



# **Points to Consider No. 1: Aseptic Processing (Revised 2023)**



## Points to Consider No. 1: Aseptic Processing (Revised 2023) Team

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# Table of Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	1	Topic G: Cleaning and Disinfection Program for Grade A and Grade B Rooms .....	48
<b>GLOSSARY</b> .....	2	Topic H: Identification of Environmental Isolates.....	50
<b>I. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b> .....	7	Topic I: Growth-Promotion Testing of Environmental Monitoring Media .....	52
Topic A.1: Airflow Velocity.....	8	Topic J: Incubation Temperatures for Environmental Monitoring Samples .....	53
Topic A.2: Airflow Velocity Measurements .....	9	<b>III. VALIDATION (ASEPTIC PROCESS SIMULATION) .54</b>	
Topic A.3: Airflow Velocity Measurement Frequency ...	10	Topic A: Acceptance Criteria .....	55
Topic B.1: Airflow Visualization .....	11	Topic B: Duration of Process Simulations versus Production .....	57
Topic B.2: Airflow Visualization Recording .....	13	Topic C: Incubation Temperatures .....	59
Topic C: Grade A Environment Over Cappers.....	14	Topic D: Incubation of Nonintegral and Rejected Units ..	60
Topic D: Differential Pressure .....	15	Topic E: Aseptic Process Simulation Reconciliation ....	62
Topic E: Testing of HEPA Filters.....	17	Topic F: Inverting Units Prior to or During Incubation ...	63
Topic F: HEPA Filter Patching .....	19	Topic G: Aerobic versus Anaerobic .....	64
Topic G: Laminar Versus Unidirectional Airflow .....	21	Topic H: Aseptic Process Simulation Boundaries .....	65
Topic H: Length and Radii of Airborne Sampling Tubing.....	22	Topic I: Fill Volume .....	66
Topic I: RABS and Isolators—Aseptic Processing Technologies .....	23	Topic J: Interventions — Type and Frequency .....	67
Topic J: Environmental Clean-Up Period Determination (at Rest) .....	27	Topic K: Video Recording .....	69
Topic K.1: Blow-Fill-Seal Process Design and Operation.....	28	Topic L: Invalidated or Aborted Aseptic Process Simulation .....	70
Topic K.2: Plastic Resin Storage and Handling .....	30	Topic M: Number of Aseptic Process Simulation Tests Required .....	71
Topic K.3: Blow-Fill-Seal Process Simulation .....	31	Topic N: Infrequently Used Lines .....	73
Topic L: Air Locks .....	32	Topic O: Special Considerations for Aseptic Process Simulation in Isolators and Other Advanced Aseptic Processes .....	74
Topic M: “At-Rest” and “In-Operation” Status .....	34	Topic P: Hold Times for Sterile Bulk .....	75
Topic N: Sample Volume for Classification .....	35	<b>IV. PERSONNEL.....</b>	<b>77</b>
Topic O: $\geq 0.5 \mu\text{m}$ and $\geq 5 \mu\text{m}$ Total Particle Monitoring .....	36	Topic A: Glove Monitoring .....	78
<b>II. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING</b> .....	<b>37</b>	Topic B: Aseptic Personnel Qualification Program ....	80
Topic A.1: Setting Alert Levels and Action Limits .....	38	Topic C: Aseptic Processing Area Access Control .....	85
Topic B.1: Environmental Monitoring Alert and Action Limits.....	40	Topic D: Performance of Environmental Monitoring ..	86
Topic C: Environmental Monitoring—Relationship to Batch Release .....	41	Topic E: Supervision in the Aseptic Processing Area ..	87
Topic D: Location, Frequency, and Duration of Viable and Total Particulate Monitoring .....	42	Topic F: Personnel Monitoring Frequency and Location .....	88
Topic E: Investigation and Documentation of Environmental Monitoring Excursions .....	44	Topic G: Gown Usage .....	90
Topic F: Rooms Classification/Zoning for Terminally Sterilized Solution Products .....	46	Topic H: Occupancy in the Aseptic Processing Area ...	91
		Topic I: Personnel Practices for Hygiene and Hand Washing .....	92

