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Metal detectable elastomer reduces rubber contamination during Food and Dairy Processing

Early warning of risk to food hygienic processing

Detectaseal is a new, FDA compliant, metal detectable elastomer designed to help food companies reduce the risk of rubber contamination during processing. Developed by Precision Polymer Engineering Ltd (PPE), Detectaseal fragments as small as 2mm can be identified by conventional, in-line, metal detection equipment, ensuring early warning of rubber contamination.

Detectaseal o-ring seals are available as FDA compliant grades of EPDM, nitrile and fluorocarbon (FKM) elastomers, in blue and black, and in standard and non-standard sizes for use in a broad range of processing equipment.

Over time repeated clean-in-place, sterilisation can degrade the seals used in food processing equipment and pipework. As the seal degrades there is a risk of rubber fragments breaking off, leading to product contamination. In addition, hygienic processing conditions are compromised as the degraded seal's surface itself can provide a potential site for the growth of micro-organisms.

Until now food companies have had to either spot seal fragments in their product during processing or worse wait until they receive customer complaints possibly resulting in an expensive product recall. "Detectaseal provides a more reliable approach to detecting seal fragments. It gives food companies a way of continuously monitoring the potential risk of rubber contamination, using existing in-line means of metal detection," says David Holt, Business Development Director, PPE.

All PPE elastomer seals used in food processing are produced in cleanroom conditions and offer full traceability.

Growing range of food processing seals

PPE is committed to supplying seals to the highest standard for food processing. It offers a growing range of FDA, FCN and 3-A (dairy) approved elastomers, enabling equipment manufacturers and users to select the most appropriate elastomer to meet temperature, chemical and physical performance criteria.

In addition, PPE is the leading contributor on elastomeric materials to the latest EHEDG (European Hygienic Engineering & Design Group) guide on 'Materials of Construction for Equipment in contact with Food'.

For more details of PPE's Detectaseal, and other FDA, FCN and 3-A compliant elastomers call +44 (0)1254 295400, e-mail sailles@prepol.com and web site www.prepol.de.

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