# All about Pre-filled Syringe Systems From Initial Development to Final Fill Finish Christa Jansen-Otten

Venice, April 21st 2023 – DAY 2









### Agenda – DAY 2



Material • Shape • Properties • Siliconization • Impact of different drug • Nest and Tub • Needles and LL • backstops • Rods • Regulatory Guidelines

### Plunger Stoppers, Needle Shields, Tip Caps

Materials • Properties • Functionality • Production • Regulatory

### Manufacturing Aspects in Fill & Finish and Assembly

Bulk versus Nested • Nest Sizes • Rod insertion • Handling of Syringes, Labeling • Glass to Glass Contact

### **Assembly of Syringes and Administration Devices**

Pen Injectors • Safety systems • Autoinjectors • Manual vs Automated

**Design Independent Assembly** 

Hands-on Session 2, Mind map, Lottery





### Customer Impact - Demands on Packaging Components are Increasing







- Particulate reduction/foreign matter
- Concerns regarding extractables/leachables
  - Ultra-clean components needed
  - New ways to deliver medicine
- Functional performance of components
  - High-speed lines
  - Complex devices
- Moisture Vapor Transmission Rate

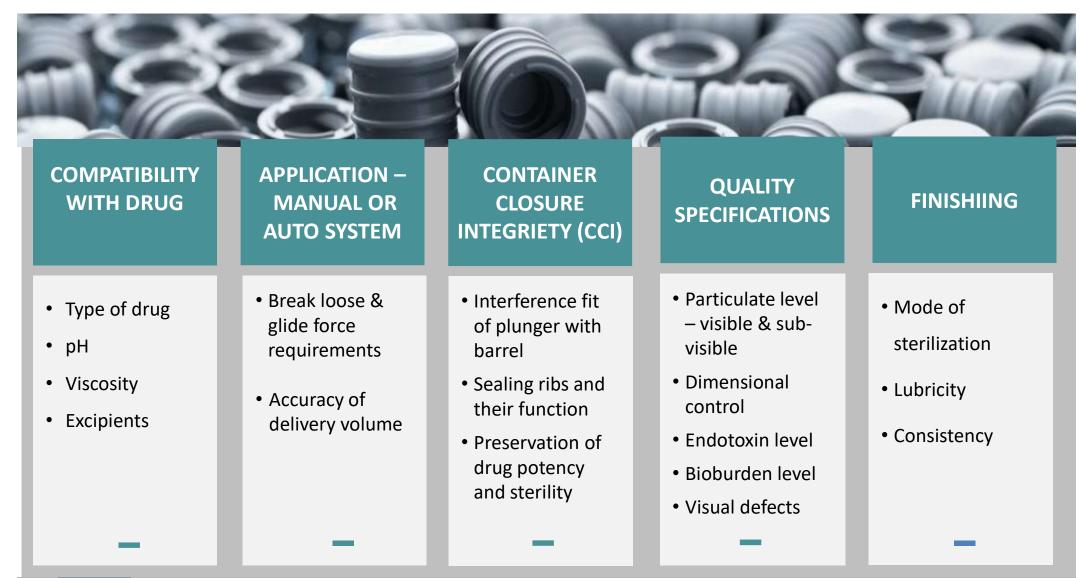
- Container closure integrity (CCI)
- New manufacturing approach
  - Flexibility
  - Time to market
  - Total cost of ownership (TCO) focused
- Functional performance of components
  - High-speed lines
  - Complex devices



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## Considerations in Selection of PFS Components







### Rubber material







### Why Use a Rubber Material?



Sealing properties that maintain container – closure seal integrity over time.

Physically and chemically compatible with different sterilization methods.

Different range of material permeability.

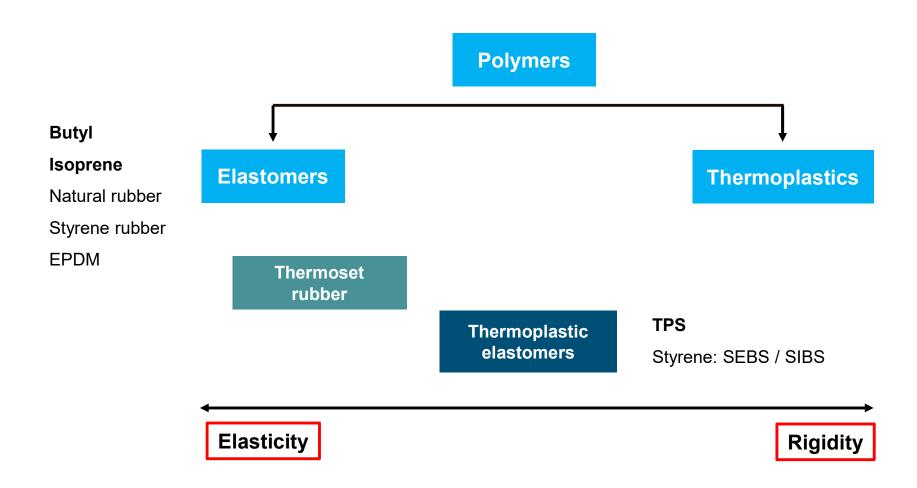
Compatible in long-term contact with drugs.

Wide range of product designs





### Polymers: thermosets and thermoplastics







## Main Elastomer Types Used for Parenteral Applications

Natural Rubber (NR) – from Hevea Brasiliensis

**Isoprene Rubber (IR)** – synthetic equivalent to NR

Styrene-Butadiene-Rubber (SBR)

Butadiene Rubber (BR)

Nitrile Rubber (NBR)

Ethylene-Propylene Rubber (EPM/EPDM)

Isobutylene Isoprene Rubber (IIR, Butyl Rubber)

Halogenated Butyl Rubber (XIIR) – Br, Cl













### **Elastomers Closures General Composition**

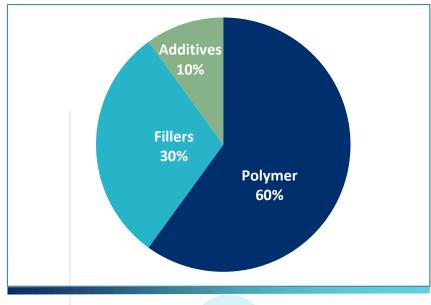




### **Additives**

can be curing agents, antioxidants, accelerators, activators, protective agents, colorants, plasticizers, acid scavengers, light and heat stabilizers, lubricants, anti-static agents, etc.





