

## 9623 Guideline for Rubber Closures for Pharmaceutical Packages

This guideline is applicable to the rubber closures used as part of a pharmaceutical product packaging system.

Rubber closures for pharmaceutical packages (hereinafter referred to as rubber closures) could be classified in terms of intended use, base material, overall structure, pretreatment, etc.

In terms of intended use, rubber closures could be classified into rubber closures for packages for injections, inhalation preparations, oral preparations, or other preparations.

In terms of base material, rubber closures could be classified into rubber closures made of (halogenated) butyl rubber, polyisoprene rubber, silicone rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber, other synthetic rubber, etc., and base material by mixing or lamination of different rubbers.

In terms of overall structure, rubber closures could be classified into rubber closures with ordinary, multilayer or filmed structure. According to the film-forming process, filmed rubber closures may be further divided into rubber closures with laminated, coated or deposited film. Film materials generally used include organic fluorine, silicone and other plastic materials.

In terms of pretreatment, rubber closures could be classified into routine, ready-to-sterilize and sterile rubber closures which are also referred to as ready-to-use rubber closures.

### 1 Terms and Definitions

**Rubber Closure:** Elastomeric components with different structures and shapes, obtained by crosslinking (vulcanization) of one or various kinds of rubber as base polymer, using necessary additives, such as fillers, curatives, etc., act as closures when combined with other components of container-closure systems.

### 2 General requirements

#### 2.1 Manufacturing Requirements

During the formulation design, research and development of rubber closures, the regulatory compliance and safety of relevant materials including their compositions shall be confirmed. Raw materials and processing aids that significantly affect the quality of pharmaceutical products would be avoided, the identification and control of toxic or harmful impurities shall be strengthened, and attention should be paid to organic small molecule residues, metal elements or other relevant extractables of rubber closures.

35 The formulation and manufacturing processes of rubber closures shall be fully  
36 validated and effectively controlled in accordance with relevant Good Manufacturing  
37 Practice to ensure the quality homogeneity. If barrier materials are used in filmed rubber  
38 closures, the quality control of film integrity and thickness should be strengthened.

39 Rubber closures shall be appropriately cleaned and dried. Selected water for gross  
40 rinse and precisely washing shall be of appropriate quality to comply with the  
41 requirements for their intended use, and validation of the effectiveness of the cleaning  
42 procedures shall be carried out when necessary. If siliconization is performed,  
43 dimethicone that meets the requirements for pharmaceutical use should be used, and the  
44 control of the amount of silicone oil and the uniformity of siliconization should be  
45 strengthened. If sterilization procedures are required, the effectiveness of sterilization  
46 shall be validated and its impact on the performance of rubber closures should be fully  
47 assessed.

48 During the processes of manufacturing, packaging, storage and transportation of  
49 rubber closures, attention should be paid to the relevant requirements of the quality  
50 management of the pharmaceutical products to be packaged. Cleaning, sterilization  
51 (when applicable) and packaging procedures of ready-to-sterilize and sterile rubber  
52 closures shall be performed in a controlled environment, taking the cleanliness  
53 requirements of pharmaceutical products to be packaged into account. For  
54 ready-to-sterilize and sterile rubber closures, attention should be paid to the protection  
55 ability and the shelf life of the packages used.

## 56 **2.2 Application Requirements**

57 When necessary, relevant evaluations and tests of Guideline on Biological  
58 Evaluation and Test Selection of Pharmaceutical Packaging Materials (Guideline 9629)  
59 shall be carried out. Compatibility studies should be conducted when needed, and risk  
60 assessments of elemental impurities should be focused on. The performance of  
61 processing compatibility in the procedures of packaging pharmaceutical products, the  
62 protection ability covering the entire life cycle of the pharmaceutical products, the  
63 functionality in the clinical use of pharmaceutical products should be assessed and  
64 confirmed.

65 Attention should be paid to the suitability of shape and dimensions of rubber  
66 closures with other components. For filmed rubber closures, the coverage area of the  
67 film and the performance of the sealing surface should be concerned to avoid possible  
68 adverse effects on the sealability due to partial shedding of the film or the difference in

69 properties of various materials.

