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Points to Consider for
Biotechnology Cleaning
Validation



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Points to Consider for Biotechnology Cleaning Validation Task Force

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Table of Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION	3	4.3 Bioburden Limits.....	21
1.1 Purpose/Scope	3	4.4 Endotoxin Limits	21
2.0 GLOSSARY OF TERMS	5	4.5 Visual Clean Criterion.....	21
3.0 CLEANING PROCESS DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT	6	4.6 Modifying Limits.....	22
3.1 Introduction	6	5.0 SAMPLING METHODS	23
3.2 Cleaning Process Controls (Inputs) and Measurements (Outputs).....	6	5.1 Sampling Method Selection.....	23
3.2.1 Cleaning Cycle Design	6	5.1.1 Direct Sampling Methods	23
3.2.2 Physical-Chemical Aspects	7	5.1.2 Rinse Sampling.....	23
3.3 Measurements Used to Determine Cleaning Effectiveness.....	8	5.1.3 Swab Sampling.....	24
3.4 Equipment and Plant Design Considerations	8	5.1.4 Comparison of Swab and Rinse Sampling	25
3.4.1 Piping.....	8	5.2 Placebo Sampling	26
3.4.2 Automated vs. Manual Systems.....	9	5.3 Sampling for Microbial and Endotoxin Analysis.....	26
3.4.3 Centralized CIP vs. Discrete Cleaning of Isolated Equipment.....	9	5.4 Sampling Recovery Studies	26
3.4.4 Clean Out of Place (COP)	9	5.4.1 General Considerations	26
3.5 Soil Evaluation and Categorization	9	5.4.2 Swab Recovery.....	27
3.5.1 Soil Categories.....	9	5.4.3 Rinse Recovery	27
3.5.2 Soil Removal.....	10	5.4.4 "Recovery" in Visual Inspection.....	28
3.5.3 Cleaning Comparability Based on Soil and Surface	11	5.4.5 Recovery for Bioburden and Endotoxin Sampling	28
3.5.4 Soil Selection for Laboratory Evaluations	12	5.5 Training and Qualification of Samplers	29
3.6 Performing Cleaning Development Experiments	12	5.5.1 Key Issues for Training for Swab Sampling	29
3.6.1 Parameter Selection.....	13	5.5.2 Key Issues for Training for Rinse Sampling.....	30
3.6.2 Parameter Interactions.....	13	5.5.3 Training for Visual Inspection	30
3.7 Cleaning Process Scale-Up	13	6.0 ANALYTICAL METHODS	31
3.7.1 Setting Process Controls.....	14	6.1 Specific Analytical Methods	31
3.7.2 Introduction of New Soils to a Validated Cleaning System	14	6.2 Impact of Inactivation/Degradation of the Active	31
3.8 Applying the "Design Space" Concept to Cleaning Processes	15	6.3 Nonspecific Analytical Methods	32
4.0 ACCEPTANCE LIMITS	17	6.3.1 Total Organic Carbon (TOC).....	32
4.1 Key Issues in Limits for Actives.....	17	6.3.2 Total Protein.....	33
4.1.1 Establishing Limits for Actives in Formulation and Final Fill	18	6.3.3 Conductivity.....	33
4.1.2 Establishing Limits for Actives in Bulk Manufacture.....	18	6.3.4 Visual Inspection.....	34
4.1.3 Limits Based on Toxicity Data.....	19	6.4 Microbial Test Methods	35
4.2 Limits for Cleaning Agents.....	20	6.4.1 Endotoxin.....	35
4.2.1 Limits for Commodity Chemicals	20	6.4.2 Bioburden	35
4.2.2 Limits for Formulated Cleaning Agents.....	20	6.5 Analytical Method Validation	35
		6.5.1 General Principles	36
		6.5.2 Compendia Methods.....	37
		6.5.3 Visual Inspection.....	37
		6.5.4 Bioburden Methods	37
		6.5.5 Use of a Contract Laboratory	37
		7.0 CLEANING VALIDATION PROTOCOLS	39
		7.1 Cleaning Verification Protocols.....	39