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### Fillers

are mainly defining the physical properties

→ Ask your supplier for potential extractable lists





## Elastomeric Formulations for Pharmaceutical Use - Properties Butyls/Halobutyls





Application: stoppers, plungers, cartridge seals and tip caps



High elasticity



Low potential E&L<sup>1</sup> for good drug compatibility



Low moisture and gas permeation rates



Steam and gamma sterilizable



JP, USP, EP compliant<sup>2</sup>



Low fragmentation / corning



Optimal penetrability/good resealing properties

<sup>1</sup>extractables & leachables <sup>2</sup>design dependent





Elastomeric Formulations for Pharmaceutical Use - Properties

synthetic Polyisoprene





Application: needle shields/rigid needle shields, tip caps plungers, cartridge seals (laminates)



High elasticity



Low potential E&L<sup>1</sup> for good drug compatibility



Good permeability rates towards moisture and gases (ETO<sup>2</sup>)



Steam, gamma and EtO sterilizable



USP, EP compliant



Low fragmentation / corning



Ozone resistance (low cracking), no blooming, no frosting

<sup>1</sup>extractables & leachables

<sup>2</sup>Ethylene oxide





## Potential Issues: Needle Shields and Tip Caps







## Supporting Documents







### Supporting Documents: Example

- Technical drawings
- Formulation Characteristics
- Elastomer Formulation Biocompatibility
- Technical Bulletins and Reports
- Theoretical Material Extractable List
- VeriSure® Extractable Technical Package
- Material Characterization Package
- Regulatory Compliance Bulletins
- Product Specifications
- DMF
- Certificates



FORMULATION CHARACTERISTICS
WEST FORMULATION 4023/50 GRAY

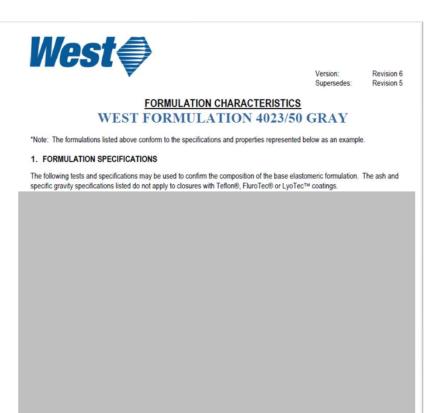








### Formulation Documents: Example







Biocompatibility Profile

4023/50 Gray

Background. The purpose of a profile is to provide biocompatibility information on components to enable risk evaluations. Components tested for biological reactivity provide baseline information only, and final drug product packaging/delivery systems should be tested for suitability for use. Baseline biological reactivity information provided by West is useful for material selection. For the purpose of this profile, base 4023/50 Gray formulation data are presented.

Surface treatments, films, etc., are out of the scope of this document; however, they must be considered, as they also may be in contact with the drug product. Separate documents will be available for films. Additional components included in the packaging/delivery system (e.g., vial, needle shields), process (manufacturing equipment), and combination products (e.g., medical devices, such as West's SmartDose® and SelfDose™ platforms, Daikyo Crystal Zenith® Syringes, and administration systems) will be addressed in separate Combination Product Biocompatibility packages if applicable and are out of scope of this elastomer formulation baseline data document.

**Biocompatibility Results.** The base 4023/50 Gray formulation is compliant with USP <87>, JP 7.03, and USP <88> biocompatibility requirements. Data are summarized below.



### Formulation Documents: Example

west⊕	West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc. 530 Herman O. West Drive Exton, PA 19341 www.westbharma.com
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#### Compliance Bulletin

Rev. 5

West Item: 4023/50 Grey

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#### By your side for a healthier world

530 Herman O. West Drive • Exton, PA 19341 T: 610 594 2900 www.westpharma.com

#### Theoretical Material Extractables List: 4023/50 Gray

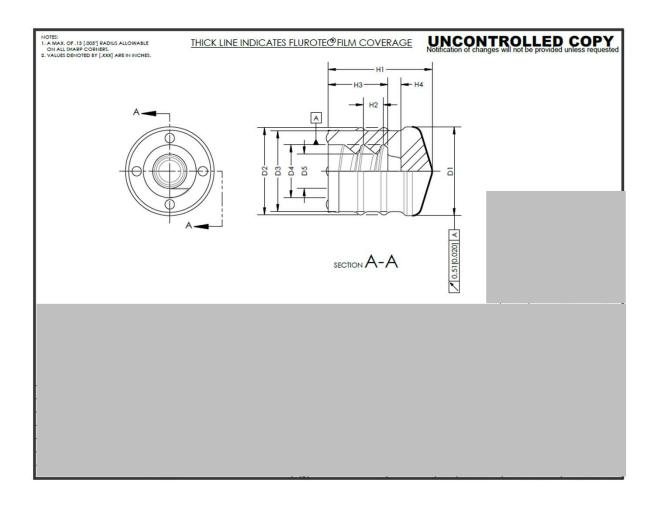
Below is a summary of the potential chemical entities that could be extracted from West elastomer formulation 4023/50 Gray based on the materials that are used in the formulation. Since each drug application is unique, it is possible to form new reaction products from the closure or from a combination of the closure and the drug product components.

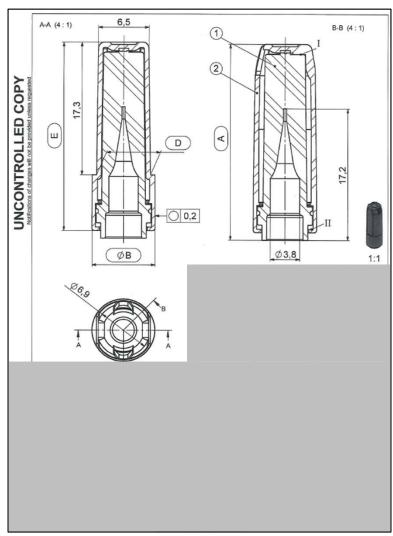
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## **Uncontrolled Drawings: Example**







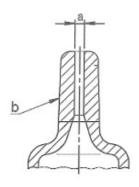


## Rigid Needle Shields and Tip Cap

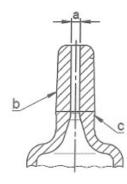




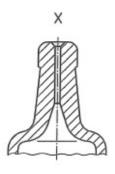
## Pre-filled Head Designs ISO 11040-4 require different closure design solutions



Head design of glass barrel with a 6% Luer cone



Head design of glass barrel with a 6% Luer cone for Luer Lock (LL)



Head design of glass barrel with staked needle









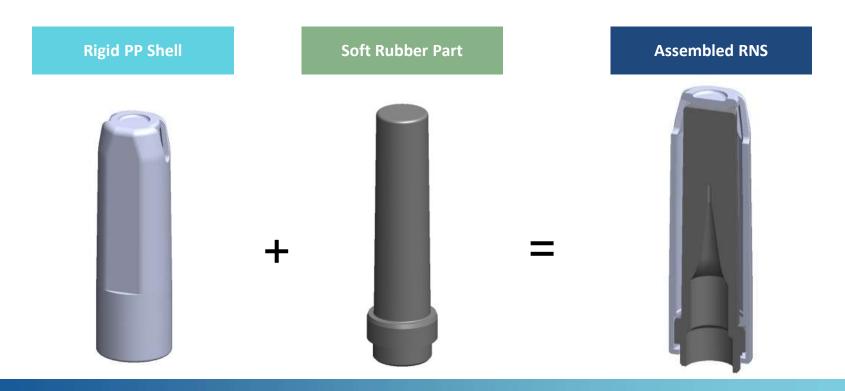








### West Rigid Needle Shields



Rigid Needle Shields [RNS] are a safe & efficient closuring system for Prefilled Syringes with staked needles





### Design Examples of Rigid Needle Shields

### RNS ½" [13 mm]

Needle length used for subcutaneous drug injection (into the tissue layer between the skin and the muscle)



RNS %" [16 mm]

Needle length used for intramuscular drug injection (deep into the muscles)