70 The critical quality attributes of rubber closures shall be defined based on the  
71 relevant necessary studies and assessments according to the requirements of risk  
72 management throughout the life cycle of pharmaceutical products, and strictly  
73 controlled in accordance with enterprise standards or quality agreements to protect the  
74 safety, efficacy and quality controllability of the pharmaceutical products.

### 75 **3 Quality Control**

76 Based on the actual manufacturing and use of rubber closures, the manufacturers  
77 and the end users shall define suitable tests for quality control, including but not limited  
78 to the relevant provisions of the text and Annex 1 or 2, formulate the enterprise  
79 standards or quality agreements, as well as testing rules in line with risk management  
80 requirements of manufacturing and use, to meet clinical needs, ensure quality  
81 controllability and safe use of pharmaceutical products.

#### 82 **3.1 Identification**

83 Applied to identify the base materials and film materials (if any) of rubber closures.  
84 To improve the reliability of the characterization of rubber closures, it is advisable to  
85 apply various identification methods including the following procedures.

86 3.1.1 Infrared Spectroscopy. Applied to the base materials of rubber closures. Cut the  
87 sample, and examine the cut surface according to Method II of Infrared Spectroscopy of  
88 Pharmaceutical Packaging Materials (General Chapter 4002). If rubber materials (with  
89 much carbon black) cannot reflect infrared light, perform the test according to Method  
90 I-3 of Infrared Spectroscopy of Pharmaceutical Packaging Materials (General Chapter  
91 4002). The infrared spectrum of the base material (including each layer of material)  
92 shall comply with the relevant specifications of enterprise standards or quality  
93 agreements.

94 Applied to the film materials of filmed rubber closures. Wipe the film with acetone  
95 or other suitable solvents, evaporate to dryness, and examine the wiped part according  
96 to Method II of Infrared Spectroscopy of Pharmaceutical Packaging Materials (General  
97 Chapter 4002). The infrared spectrum of the film shall comply with the relevant  
98 specifications of enterprise standards or quality agreements.

99 3.1.2 Ash. Applied to the rubber closures containing inorganic fillers. Test according to  
100 Determination of Ash in Rubber Closures (General Chapter 4220). If above 10per cent,  
101 the percentage content of ash should not exceed  $\pm 2.0$  percent to which defined in  
102 enterprise standards or quality agreements, and the ash content of 10 percent or less

103 shall comply with the relevant specifications of enterprise standards or quality  
104 agreements.

105 3.1.3 Density. Applied to silicone rubber closures. Heat 2 g of the samples under reflux  
106 with 100 mL of water for 2 hours, dry at 80 °C, and then test according to Determination  
107 of Density of Pharmaceutical Packaging Materials (General Chapter 4012). The result  
108 shall be 1.05 to 1.25 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

## 109 **3.2 Physicochemical Tests**

110 Applied to routine assessment of possible leachables from rubber closures. Tests are  
111 usually performed for water-soluble substances and specific residues under controlled  
112 extraction conditions to reduce the relevant risks of rubber closures actually used. If  
113 rubber closures are used for preparations containing non-aqueous solvents, the possible  
114 effects should be evaluated, and if necessary, to be controlled by enterprise standard or  
115 quality agreements.

### 116 **3.2.1 Water-soluble Substances**

117 For the rubber closures subjected to steam sterilization, perform the following  
118 corresponding tests according to Determination of Extractables for Pharmaceutical  
119 Packaging Materials and Containers (General Chapter 4204). If other sterilization  
120 procedures are used, such as ethylene oxide sterilization, radiation sterilization, etc., the  
121 possible effects of these procedures should be assessed, and if necessary, be controlled  
122 by enterprise standard and quality agreements.

123 When applied to the (halogenated) butyl rubber and polyisoprene rubber closures,  
124 take an appropriate amount of uncut samples (with a total surface area close to 200 cm<sup>2</sup>)  
125 and prepare the test solution (boiling and rinsing procedures are exempted for  
126 ready-to-sterilize and sterile rubber closures) and blank solution according to Method II  
127 in Table 1 of Determination of Extractables for Pharmaceutical Packaging Materials and  
128 Containers (General Chapter 4204).