<b>V. MATERIAL TRANSFER .....</b>	<b>94</b>	Topic F: Integrity Testing of 0.2 Micron Filters .....	106
Topic A: Entry of Equipment and Material into an Aseptic Processing Area .....	95	Topic G: Sterilization – Steam Sterilizers .....	107
Topic B: Sterile Hold Times for Materials .....	96	Topic H: Lyophilizer Leak Qualification .....	110
<b>VI. CLEANING, DISINFECTION, AND STERILIZATION ..</b>	<b>97</b>	Topic I: Sterilizing Grade Gas or Vent Filter Integrity Testing .....	112
Topic A: Disinfection Program .....	98	Topic J: Pre-Use, Post-Sterilization Integrity Test of Sterilizing Filters .....	113
Topic B: Sterilization of Sanitizers, Disinfectants, and Cleaning Agents .....	100	Topic K: Integrity Testing of Sterilizing Filters .....	115
Topic C: Hold Times for Sterilized Wrapped Parts, Components, and Other Material .....	102	Topic L: Use of Two Sterilizing-Grade Filters for Product Sterile Filtration .....	116
Topic D: Frequency of Requalification of Sterilization Processes .....	103	<b>VII. CRITICAL UTILITIES .....</b>	<b>117</b>
Topic E: Porous/Hard Goods Sterilization Process Qualification .....	105	Topic A: Methods of Production Requirements for Water for Injection .....	118
		Topic B: Requirements for Water for Injection .....	119

## FIGURES AND TABLES INDEX

<b>Table H-1</b>	Identification/Characterization Scheme.....	50
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# Introduction

*Points to Consider No. 1: Aseptic Processing (Revised 2023)* offers PDA's thoughts and does not represent a standard or regulatory guidance.

PDA first issued *Points to Consider for Aseptic Processing* in 2003. To address the impact of the knowledge gained in the intervening years, PDA assembled a task force of subject-matter experts from industry to revise this report. Published in 2015 and 2016, *Points to Consider for Aseptic Processing* parts 1 and 2 provided positions on current topics, best practices, and areas of clarification important to the manufacture of quality sterile products.

**NOTE:** The topics discussed in the 2015 and 2016 Points to Consider documents are superseded by this revision.

With technology and regulatory advancements, specifically the issuance of the revised *European GMP Annex 1: Manufacture of Sterile Medicinal Products* (EU Annex 1)<sup>1</sup> in August 2022, another update of this document was undertaken. This revision reflects current industry best practices and scientific positions as well as regulatory expectations. Where there may be a divergence between recommendations in this Points to Consider document and a regulatory position, that divergence is noted.

Many of the topics included in the 2015 Points to Consider resulted from discussion and input from PDA members at conferences and meetings. These topics were reviewed considering the advancements made in the past decade and, where applicable, this report has been revised based on similar inputs.

While the current revision maintains the original organization of topics into categories, topics that had been discussed separately in Parts 1 and 2 have been combined into a single document. Each topic discussion begins with a problem statement in the form of a question about issues or points needing clarification on that specific topic. Recommendations from the PDA task force are then presented as an answer to the question. The rationale and references for each recommendation follow.

This document provides points to consider on topics related to the physical environment in which aseptic processing is conducted, monitoring of that environment, cleanroom personnel, material transfer, aseptic-process simulation and validation, “modern” blow-fill-seal technology, cleaning, disinfection and sterilization, and critical utilities. It also includes points to consider on aspects of filter-integrity testing and water-for-injection (WFI) preparation. For additional information on specific topics, other PDA points to consider, technical reports, or similar documents are referenced. The recommendations presented in this Points to Consider document are based on five guiding and linked principles for improvement in sterile health care products:

1. Scientifically sound, risk-based approaches should be used to obtain information needed to make decisions related to the evaluation, design, qualification, operation, and monitoring of sterile-product manufacturing processes. Risk- and science-based approaches should be used as well to develop and implement control strategies and acceptance criteria designed to ensure the establishment and maintenance of manufacturing conditions that affect the sterility of products. Sterile drug-product manufacturing processes and testing requirements should have a basis in and relevance to risks to product quality and patient safety. Similar principles and considerations may also apply to non-sterile drug products. Risk management and assessment methods should be developed not only to identify risks, but also to allow the improvement of processes and control strategies.
2. Where feasible, the use of newer technologies should be considered to mitigate or reduce risks to product quality identified in manufacturing processes and operations. Companies involved in the manufacture of sterile drug products should be encouraged to identify and consider the use of

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<sup>1</sup> The PIC/S GMP Annex 1 is identical to the EU Annex 1 and, hereafter, EU Annex 1 means EU-PIC/S Annex 1.