### Solution

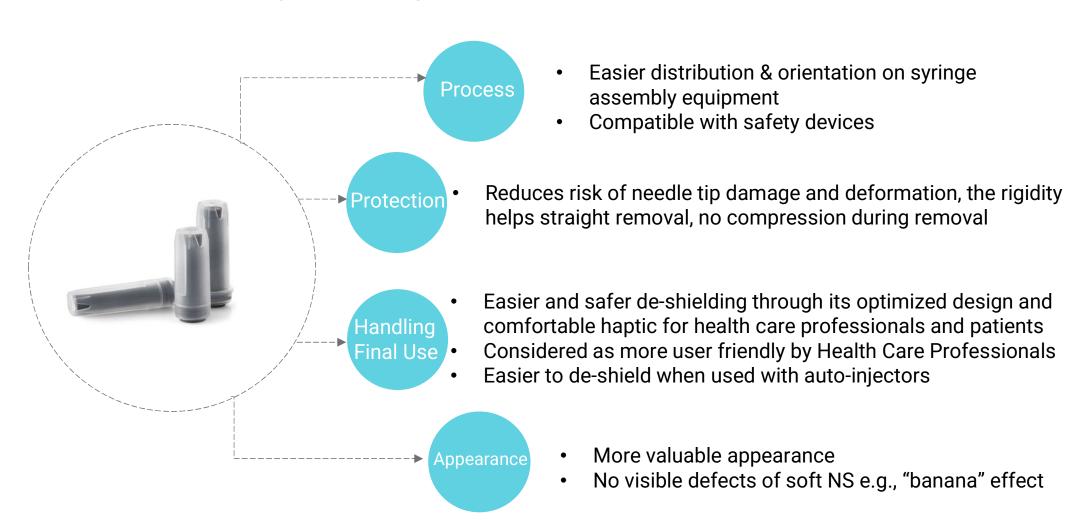
- Designed for existing assembly machine and filling equipment.
- Fits to ISO Norm 11040-4 glass syringe with staked needle
- Suitable also for polymer (e.g. COP) syringe
- Compatible with safety devices
- High gas permeation rubber formulation combined with sterilization windows of the rigid shell allowing effective sterilization by EtO or steam







### Advantages of Rigid Needle Shields vs Soft Needle Shields

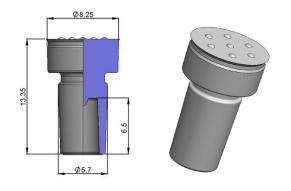


Rigid Needle Shields are the preferred closure for staked needle syringes



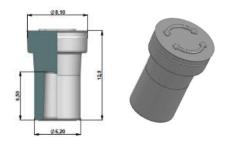


## Example of various Tip Caps for Luer and Luer Lock Syringe



Tip Cap to be inserted a rigid plastic cap # 3155





Easy Turn Tip Cap # 3131



Mushroom Rip Cap # 3379

Multiple rubber formulation options (halobutyl and synthetic isoprenes)



## Barrier Film & Coatings





### Films and Coating Technologies

**Film** – sheet (e.g., PTFE, ETFE) that is laminated to elastomeric component during the molding process

- Barrier function, e.g., FluroTec™ film

**Coating** – liquid or vapor that is sprayed, tumbled or vapor deposited onto the elastomeric component

- Lubricity, e.g., B2-Coating
- Lubricity and barrier function



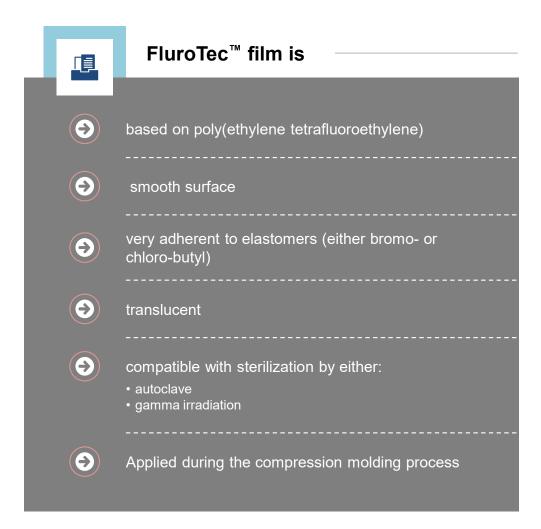


### Film properties



H H M F F M N

Structure of Poly(ethylene tetrafluoroethylene) (ETFE)

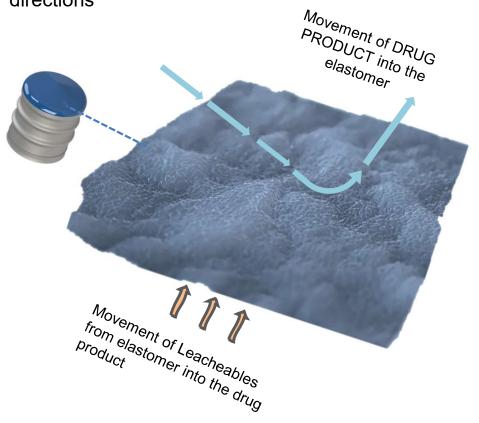


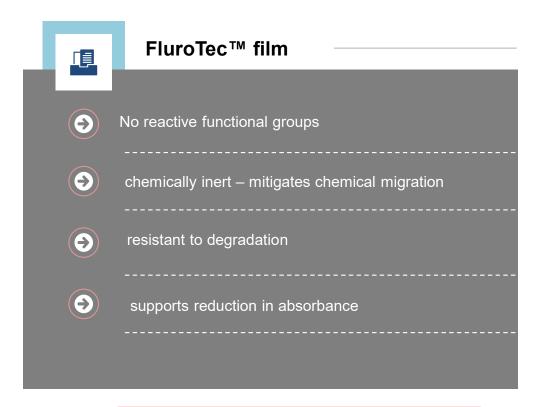




### Film has a low level of Interaction

ETFE acting as a barrier reduces transport in two directions



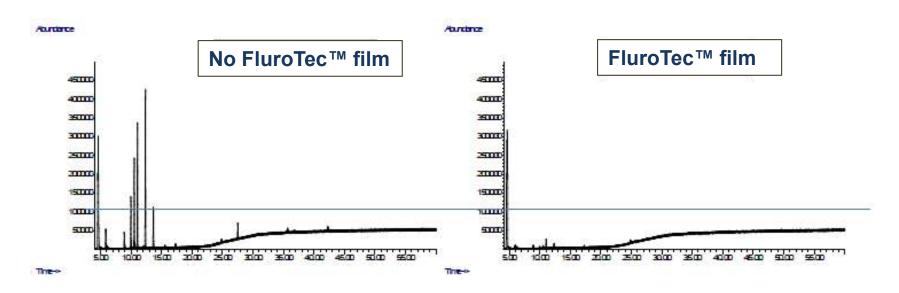


Very Low Surface Energy

→ Very Low Level of
Interaction!