129 When applied to the silicone rubber closures, take an appropriate amount of uncut  
130 samples (mass close to 25 g) and prepare the test solution and blank solution according  
131 to Method XI in Table 1 of Determination of Extractables for Pharmaceutical Packaging  
132 Materials and Containers (General Chapter 4204).

133 3.2.1.1 Clarity and Color. The test solution shall be clear and colorless, otherwise not  
134 more opalescent than Reference suspension 2 or not more intensely colored than  
135 yellowish green No.5 color standard.

136 3.2.1.2 Change of pH. The rubber closures for packages for injections or for oral

137 preparations shall comply with the specifications in Table 1 or Table 2, respectively. If  
 138 the requirements are met, the test of Acidity or Alkalinity could be exempted, otherwise  
 139 shall be carried out, and whose results are taken to make the judgment.

140 3.2.1.3 Acidity or Alkalinity. Not more than 0.3 mL of sodium hydroxide volumetric  
 141 solution (0.01mol/L) is consumed, or not more than 0.8 mL of hydrochloric acid  
 142 (0.01mol/L) is consumed.

143 3.2.1.4 Absorbance. For the maximum absorbance of the test solution at wavelengths  
 144 between 220 and 360 nm, the rubber closures for packages for injections or for oral  
 145 preparations shall comply with the specifications in Table 1 or Table 2, respectively.

146 3.2.1.5 Reducing substances. The rubber closures for packages for injections or for oral  
 147 preparations shall comply with the specifications in Table 1 or Table 2, respectively.

148 3.2.1.6 Residue on evaporation. The rubber closures for packages for injections or for  
 149 oral preparations shall comply with the specifications in Table 1 or Table 2, respectively.

150 3.2.1.7 Conductivity. The rubber closures for packages for injections shall comply with  
 151 the specifications in Table 1.

152 Table 1

Packaging System/Assembly	Rubber Closures	Limits				
		Change of pH	Absorbance	Reducing substances (ml)	Residue on evaporation (mg)	Conductivity ( $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ )
Packaging System for Injections	Stopper	1.0	0.1	3.0	2.0	10.0
Packaging System for Sterile Powders for Injection	Stopper	2.0	0.2	7.0	4.0	20.0
Prefilled Syringes and Pen-injectors	Plunger	1.0	0.1	3.0	2.0	20.0
	Tip cap	2.0	0.2	3.0	2.0	20.0
	Needle shield (Multilayer)	3.0	0.3	7.0	4.0	40.0
	Septum	2.0	0.2	3.0	2.0	20.0
Combination Caps of Plastic Infusion Containers	Cap Liner	3.0	0.3	3.0	4.0	40.0

153 Table 2

Packaging System	Rubber Closures	Limits			
		Change of pH	Absorbance	Reducing substances (ml)	Residue on evaporation (mg)
Packaging System for Oral Preparations	Silicone rubber closures	1.0	0.1	1.0	2.0
	(Halogenated) butyl rubber, polyisoprene rubber closures	3.0	0.3	7.0	4.0

154 3.2.1.8 Ammonia. Applied to rubber closures using or generating compounds  
 155 containing amine groups. Not more than 0.0002%.

156 3.2.1.9 Metal Ions. When applicable, taking into account of the possible hazardous  
157 elements and formulation elements in the rubber closures, perform the test according to  
158 Determination of Element Impurities in Drug Packaging Materials (General Chapter  
159 4214). The results shall comply with the relevant specifications of enterprise standards  
160 or quality agreements.

### 161 3.2.2 Specific Residue

162 The type and the content of the residues mainly depend on the formulation and  
163 process of rubber closures. The following test of Volatile sulfides shall be carried out for  
164 (halogenated) butyl rubber and polyisoprene rubber closures, the following tests of  
165 Phenylated compounds, Substances soluble in hexane, Volatile matter, Mineral oils and  
166 Residual peroxides should be carried out for silicon rubber closures according to the  
167 Determination of Specific Residues in Silicon Rubber Closures (General Chapter 4223).

168 3.2.2.1 Volatile sulfides. Applied to rubber closures using sulfur or sulfur-containing  
169 compounds. Test according to Determination of Volatile Sulfides in Rubber Closures  
170 (General Chapter 4219). Any black stain caused by test samples is not more intense than  
171 that of the reference (not more than  $1.0\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ , calculated as sulfur).

