

The Utilization of Mass Spectrometry for Equipment and Process Monitoring in Lyophilization

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We make difficult choices, but we <u>never</u> compromise Quality, Compliance or Safety.

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Co-develop from the ground up a bespoke mini mass spectrometer that could be used to monitor Lyophilization; in particular, help us to determine the end point of primary and secondary drying. We also wanted a system that could be used to monitor for silicone oil leaks and be used as a way to perform He leak testing.



Process Analytical Technology - Definition

The FDA CGMP September 2004

PAT is considered to be a system for designing, analyzing, and controlling manufacturing through timely measurements (i.e. during processing) of critical quality and performance attributes of raw and in-process materials and processes with the goal of ensuring final product quality.

PAT is synonymous with process understanding



Application of PAT in support of Aseptic Manufacturing





What is Mass Spectrometry?

- Method used to identify chemical species (example, gas composition) by measuring the mass-to-charge ratio (m/z) and partial pressure of gas-phase ions
- Spectra are plotted as m/z ratio vs. abundance (detector response)
- In pharma since early '80s: Test sensitivity to detect silicone oils in trace concentrations in product chamber from heat transfer fluid, hydraulic fluids





Mass Spectrometry: Why choose this technique?





The AMS Mass Spectrometer



1994 to 2017 Miniaturization





Key Distinguishing Features

- Typical Residual Gas Analyzer (RGA) requires external pumps to operate at low pressure due to its bulky quadrupole design
- The AMS operates at high pressure (Three orders of Magnitude) due its miniature, distributed quad array,
 - Iarger number of gas molecules to be converted into +ve ions.
- Use of stable Faraday detector down to the ppm sensitivity
 - Typical RGAs with fewer cations require use of a Electron Multiplier as a detector down to the ppm sensitivity
- Small footprint
 - Integrated sensor componentry (ion source, quad array filter, FC detector)



Regulatory Stance for Leakage

- From the FDA's document on Freeze-Drying inspection (UCM074909)
 - "Leakage into a lyophilizer (freeze-dryer) may originate from various sources... These would be the thermal fluid circulated through the shelves for product heating and cooling..."
 - "It is necessary to monitor the leak rate periodically to maintain the integrity of the system. It is also necessary, should the leak rate exceed specified limits..."



Detection of Silicone Oil



Implemented primarily for silicone oil mass 73 detection: successfully



Challenges: Need for application specific solution





Analysis: Destructive Testing of Mass Spec

- A destructive test was performed on the mass spec
- The mass analyzer was destructively disassembled
- Subjected to SEM-EDS for elemental composition analysis

EDS analysis revealed coating of silicone inside the analyzer even in trace concentration exposure, leading to drop in sensitivity





AMS with attached Silicone Oil Filtration System





Silicone Oil Calibration



System Leak Check: He Leak Detection



- Detection and identification of system leaks are performed today using a cumbersome vacuum cart and He supply source
- This can be eliminated using a permanently mounted mass spec
- Tested here using an external He supply at the source of the leak and sensed using three different mass spec/RGA systems connected to the side of the production dryer chamber



Cycle Monitoring: 5% w/v Sucrose, 2.7 mL fill in 20 mL vials





Normalized Data

- Data normalized by setting the largest value during the process to "1"
- Mass spectrometers can be used to monitor lyophilization processes real-time
- Primary and secondary drying end points can be determined





Comparison of Secondary Drying Signal Between Pirani and Mass Spec

- A key step during a lyo cycle is to determine when secondary drying is completed. It is also where Pirani technology is at the limits of its dynamic range.
- This can be demonstrated by comparing it with the water signal from a mass spectrometer, which shows continued water loss/drying after the Pirani has plateaued





Sample Thief Cycle: 5% w/v Sucrose, 2.7 mL fill in 20 mL vials





Sample Thief Cycle: End of Primary and Secondary Drying





Sample Thief Cycle: Normalized Data

- Tsh(1^odry=-25 °C)
- Pch= 50 mT
- Tsh(2⁰dry= 40 °C)
- Ramp: 0.2 °C/min
- Data normalized by setting the largest value during the process to "1"





Secondary Drying: Pirani Gauge

Traditionally the Pirani gauge is used to help determine critical endpoints for primary and secondary drying during a lyo cycle



Pirani profile mTorr in secondary drying vs KF % water



Secondary Drying: RGA 2



Signal from a RGA can be dealt with as a pressure measurement or as ion current flow and compared to residual water content in the lyo cake obtained from KF.



Secondary Drying: AMS



Raw signal from an AMS can be dealt with as a pressure measurement or as ion current flow and compared to residual water content in the lyo cake obtained from KF.



NIR Moisture Map

- A complete picture of the moisture distribution, effectively, a shelf map can be generated without performing destructive, time consuming, and hazardous KF on all vials.
 - Missing positions had inserted thermocouples.
- This type of map can reveal and confirm interesting features of a lyo shelf
 - At end of cycle the vials at the front of the lyo are on average slightly dryer than those at the back
 - high degree of uniformity of the drying process is evident





Overcoming Challenges

 Philosophical Challenges 		Status
 Why introduce new data? Production downtime 	>	Value added and industry landscape
 Technical Challenges Quantitation Silicone Oil Water 	>	In Progress
 Impact of silicone oil on detector 	\geq	Silicone oil filtration
 Logistics of implementation New vs retrofit of existing dryers 		
Cost of equipment	\rightarrow	Return on investment
 Space and mounting considerations 	\rightarrow	Miniaturization of systems
 Systems integration 		
Production downtime		
Maintenance and lifespan	\rightarrow	in Progress



Justification for Implementation

Regulatory requirements Improvement in product quality Reduction in cycle times Increase capacity Reduction in costs for our customers Reduction in costs for us Increased process understanding Improve measurement capabilities Reduction in waste Reduction in down-time







Questions