## Fluoropolymer film coating Significantly Reduce Leachables





The drawn blue line indicates an estimated identification threshold of 0.5 µg/unit, which is below the Product Quality Research Institute recommended safety concern threshold for parenteral drug products



Non-laminated elastomers showed approximately eight volatile organic compound (VOC) peaks estimated to be  $> 0.5 \mu g/unit$ 



Elastomers with FluroTec<sup>™</sup> film did not show any peaks > 0.5 µg/unit [blue line]

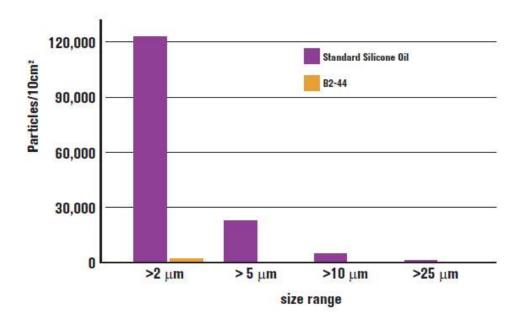
Most marketed biopharmaceuticals use fluorpolymer-coated component technology (FluroTec® film)





### **Lubricity coating**

B2-coating vs. Traditional Silicone Oil - Sub visible Particles -





	B2-Coating
•	Cross-linkable high and low molecular weight polydimethylsiloxane coating
•	Applied to the surface of rubber stoppers and syringe components
•	Low levels of extractable silicone oil
•	Reduced particulate count
•	Does not alter chemical and biological
	stopper/plunger properties
•	Enhanced machinability



### Lubricity Coating: Classical Silicone Oil

Polydimethylsiloxane DuPont ™Liveo ™ 360 Medical Fluid\* added during washing operation into the washing drum:

- 350 centistokes → USA
- 1000 centistokes → Europe

#### **ADVANTAGES**

- Commonly used
- Applied during wash cycle
- Low cost

#### **DISADVANTAGES**

- Particles/droplets may be found in drug product
- Silicone level may be inconsistent if process is not validated

\* Example of silicone oil used by West





## Plungers







## Facilitating Life Cycle: Seamless Transition from Vial to Prefilled Syringe format



Multi Dose Vial [MDVs]



- The Same Lubricant [B2-coating]
- The Same Fluoropolymer Film lamination
- The Same Manufacturing Technology
- The Same Quality





### Main requirements for Prefillable Syringes Plungers

Delivers a smooth injection profile [break loose & glide forces profile]

Compatibility with the drug product

Compatible with gamma-irradiation and final steam sterilization treatment

Compatible with glass and plastic (COC/COP) barrels

Good compression set properties

Maintains Container closure Integrity

Well performance on fill-finish equipment

Optimized Break Loose & Extrusion Profile

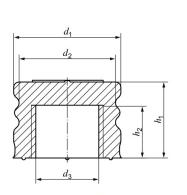
Low Part-to-Part Variability

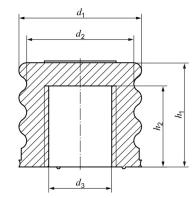




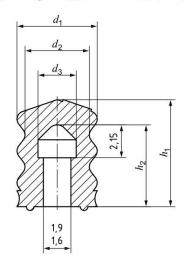


## Plunger ISO 11040-5





b) Plunger stopper with thread (PST)



a) Plunger stopper with snap lid (PSL)

Nominal inner diameter	Nominal volume	Туре	d₁ <sup>a</sup>		d <sub>2</sub> a		$d_3^{a}$		h <sub>1</sub> a		h <sub>2</sub> a	
$d_2$ b	ml		nom.	tol.	nom.	tol.	nom.	tol.	nom.	tol.	nom.	tol.
4,65 ± 0,1	0,5	PSL	5,2 to 5,3		4,1 to 4,2		2,5	±0,2 ±0,25	6,85 to 7,0	±0,4	5,3	±0,35
6,35 ± 0,1	1 (long)	PST	6,8 to 7		5,9 to 6		2,6		7,65 to 7,85		4,5	±0,3
8,65 ± 0,2	1 to 3		9,05 to 9,25	±0,1	7,6 to 8	±0,15	4,7		7,7 to 7,85		4	
11,85 ± 0,2	5		12,5 to 12,7		10,5 to 11,15		5,2 to 5,6		8,5		6,0	
14,25 ± 0,2	10		15 to 15,3		13,5 to 13,75		7,4 to 7,6		8,5 to 10		6 to 6,2	
19,05 ± 0,2	20		19,9 to 20,1	±0,15	18,4 to 18,6		10,7		13,45 to 13,50		7	

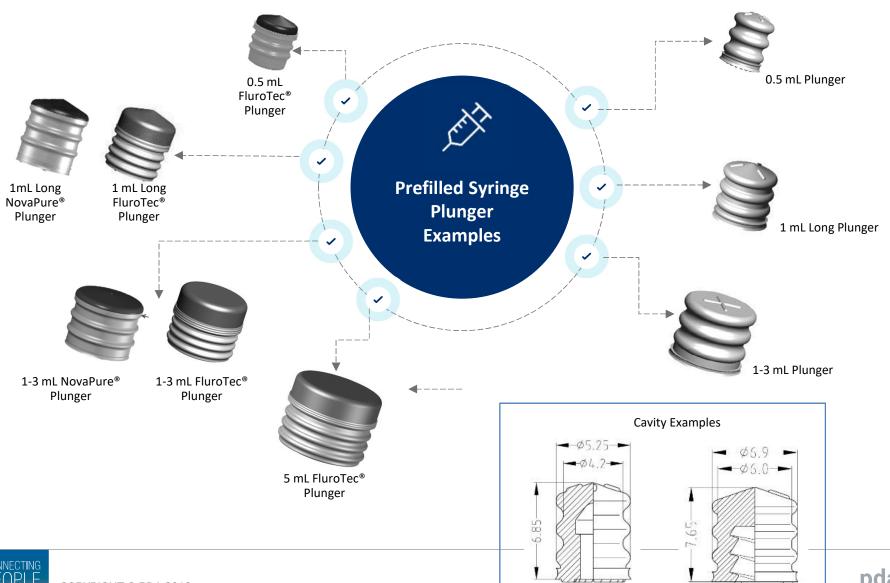
The nominal diameter shall be agreed upon between the manufacturer and the user within the given range.

West standard components are compatible with ISO glass barrels

In accordance with ISO 11040-4.



### Example of Prefillable Syringe Plungers - Portfolio at West



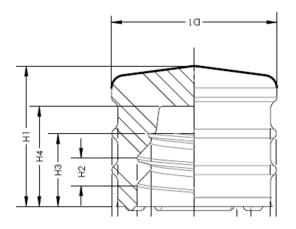


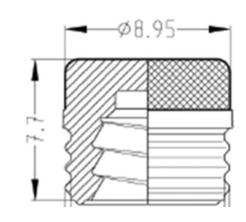
## Examples of Prefilled Syringe plunger designs

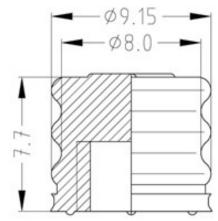










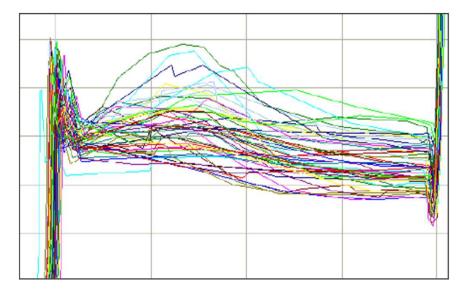




## Manual PFS to Auto-injector Challenges







Syringe functionality with high variability



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## **Auto-injector Reliability Risks**