172 3.2.2.2 Phenylated compounds. The maximum absorbance is not greater than 0.4.

173 3.2.2.3 Substances soluble in hexane. The residue weighs not more than 15 mg.

174 3.2.2.4 Volatile matter. Maximum 2.0 per cent.

175 3.2.2.5 Mineral oils. Fluorescence shall not appear, and if appears, it is not greater than  
176 that of the reference solution.

177 3.2.2.6 Residual peroxides. Applied to silicone rubber closures prepared using peroxides.  
178 The difference between the titration volumes of test sample and the blank is not greater  
179 than 2.0 mL (equals to 0.08 per cent, calculated as dichlorobenzoyl peroxide).

### 180 Annex 1 Rubber Closures for Packages for Injections

181 This annex is applicable to the rubber closures used as part of injection packaging  
182 systems.

183 In addition to the classification in the text, rubber closures for packages for  
184 injections could also be classified according to their intended uses and shapes, degree of  
185 contact with preparations, and the manner of clinical use.

186 In terms of the intended uses and shapes, rubber closures for packages for injections  
187 may be classified into rubber stoppers for glass bottles for infusions and glass vials for

188 injections, rubber closures for plastic packaging systems and components for infusions,  
189 rubber closures for prefilled syringes and for pen-injectors, etc. Rubber closures for  
190 plastic packaging systems and components for infusions may be classified into cap  
191 liners for combination caps of plastic packaging systems, rubber stoppers and liners for  
192 administration ports of plastic infusion bags, and rubber stoppers for plastic infusion  
193 bottles, etc. Rubber closures for prefilled syringes may be classified into plunger  
194 stoppers and caps, including needle shields and tip caps. Rubber closures for  
195 pen-injectors may be classified into plunger stoppers and septums, which are generally  
196 used in combination with aluminum caps.

197 According to the degree of being in contact with preparations, the rubber closures  
198 may be classified into rubber closures in persistent contact, in transient contact and in  
199 indirect contact with preparations in terms of the direct contact time, or classified into  
200 rubber closures for packages for aqueous injections and for sterile powders for injection  
201 (including freeze-dried preparations for injection) in terms of the contact state.

202 In terms of the manner of clinical use, the rubber closures may be classified into  
203 rubber closures to be pierced and not to be pierced. Rubber closures to be pierced may  
204 be further classified into rubber closures singly pierced by infusion sets for intravenous  
205 administration (hereinafter referred to as rubber closures pierced by infusion sets), and  
206 singly or multiply pierced by hypodermic needles for product dissolution or transfer  
207 (hereinafter referred to as rubber closures singly or multiply pierced by hypodermic  
208 needles).

209 Rubber closures for packages for injections shall comply with the relevant provisions  
210 in the text and the following requirements.

### 211 **1 Overall Requirements**

212 For ready-to-sterilize and sterile rubber closures for packages for injections,  
213 validation of the processes of depyrogenation and sterilization (when applicable) shall be  
214 conducted.

215 For the rubber closures for freeze-dried preparations, attention should be paid to the  
216 structure design, such as the position and size of the positioning element, which should  
217 not adversely affect the sealing performance of the rubber closures. Attention should be

218 paid to residual moisture of the rubber closures, on which the possible effects of the  
219 formulations and processes should be evaluated when necessary. Appropriate techniques  
220 could be used to assess the water content and the effectiveness of the drying process  
221 conditions, and water content of rubber closures shall be effectively controlled before use  
222 following the stability requirements of the pharmaceutical products.

223 For the design of rubber closures for prefilled syringes and for pen-injectors, the  
224 different functional requirements of manual or automatic use should be taken into  
225 account.

226 The packaging materials in direct contact with rubber closures shall comply with the  
227 relevant requirements of pharmaceutical packages. The packages for sterile rubber  
228 closures should be resistance to the sterilization processes applied, cause no adverse  
229 influence on the effects of sterilization, and meet the requirements of quality management  
230 and needs of pharmaceutical production. The sealed packages shall be of enough integrity,  
231 and the primary and secondary packaging as a whole should meet the requirements for  
232 protection performance during the transportation and storage. The rubber closures should  
233 be stored in the dry, clean and well-ventilated indoor environment.

