:
 - Container properties: type, size, surfaces, etc.
 - Packaging components.
 - Liquid (physical) properties Inspection methods/techniques.





98% describe defects and inspection conditions in a written procedure.

Qualification conditions

•	- Simulated:	64%
•	- Simulated:	64%

- Actual Manufacturing: 36%

Standards

- Production Defects: 92%
- Non-Spherical Standards: 35%
- Spherical Standards: 33%



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Test Kit: Example

Several test kits (3-10)

Representative defined defects from routine production and specifically prepared units Kit is routinely checked after each test and annually

Test Kit (Example):

600 vials with 65 rejects adjusted to RZE e.g. 90 % acceptance criteria:

- 2 non detected critical
- 3 non detected major
- 5 non detected minors
- < 35 rejected good pieces





Test Kits

Time limits

Max. 120 minutes for qualification

Test sets can be UV marked. However, some lighting conditions can lead to visibilty of UV marks. UV marks can be lost

An better alternative is the use of QR barcode

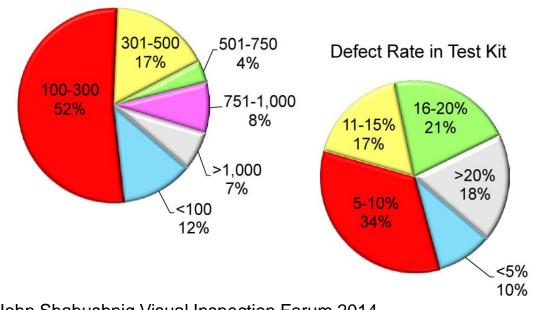






The composition of test kits used to qualify inspectors.

Total Units in Test Kit





John Shabushnig Visual Inspection Forum 2014

Test Kits





Training and Test-Kits are routinely cleaned after usage cleaned and inspected for defects at least every 6 months

	Description			Classification	Amount
Vial					
	1 Underfill/Overfill			MA	4
	2 Black particle			MA	2
	3 Glass particle			С	2
	4 Fiber			MA	5
	5 Scratches outise	de		m	3
	6 Crack			С	4
7 Missing flip off cap				MA	2
	8 Spots on rubber			m	2
	9 Damaged closu	re component		С	4
	10 Precipitation			С	3
	11 Dirty container			m	2







Tray Audit

- Evaluation for missed defects in inspected tray
- On-line immediate feedback after inspection
- A customized database is maintained
- Profile individuals, shift, or unit results
- The inspectors product trays are audited at a rate of 1 full each month making sure that each product is audited annually







Procedure Audit

- Each inspector's inspection procedure is blindly audited to be sure that they are performing the correct inspection steps
- Confirm compliance to SOP
- Immediate feedback to inspector
- Each inspector is audited at a rate of 2 audits/week making sure that each product type is audited annually



Breaks





- Breaks help to keep inspector focues
- Minimum of 5 minutes per hour eye break
- Eye break is defined as "time away from the lamp" and may include:

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Break (i.e. lunch, ...)
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Change-over of batch/order

Discussions, trainings, etc.

Rotation to different products





Acknowledgments

- Georg Roessling
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- John Shabushnig