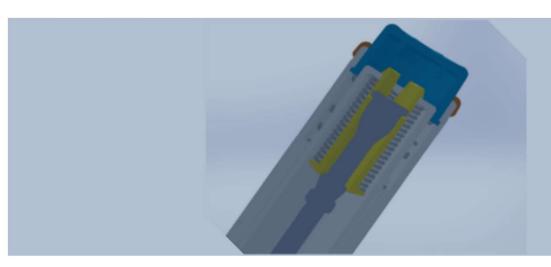
If injection times vary between doses with an auto-injector:

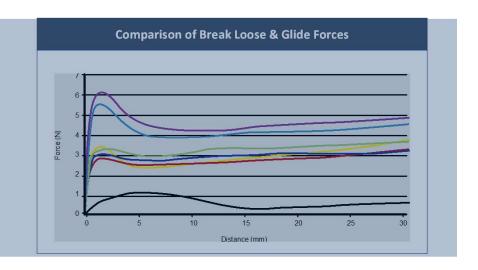
- > Patient may stop dose if too long
- Patient may question quality of the product



Critical design factors must be considered, especially functional compatibility

- Break lose and glide forces (max/min)
- Spring falling rate forces (max/min)

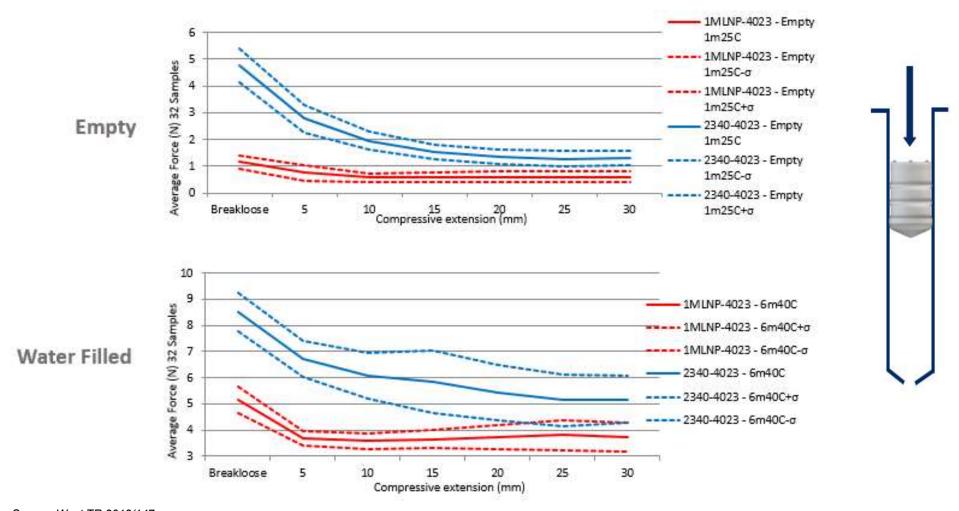








#### Performance: two different laminated 1 ml long Plungers

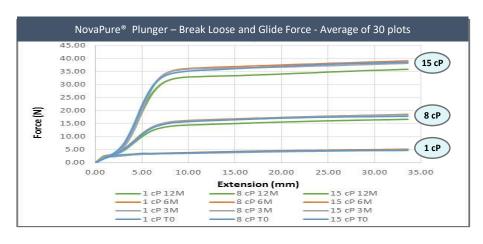


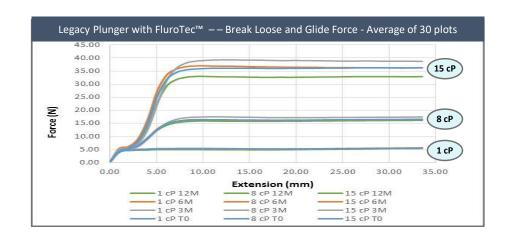
Source: West TR 2013/147





#### Break-loose and Glide Force - 1 ml Long Plungers Curves represent averages of 30 plots - Example





Time	Fluid Viscosity	NP Plunger Force [N]	Legacy Plunger Force [N]	% lower (with NP)
то	1cP	1.63	3.68	55.8 %
	8cP	1.77	4.23	58.2 %
	15cP	1.89	4.00	52.7 %
ЗМ	1cP	2.16	4.55	52.5 %
	8cP	2.31	4.64	50.3 %
	15cP	2.35	4.89	52.0%
6M	1cP	2.05	4.45	54.1 %
	8cP	2.55	4.34	41.2 %
	15cP	2.20	5.21	57.8 %
12M	1cP	2.63	4.71	44.3 %
	8cP	2.53	4.43	43.1 %
	15cP	2.39	4.55	47.6 %

- Break-loose forces are on average 50% lower for NovaPure® plungers at all viscosities and all timepoints
- Less variability over time with NovaPure® plungers especially for high viscosities

Break Loose Forces at 1 mm extension

Study Extract: TR 2018/191



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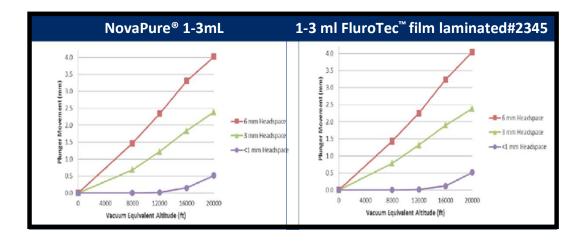


## **Evaluation of Plunger Movement During Transit Conditions- Example**

West Plungers Evaluated: 1-3 ml FluroTec™ film laminated plunger and 1-3 mL NovaPure® plunger

- Headspace Values
  - 6 mm (exaggerated vent-tube placement)
  - 3 mm (typical vent-tube placement)
  - <1 mm (typical vacuum placement)</p>

Altitude	Significance
8,000 ft	Pressurized Jet
12,000 ft	Mountain Passes
16,000 ft	Unpressurized Jet
20,000 ft	Highest Cargo Jet Altitude on Record



- Linear correlation between pressure and movement
- Higher headspace volume leads to stronger movement
- NovaPure® and legacy plunger performance is comparable

Extract of Study – technical report available – TR 2016-172



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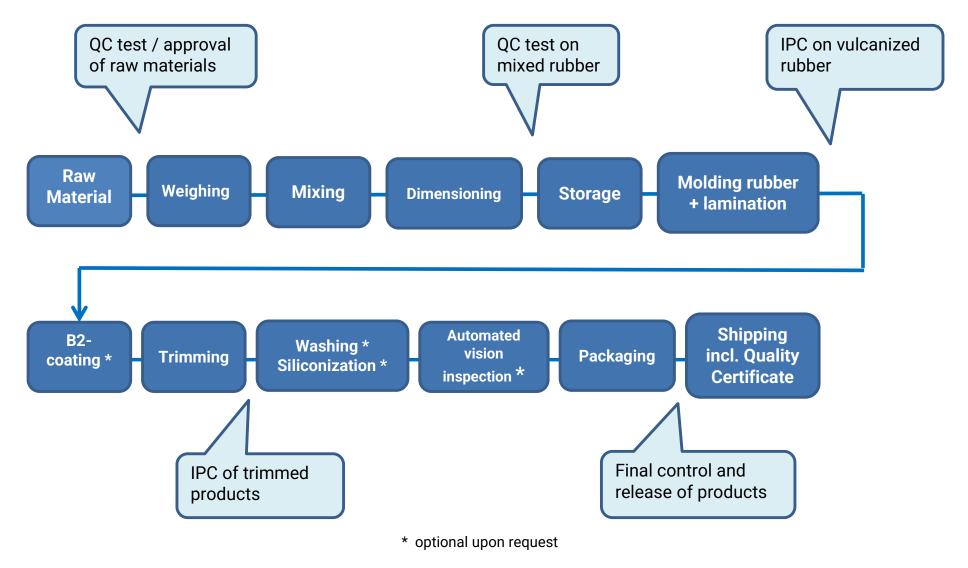