7.2 Key Issues Based on Regulatory Changes	39	11.2.4 Issues in Selection.....	51
7.2.1 Number of Runs in a Protocol	39	11.3 Special Equipment Issues.....	51
7.2.2 Worst-Case Process Conditions.....	39	11.3.1 Chromatography Columns	51
8.0 MAINTENANCE OF VALIDATED STATE.....	41	11.3.2 Tangential Flow Filtration (TFF) Filter Systems	51
8.1 Critical Parameter Control.....	41	11.3.3 Centrifuges	52
8.2 Control by Cycle Feedback	41	11.4 Multi-Host Facilities	52
8.3 Process Alarms.....	41	11.5 Non-product Contact Surfaces	52
8.4 Change Control	42	11.5.1 Equipment for Buffers	52
8.5 Evaluation of Cumulative Changes.....	42	11.5.2 Equipment for Media	53
8.6 Periodic Monitoring.....	43	11.5.3 Lyophilizers	53
8.7 Trending.....	43	11.5.4 Packaging Equipment	54
9.0 MASTER PLANNING		11.6 Viruses, Mycoplasma and Prions	54
FOR CLEANING VALIDATION.....	44	11.6.1 Control Steps.....	54
9.1 Elements of a Comprehensive Plan.....	44	11.6.2 Control by Cleaning.....	54
9.2 Harmonization of Site Cleaning Programs	45	11.6.3 Conclusion.....	55
9.3 Cleaning Validation Activities		11.7 Single-Use Equipment	55
as a Function of Clinical Stage	45	11.8 Process Analytical Technology	55
10.0 RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT.....	47	11.8.1 PAT for Cleaning Process Control	56
10.1 Introduction.....	47	11.8.2 PAT Measurement Tools for Biotechnology Cleaning Processes.....	57
10.2 Techniques and Tools for Risk Management and Assessment.....	48	11.8.3 Additional Considerations for PAT	57
11.0 SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.....	49	11.9 Product Changeover.....	57
11.1 Grouping/Family Approach.....	49	11.10 Clean Hold Considerations.....	58
11.1.1 Product Grouping.....	49	12.0 REGULATORY ISSUES.....	60
11.1.2 Equipment Grouping	49	13.0 REFERENCES.....	62
11.1.3 Introduction of a New Product or New Equipment Into a Group... ..	49	14.0 SUGGESTED READING	64
11.1.4 Conclusion.....	50	15.0 APPENDIX – CARRYOVER CALCULATIONS	65
11.2 Cleaning Agent Issues.....	50	16.0 LIST OF ACRONYMS.....	68
11.2.1 Sodium Hydroxide Wash	50		
11.2.2 Acid Wash.....	50		
11.2.3 Formulated Detergents	50		

TABLES INDEX

Table 3.2.1	Cleaning Process Steps (Examples).....	Table 5.1.2	Comparison of CIP Grab Sampling versus Separate CIP Sampling Rinse.....
	7		24
Table 3.5.1	Process Soil Categorization (Example).....	Table 5.1.4	Comparison of Swab Sampling and Rinse Sampling
	10		25
Table 3.5.2	Surface Materials for Biopharmaceutical Production Processes	Table 10.1	CPP and CQA Considerations that have Potential Risk Impact to a Cleaning Process
	11		47

1.0 Introduction

Cleaning validation plays an important role in reducing the possibility of product contamination from biopharmaceutical manufacturing equipment. It demonstrates that the cleaning process adequately and consistently removes product residues, process residues and environmental contaminants from the cleaned equipment/system, so that this equipment/system can be safely used for the manufacture of defined subsequent products (which may be the same or a different product). As used in this Technical Report, “product” may be a drug product, bulk active, intermediate, or another type of formulation. If “drug product” is intended, that terminology will be utilized. While cleaning validation for biotechnology manufacturing has many of the same elements as for other pharmaceutical manufacturing, there are enough differences such that a separate Technical Report focusing on biotechnology cleaning validation is appropriate.

Previous PDA documents on cleaning validation, including the 1998 PDA *Technical Report No. 29, Points to Consider for Cleaning Validation* and the 1996 monograph *Cleaning and Cleaning Validation: A Biotechnology Perspective* provide valuable insights for biotechnology manufacturers. (1,2) However, this report presents more updated information that is aligned with life cycle approaches to validation and the International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH) guidelines Q8(R2), *Pharmaceutical Development*, Q9, *Quality Risk Management*, and ICH Q10, *Pharmaceutical Quality System*. (3-6) This report also aims to present information in a way that readers can easily utilize to assist in creating a cleaning validation program for their equipment and facilities.

The Biotechnology Cleaning Validation Task Force was composed of European and North American professionals from biotechnology manufacturers, cleaning chemical suppliers, regulatory agencies and consulting companies. This report also underwent a global, technical peer review to ensure concepts, terminology, and practices presented are reflective of sound science and can be used globally.

Note: For ease of use, this Technical Report includes a list of acronyms used throughout the document. Refer to **Section 16.0**.

1.1 Purpose/Scope

The focus of this Technical Report is on biotechnology manufacturing. Biotechnology manufacturing includes bacterial and cell culture fermentation. While some might exclude plasma fractionation and egg-based vaccine manufacturing from the strict definition of biotechnology, many of the practices and guidance in this report are applicable to plasma fractionation and egg-based vaccine manufacturing. Therefore, examples given will be for biotechnology manufacturing. We have also included a life cycle cleaning validation approach, including design/development of the cleaning process, process qualification (the protocols runs), and ongoing validation maintenance. These practices and the associated guidance in this Technical Report are based on technical considerations and should be applicable in all regulatory environments.

The intent of this Technical Report is not to provide a detailed plan or detailed road map for a biotechnology manufacturer to perform cleaning validation. Rather, as the title suggests, it presents “points to consider” as one designs a cleaning validation program for biotechnology manufacturing based on an understanding of one’s manufacturing and cleaning processes. In cleaning validation, there are generally *multiple* ways to accomplish the same goal of a compliant, scientifically sound and practical cleaning validation program. Where options are given, the rationales for such options are also generally given. The Biotechnology Cleaning Validation Task Force that developed this document hopes that it will be used in that spirit. Based on an understanding of the unique nature of any individual situation, different approaches or additional issues should also be considered.