

Contamination Analysis

Introduction

The presence of unexpected particulate or microbial contaminants in process fluids can lead to system failure, batch reprocessing or even batch rejection.

It is critical that these contaminants are quickly isolated and identified so that possible sources can be traced and corrective actions applied to the process.

How Can Pall Help?

Pall has over fifty years experience in contamination analysis and control and offers a range of standard services for analysis of particulate and microbial contaminants.

In the simplest form, we can often provide the necessary advice and corrective actions by telephone or via e-mail.

Alternatively, samples can be sent to a Pall facility for analysis or we can sample on site. These investigations will be fully documented and a technical report supplied following conclusion of the test work and process review, to ensure that any change control is correctly managed and implemented.

Microbiological Contaminants

The isolation and identification of microbiological contaminants from process fluids requires specialist laboratory facilities and expertise, all of which can be offered by Pall Life Sciences.

Typical microbiological studies include:

- Total bacterial count
- Bioburden analysis
- Identification and review of process isolates



Particulate Contaminants

Pall Life Sciences have available a wide range of microscopic and analytical equipment for the analysis of particulate and / or amorphous contaminants including:

- Optical microscopy
- Scanning electron microscopy
- X-Ray emission spectroscopy
- Computer-enhanced image analysis

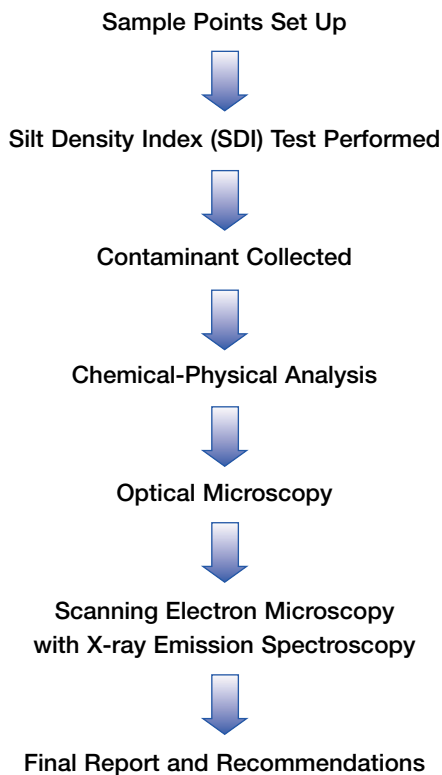
Analysis of Process Bioburden

The full quantification and identification of natural process bioburden is of increasing regulatory interest. Some bacteria, when subjected to particular environmental conditions, are known to produce particularly diminutive forms capable of penetrating 0.2µm sterilizing grade filter cartridges.

A typical analysis procedure is as follows:

- Filter samples through 47mm diameter analysis discs, place discs on nutrient agar plates and incubate.
- Count colonies to quantify bioburden. Strike out individual colony types.
- Examine colony morphology.
- Gram stain and examine microscopically.
- Perform biochemical tests to establish identity.
- Document and report results.

Typical Investigation Procedure for Particulate Contaminants in a Water System



SEM showing contamination retained by filter membrane



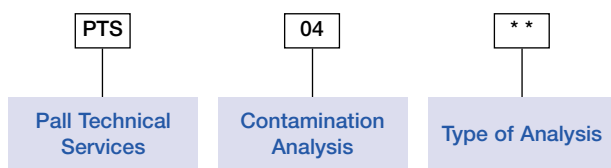
Charges

Wherever possible, we provide a fixed price in advance for the project. Where this is not possible, we will give an estimate to assist you in budgeting and cost control. The final invoice gives details on items such as labor, materials etc.

What's the Next Step ?

Simply contact your local Pall representative. They will discuss your specific requirements with you and forward your enquiry to Pall's contamination analysis specialists.

Part Number Structure



Typical Part Number PTS04AE Contamination analysis with scanning electron microscopy and XES



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