## Processing





## **Production Overview [Plungers]**

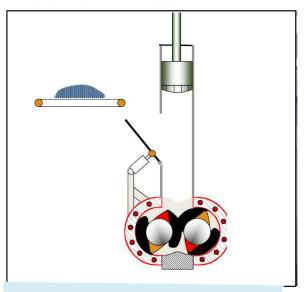






## **Manufacturing Process**

#### **Internal Mixer**



**Mixer** all components are mixed by turning rotors

- Shearing the elastomer, squeezing out air, Incorporating all material
- Critical parameters are specific for the individual formulations: rotor speed, temperature, time, filling volume, etc.
- Caution not to start vulcanization

#### Open Mill



Mill additional homogenization of the mixture by compactors

- Squeezing out air, cooling down
- Caution not to start vulcanization
- Elastomer mixture is collected in "puppets"





## Mixing Control (Mill Control)

#### **Curing of ISO – standard sample for testing purposes**

specific gravity per batch

Shore A of vulcanized sample per batch

dispersion of vulcanized sample per batch

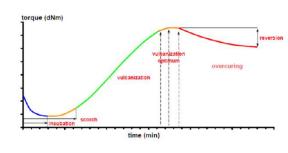
color of vulcanized sample per batch

ash content every 10<sup>th</sup> batch plus 1<sup>st</sup> and last

rheology of the compound every 5<sup>th</sup> batch plus 1<sup>st</sup> and last



Vulcanized Test buttons



**Rheology Curve** 

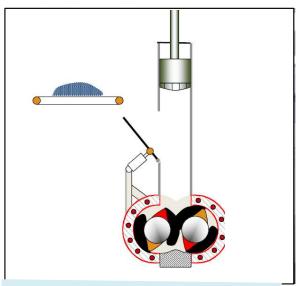


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#### Calendaring & Dimensioning



- "Puppets" are finally cooled down in rollers
- Cooling & Cutting
- Coasted into webs with defined thickness and width
- Webs are led to relax for some time



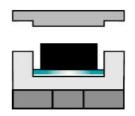


## Pharmaceutical Rubber Manufacturing

#### Different 'shapes' need different molding technology:

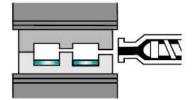
Compression Molding (CM) e.g. Plungers, stoppers, disk

.



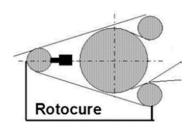


Precision Injection Molding (PIM) e.g Needle shields ...





Rotocure (Sheeting Material) e.g. Lined seals...









## **Manufacturing Process**

#### **Compression Molding**

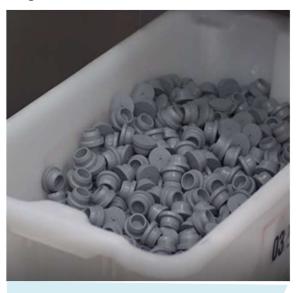


- Compression and Precision Injection Molding
- Vulcanization takes place
- Critical parameters are specific for the individual formulations: press speed, temperature, time, vacuum, etc.

#### **Trimming**



- Trim presses designed for cleanroom manufacturing
- Enhanced trim dies to lower particle contamination
- Automated control of web positioning
- Automated web spraying for lubrication



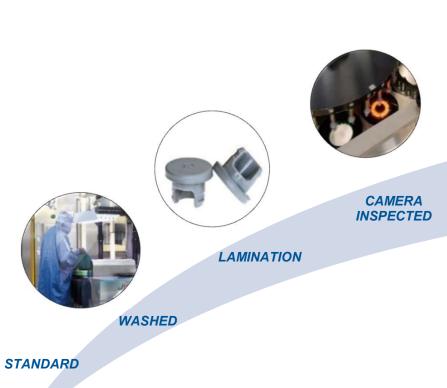
Single parts transferred to Washing operations





## Differentiated Solutions: Increasing Quality & Inspection

**STERILIZED** 





**QUALITY** BY DESIGN

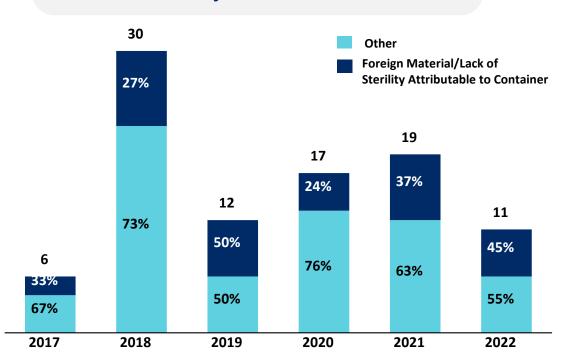






#### Particulates and Lack of Sterility Cause Most Product Recalls

#### **Reason For Injectable Product Recalls<sup>1</sup>**







34% of recalls are due to particulate or lack of sterility attributable to container closure.





<sup>1</sup> https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/drug-recalls (Accessed September 1, 2022) and https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/safety-availability-biologics/recalls-biologics (Accessed September 1, 2022)



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## Finishing: Pharmaceutical Wash Process

- Validated process according to GMP to demonstrate an endotoxin content reduction by at least 99.9% (3.0 log<sub>10</sub>).
- Components are unloaded from the washer in a Zone 5 clean room
- All associated process data is filed in Drug Master Files (DMF) with FDA and Health Canada.
- Particulate, bioburden and endotoxin are reported in the quality certificate provided with every batch









## **Product Specification for Particulate Matter**

## Westar™ Select treatment particulate matter specification

Specification	Westar™ Select
Particulate between 25-50 μm	≤ 13 particles / 10 cm²
Particulate between 50-100 μm	≤ 3.5 particles / 10 cm <sup>2</sup>
Particulate > 100 μm	≤ 0.5 particles / 10 cm <sup>2</sup>
PCI	≤ 1.9 PCI

The manufacturing and validation approach support the capability to produce elastomeric components that meet established specifications for particulate matter.

## NovaPure® component best-in-class particle specifications

Specification	NovaPure®		
Particulate ≥5µm ≤10µm	≤ 100.0 particles / 10cm²		
Particulate ≥10µm ≤25µm	≤ 60.0 particles / 10cm²		
Particulate ≥25µm ≤50µm	≤ 10.0 particles / 10cm²		
Particulate ≥50µm ≤100µm	≤ 1.0 particles / 10cm²		
Particulate ≥100µm	≤ 0.2 particles / 10cm²		

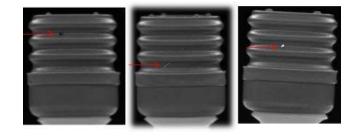
**Note:** Particulate specifications may differ from the above depending on the packaging materials selected.