## 234 **2 Physicochemical Tests**

235 2.1 Water content. Applied to sterile rubber closures for packages for freeze-dried  
236 preparations for injection. When necessary, perform the test according to Method II of  
237 Determination of Water for Rubber Closures (General Chapter 4221), and the results shall  
238 comply with the relevant specifications of enterprise standards or quality agreements.

239 2.2 Silicone oil content on the surface. Applied to rubber closures for packages for  
240 injections which are in direct contact with pharmaceutical products whose quality could  
241 be affected by the silicone oil. When necessary, perform the test according to  
242 Determination of Silicone Oil on the Surface of Rubber Closures (General Chapter 4222),  
243 and the results shall comply with the relevant specifications of enterprise standards or  
244 quality agreements.

## 245 **3 Clinical Use Performance Tests**

246 If rubber closures would be penetrated by hypodermic needles and infusion sets  
247 simultaneously in clinical use, corresponding tests of rubber closures pierced by infusion



248 sets and pierced by hypodermic needles are carried out respectively when necessary, and  
249 all results shall comply with the relevant requirements.

### 250 **3.1 Rubber Stoppers for Glass Bottles for Infusions and Glass Vials for Injections**

251 The following tests are carried out for rubber stoppers for glass bottles for infusions  
252 and glass vials for injections. For rubber stoppers for packages for freeze-dried  
253 preparations, the following tests are carried out after the samples were pretreated under  
254 freezing conditions specified in enterprise standards or quality agreements.

255 3.1.1 Fragmentation. Applied to the rubber stoppers pierced by infusion sets. Perform  
256 the test according to Method I of Test for Fragmentation of Closures and Seals for  
257 Parenteral Preparations (General Chapter 4016). The number of observed particles is not  
258 more than 20.

259 Applied to the rubber stoppers pierced by hypodermic needles. Perform the test  
260 according to Method II of Test for Fragmentation of Closures and Seals for Parenteral  
261 Preparations (General Chapter 4016). The number of observed particles is not more than  
262 5.

263 3.1.2 Penetration force. Applied to the rubber stoppers pierced by infusion sets. Perform  
264 the test according to Method I of Test for Penetrability of Closures and Seals for  
265 Parenteral Preparations (General Chapter 4015). The average of all test samples is not  
266 more than 75 N and all test samples does not exceed 80 N, and no rubber stopper is  
267 pushed into the bottle during the piercing.

268 Applied to the rubber stoppers pierced by hypodermic needles. Perform the test  
269 according to Method II of Test for Penetrability of Closures and Seals for Parenteral  
270 Preparations (General Chapter 4015), and the penetration force for all test samples does  
271 not exceed 10 N.

272 3.1.3 Spike retention and sealability Capacity. Applied to the rubber stoppers pierced by  
273 infusion sets. Take 10 samples pretreated according to Method I of Test for Penetrability  
274 of Closures and Seals for Parenteral Preparations (General Chapter 4015), and 10  
275 matched bottles for injections filled to the nominal volume with water, then crimp the  
276 matched aluminum caps or aluminum-plastic caps. Use the metal spikes described in  
277 Method I of Test for Penetrability of Closures and Seals for Parenteral Preparations

278 (General Chapter 4015) to vertically pierce the marked area until complete penetration  
279 is achieved. Position the bottles with the bottom end up and attach a mass of 0.5 kg to  
280 each spike. Spikes shall be retained in the closures for 4h and no liquid leakage shall be  
281 observed at the puncture sites of the stoppers.

282 3.1.4 Self-sealing Capacity. Applied to rubber stoppers multiply pierced by hypodermic  
283 needles, and need to be performed only after being fitted with other assembly components.  
284 Take 10 samples pretreated according to Method II of Test for Penetrability of Closures  
285 and Seals for Parenteral Preparations (General Chapter 4015). Take 10 matched vials for  
286 injections filled to the nominal volume with water, then fit the above rubber stoppers and  
287 secure with the matched fasteners. Use injection needles defined in Method II of Test for  
288 Penetrability of Closures and Seals for Parenteral Preparations (General Chapter 4015) to  
289 vertically pierce the different puncture sites of each stopper 3 times, changing a new  
290 needle after every 10 punctures. Immerse the above test samples bottom end up in 0.1%  
291 methylene blue solution in a container with a vacuum pump, reduce the pressure by  
292 27kPa and hold for 30 min, then restore to atmospheric pressure and hold for another 30  
293 min. Take the test samples out, rinse the outsides of the vials with water. Any trace of  
294 methylene blue solution is observed in none of the containers. For rubber stoppers  
295 specified the test of self-sealing capacity, the test of Sealability of Closures for Containers  
296 is generally not required further.

297 3.1.5 Sealability of closures for containers. Applied to the rubber stoppers singly pierced  
298 by hypodermic needles, and need to be performed only after being fitted with other  
299 assembly components. Take 10 samples pretreated according to Method II of Test for  
300 Penetrability of Closures and Seals for Parenteral Preparations (General Chapter 4015).  
301 Take 10 matched vials for injections filled to the nominal volume with water, then fit  
302 the above rubber stoppers and secure with the matched fasteners. Immerse the above  
303 test samples bottom end up in 0.1% methylene blue solution in a container with a  
304 vacuum pump, reduce the pressure by 27kPa and hold for 30 min, then restore to  
305 atmospheric pressure and hold for another 30 min. Take the test samples out, rinse the  
306 outsides of the vials with water. Any trace of methylene blue solution is observed in  
307 none of the vials. If direct observation is impossible, the solution may be taken out by a

308 suitable method and inspected visually. The solution does not appear blue.

### 309 **3.2 Rubber Closures for Plastic Packaging Systems and Components for Infusions**

310 The following tests are carried out for cap liners for combination caps of plastic  
311 packaging systems. For other rubber closures for plastic packaging systems and  
312 components for infusions, taking account of the characteristics of packaging systems and  
313 the manners of clinical use, the relevant clinical use performance tests specified in  
314 enterprise standards or quality agreements shall be complied with.

315 3.2.1 Fragmentation. Perform the test according to Method III of Test for Fragmentation  
316 of Closures and Seals for Parenteral Preparations (General Chapter 4016) (The plastic  
317 packaging systems for infusions may act as the supporting device. Fit the cap liners to  
318 matched plastic infusion containers separately, fill the containers to the nominal volume  
319 with water, seal and sterilize according to the pretreatment conditions.). The number of  
320 observed particles shall be not more than 20.

321 3.2.2 Penetration force. Perform the test according to Method III of Test for  
322 Penetrability of Closures and Seals for Parenteral Preparations (General Chapter 4015)  
323 (The plastic packaging systems for infusions may act as the supporting device. Fit the  
324 cap liners to matched plastic infusion containers separately, fill the containers to the  
325 nominal volume with water, seal and sterilize according to the pretreatment conditions.).  
326 The average of all test samples are not more than 75 N and all test samples do not  
327 exceed 80 N.

328 3.2.3 Spike retention and sealability. Need to be performed only after the rubber  
329 closures are fitted with other assembly components. Fit 10 cap liners to matched plastic  
330 infusion containers separately, fill the containers to the nominal volume with water and  
331 seal. Use the plastic spike described in Method III of Test for Penetrability of Closures  
332 and Seals for Parenteral Preparations (General Chapter 4015) to vertically pierce the  
333 marked area until complete penetration is achieved. Position the containers with the  
334 bottom end up and attach a mass of 0.3 kg to each spike. Spikes shall be retained in the  
335 closures for 4h and no liquid leakage shall be observed at the puncture sites of the  
336 closures.

### 337 **3.3 Rubber Closures for Prefilled Syringes**

338 Only after rubber closures for prefilled syringes are subassembled or assembled with  
 339 other assembly components, corresponding tests need to be performed, and the results  
 340 shall comply with the relevant specifications of Prefilled Syringes (Guideline 9626  
 341 Annex 1).

### 342 **3.4 Rubber Closures for Pen-injectors**

343 Only after rubber closures for cartridge systems for pen-injectors are subassembled  
 344 or assembled with other assembly components, corresponding tests need to be performed,  
 345 and the results shall comply with the relevant specifications of Cartridge Systems for  
 346 Pen-Injectors (Guideline 9626 Annex 2).