- Developed with in-depth product & process knowledge
- Higher level of performance with minimal variability for packaging components





## **End-of-Line Defect Reduction**

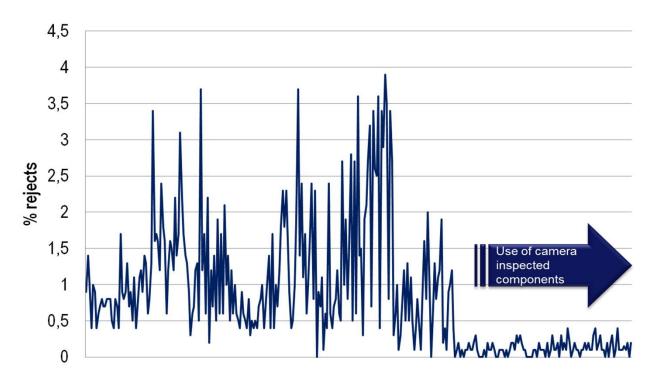




100% Camera Inspection of rubber components

technical report available – TR 2016-172

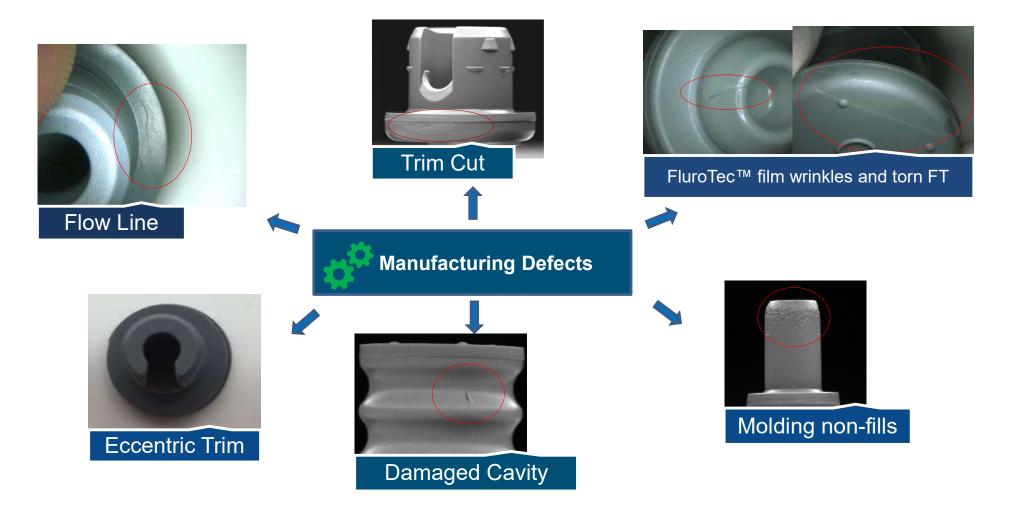
#### Case Study: End-of-line drug filled units reject trend







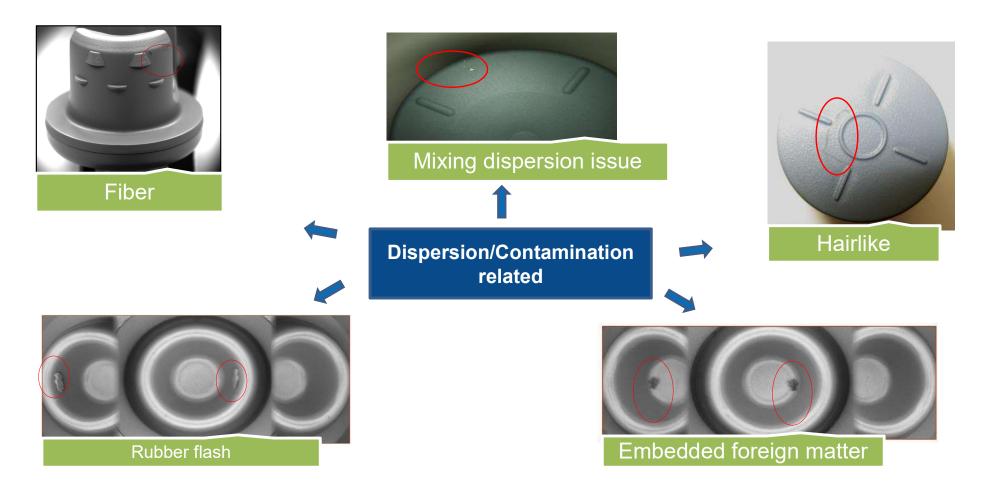
## Automated vision inspection verification: defects examples







## Automated vision inspection verification: defects examples







#### Sterilization process

#### **Steam sterilization**

- Plungers, stoppers and lined seals
- The sterilization process is validated to assure a minimum SAL of 10<sup>-6</sup> and in line with
  - ISO 17665-1 and 17665-2
- Steam processed elastomer formulations exhibit less degradation





#### **Gamma sterilization**

- **Plungers**
- The sterilization process is validated to assure a minimum SAL of 10<sup>-6</sup> and in line with
  - ISO 11137-1 and ISO 11137-2
- Gamma processing might impact degradation of the elastomeric formulation





Sterility assurance is reported in the quality certificate coming with every batch







**Manufacturing Process** 





## **Secondary Packaging**





## Secondary Packaging - Flexibility for Filling Needs

- Filled bags are offered in ready-to-use (RU) quality by either steam or gamma validated processes
- The ported bag packaging system is qualified to maintain the package integrity and stability of the components throughout the recommended shelf-life period. Verification includes shipping distribution simulation studies.

Image courtesy of Bausch+Stroebel.



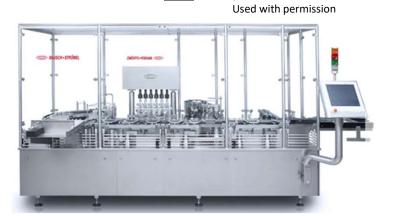








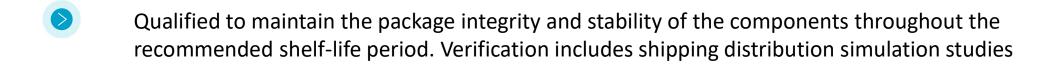
Image courtesy of Bausch+Stroebel.

Used with permission



## High-quality packaging materials

- Reduction of particle load of primary packaging 
  tighter specification
- Ease of use
- Pinhole resistant physical stress
- Plastic cartons & plastic pallets



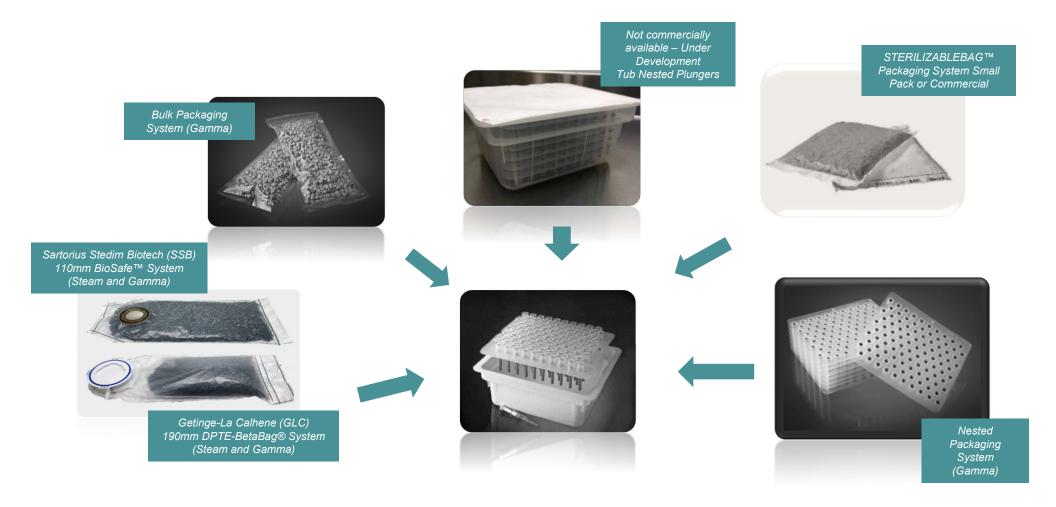








## Ready-to-Use Packaging Solutions



Please note, not all product offerings are available in these packaging formats





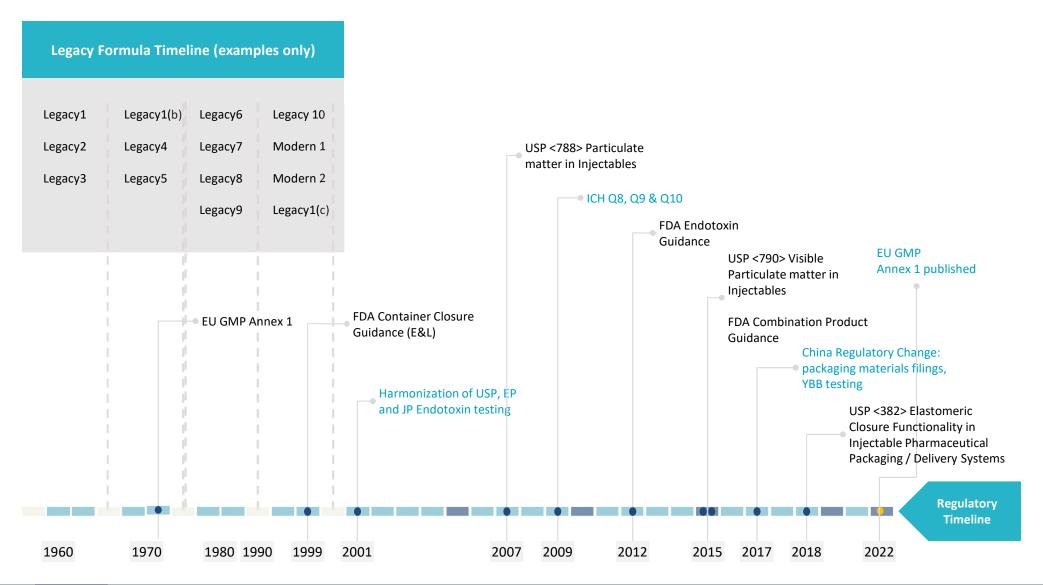
## Relevant Compendial Chapters and Standards







#### **Regulations Are Evolving**





pda.org



#### **Global Comparison of Elastomer Chapters**

Purpose	Paragraph	USP <381>	Ph Eur 3.2.9	JP 7.03	YBB
Introduction	Definition of Elastomer Types	✓	✓	-	✓
Identification	e.g. IR, ash test	$\checkmark$	✓	✓	✓
Physico-chemical Tests	Appearance of solution, absorbance, etc	✓	✓	✓	✓
Potential Extractable	Ammonium, Volatile Sulfides	$\checkmark$	✓	$\checkmark$	✓
Functionality Tests*	Fragmentation, self-sealing,	✓	✓	-	✓



#### Global comparison of elastomer chapters

USP U.S. Pharmacopeia

- Development of a new chapter addressing functionality tests USP <382>
- Including E&L

European Pharmacopeia 10<sup>th</sup> Edition

- Revision of Heavy Metals / Elemental Impurities and methods
- Plastics materials & additives

JP
Japanese
Pharmacopeia

- Deletion of pyrogen and hemolysis test
- Addition of cytotoxicity test

PHARMACOPOEIA
OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

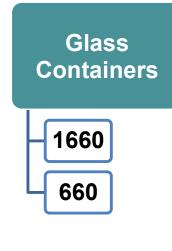
 Ongoing revisions in all topics with a strong attention to the global revision process and discussion

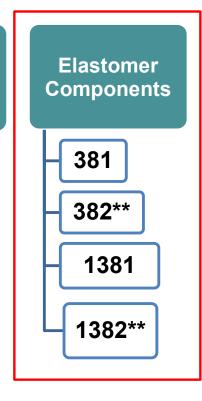




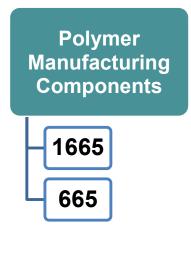
#### Overview of relevant USP chapters

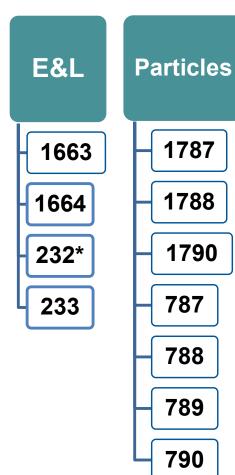
USP U.S. Pharmacopeia











Chapters > 1000 informational

Chapters < 1000 mandatory if required by monograph

\*<231> has been deleted

\*\* will be official 2025





#### Introduction to USP <1382> and <382>

## <1382> Assessment of Elastomeric Component Functional Suitability in Parenteral Product Packaging/Delivery Systems

- Assist in the functional suitability assessment of elastomeric components as part of packaging / delivery systems
- ISO references
- Sampling plan guidance

#### <382> Elastomeric Component Functional Suitability in Parenteral Product Packaging/Delivery Systems

Fitness for intended use functional suitability tests and requirements

Released December 2020 with 5-year implementation grace period





#### Current <381> versus <382>

#### From: USP <381>

#### **Elastomeric Closures for Injections**

- Functionality Tests
  - Penetrability
  - Fragmentation
  - Self-Sealing Capacity

#### **Container Closures for Vials and Bottles**



#### To: USP <382>

## **Elastomeric Component Functional Suitability in Parenteral Product Packaging and Delivery Systems**

- Package/Delivery System Integrity Tests
- Needle and Spike Access Functionality Tests
  - Fragmentation
  - Penetration Force
  - · Needle Self-Sealing Capacity
  - Spike Retention and Sealability Capacity
- Plunger Functional Suitability Tests
  - Plunger Break Force and Plunger Glide Force
  - Plunger Seal Integrity
- Tip Cap and Needle Shield Functionality Tests

**System** Closures for Vials, Bottles, Blow Fill Seal Containers, Plastics, Cartridges and Syringes





# Thank you very much for your attention!

# Any Thoughts? Any Questions?

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