## 347 **4 Other Tests**

348 4.1 Particulate matter. Applied to ready-to-sterilize and sterile rubber closures, and tested  
 349 when necessary. Perform the test according to Determination of Particulate Matter for  
 350 Pharmaceutical Packaging Materials and Containers (General Chapter 4206), and the  
 351 results shall comply with the specifications in the following table.

packaging System/Assembly	Rubber Closures	Limit (particles/mL)	
		10 µm and above	25 µm and above
Packaging System for Injections	Stopper	30	3
Packaging System for Sterile Powders for Injection	Stopper	60	6

352 4.2 Bioburden. When necessary, perform the test of bioburden according to Guideline on  
 353 Microbiological Testing of Pharmaceutical Packaging Materials (Guideline 9627), and  
 354 the results shall comply with the relevant specifications of enterprise standards or quality  
 355 agreements. For rubber stoppers for packages for injections specified the test of sterility,  
 356 the test of bioburden is generally not required further.

357 4.3 Sterility. Applied to sterile rubber closures. When necessary, perform the test of  
 358 sterility according to Guideline on Microbiological Testing of Pharmaceutical Packaging  
 359 Materials (Guideline 9627), and the results shall comply with the specifications.

360 4.4 Bacterial endotoxins or pyrogens. Applied to ready-to-sterilize and sterile rubber  
 361 closures. When necessary, perform the test of bacterial endotoxins according to  
 362 Guidelines for the Application of Bacterial Endotoxin Test (Guideline 9251), and the  
 363 results shall comply with the relevant specifications directed in the specific monograph of

364 pharmaceutical products. If the pharmaceutical product and its relevant specifications  
365 cannot be defined, the results of bacterial endotoxins shall be less than 0.25 EU/mL, or  
366 take an appropriate amount of the test solution to perform the test of pyrogens according  
367 to Test for Pyrogens (General Chapter 1142), and the results shall comply with the  
368 specifications.

### 369 **Annex 2 Rubber Closures for Packages for Oral Preparations**

370 This annex is applicable to the rubber closures used as part of packaging systems for  
371 oral preparations.

372 The packaging materials in direct contact with rubber closures shall comply with the  
373 relevant requirements of pharmaceutical packages. The sealed packages shall be of  
374 enough integrity, and the primary and secondary packaging as a whole should meet the  
375 requirements for protection performance during the transportation and storage. The  
376 rubber closures should be stored in the dry, clean and well-ventilated indoor environment.

377 Rubber closures for packages for oral preparations shall comply with the relevant  
378 provisions in the text and the following requirements.

#### 379 **1 Overall Requirements**

380 For the design of rubber closures for packages for oral preparations, the possible  
381 effects of the formulations and processes on the sense of smell and taste should be taken  
382 into account.

#### 383 **2 Sealability of Closures for Containers**

384 Applied to rubber closures to be secured with fasteners, and need to be performed  
385 only after rubber closures being fitted with other assembly components. Place 10 rubber  
386 closures in a beaker, add water and boil for 5 min. Take out and dry the rubber closures at  
387 70 °C for 1 hour for later use. Fill each of 10 matched containers for oral preparations to  
388 the nominal volume with water, then fit the above rubber closures and secure with the  
389 matched fasteners. Immerse the above test samples bottom end up in 0.1% methylene  
390 blue solution in a container with a vacuum pump, reduce the pressure by 27kPa and hold  
391 for 30 min, then restore to atmospheric pressure and hold for another 30 min. Take the test  
392 samples out, rinse the outsides of the containers with water. Any trace of methylene blue  
393 solution is observed in none of the containers. If direct observation is impossible, the

394 solution may be taken out by a suitable method and inspected visually. The solution  
395 doesn't appear blue.

396 **3 Microbial limit**

397 Applied to ready-to-sterilize rubber closures. When necessary, perform the  
398 corresponding tests according to Guideline on Microbiological Testing of  
399 Pharmaceutical Packaging Materials (Guideline 9627). The results should comply with  
400 the relevant requirements of enterprise standards or quality agreements.

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