Particles in Parenterals

UPDATE: changes due to the revision of Annex 1

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Regulatory and GMP requirements for the inspection of parenterals
- Trending and Monitoring and batch release with respect to inspection data
- Re-inspection of defect fractions
- New techniques for CCI and particle detection
- Inspection of plastic and BFS containers
- Case study Sanofi: Manual visual inspection
- Case study Roche: Detection at the limit of visibility
- Case study Novartis: Fully automated inspection
- Impact of the Annex 1 revision on the testing of parenterals

10-11 October 2018, Hamburg, Germany

With an optional Pre-Conference Course: Fundamentals of Visual Inspection & AQL Testing on 9 October 2018

Bonus for the participants of this course: The AQL Inspector’s Rule - A tool for conducting AQL Testing.

SPEAKERS

- GABRIEL ANDERSON
  Novartis
- DR MARTIN BECKER
  Siegfried Hameln
- MARTIN DEARDEN
  PaxVax Berna
- DR HELMUT GAUS
  Winsol, previously Boehringer Ingelheim
- AL GOODWIN
  Amgen
- ALAN KELLY
  Sanofi
- FELIX KRUMBEIN
  Roche
- CHRISTOF LANGER
  OSConsulting
- DR TOBIAS POSSET
  Roche
- DR HEINO PRINZ
  Rommelag AG

All participants receive the current version of ECA’s Best Practice Paper on “Visual Inspection” for free.

This conference is recognised for the ECA GMP Certification Programme „Certified Technical Operations Manager“.
Please find details at www.gmp-certification.eu
The training course on visual inspection which takes place the day before the Particles Conference gives you an understanding of the fundamentals of visual inspection of injectable products, applicable to manual and automated inspection. You will also learn how to implement an automated system on the basis of the manual inspection. The course also includes an AQL training, that is you will learn how to use AQL tables to set defect limits and how to evaluate batch inspection data.

For that purpose all participants of the Pre-Conference Course receive the AQL Inspector’s Rule as tool for AQL testing for free.

The rule covers a wide range of AQL’s with Normal, Tightened and Reduced inspection for both single and double sampling plans according to ISO 2859-1 (1999). The practical usage of this tool will be shown during the course.

Skills you will develop through the course:
- Ensuring GMP compliance in manual inspection
- Setting up a qualification strategy for automated systems
- Usage of statistical tools for assessing inspection data
- GMP-compliant routine operation of automated systems

Content of the course in detail:

General requirements
- Requirements of the Pharmacopeia
- Defect categorisation
- Test kits for training, qualification and routine

Manual Inspection
- Qualification and training of personnel
- Standardisation of working conditions
- AQL in the manual inspection

From Manual to automated inspection
- Usage of the Knapp and the modified Knapp test
- Cross validation during the PQ phase

Automated inspection
- Importance of particle detection rates
- System Suitability, Requalification and revalidation

Course Trainer:
DR HELMUT GAUS, WinSol & former Director Quality Control at Boehringer Ingelheim
DR TOBIAS POSSET, Head of Production Support Roche Diagnostics

Optional pre-conference course
"Fundamentals of Visual Inspection & AQL Testing" on 9 October 2018

Particles in Parenterals
10-11 October 2018, Hamburg, Germany

Objectives
Main topic of this conference is the detection of particles in injectables and their evaluation during batch release and continuous process improvement. Besides the current regulatory requirements with regards to particulate matter, routine 100% inspection of injectables will be addressed. Manual inspection as well as automated inspection systems will be covered, including training, AQL testing, trending, inspection equipment and batch release considerations.

Background
In most cases particles found in parenteral medicines will lead to a quarantined product or even to the recall of the product – as we have seen in the last years in the cases of several pharmaceutical companies. Responsible staff in charge will have to start root cause analysis to find the source of the particles and will have to do an evaluation of batches already shipped.

There is still confusion within the global pharmaceutical industry with regard to the requirements for testing for visible particles. After the USP chapters <790> and <1790> were published, things have become much clearer, at least for the US. But still, lots of questions arise, e.g. concerning re-testing, detection capabilities and revalidation of inspection systems.

Furthermore there has been a recognisable trend towards automated inspection machines throughout the last years. The challenge for pharmaceutical companies is to find a suitable machine for their products and to determine reasonable inspection parameters during qualification and validation. But also during routine process there are questions arising like re-testing and the usage of test-sets, doing AQL-Testing as well as the adjustment of parameters of the vision systems.

We will address those topics during the conference and discuss and answer questions on
- The latest compendial requirements concerning particulate matter
- Training in the manual visual inspection
- Qualification and operation of an automated inspection system
- Threshold studies and the border of visibility
- Trending and monitoring of visual inspection data
- Limitations of the AQL test
- New inspection technologies
- Re-inspection of defect fractions

Target Audience
This conference is directed at specialists and executives from sterile operations, that is manufacturing, quality assurance and engineering. But also suppliers of primary packaging materials and inspections technology are target group of this conference.

Moderator
Dr Tobias Posset, Roche Diagnostics, Chairman of the ECA Visual Inspection Group
Regulatory Requirements for the visual inspection of parenterals

- Compendial Requirements
  - 100% visual inspection & AQL testing
  - PharmEur, USP, JP - similarities and differences
- News from the Annex I revision
- GMP Expectations
  - Manual inspection
  - Automated Inspection
- Risk Management Considerations

Presentation and discussion of the ECA Best Practice Paper on Visual Inspection

The best practice paper has been originally developed by the advisory board of the ECA Visual Inspection Group. Much rather than a strict requirement document, this paper is intended to be a reference for controversial issues. The first version of this paper has been published in September 2014 in Copenhagen. It has gained a broad acceptance in the industry afterwards.

The current version as well as planned updates will be explained and discussed in Hamburg.

Particle testing and the correlation with trending and Batch release

- Why do we Monitor (What is it all about)
- Data and Measurement
- The AQL trap
- Improvement Process Map
- Investigation and Routine Analysis
- Release Process: “To AQL or not to AQL that is the Question”
- Product Release: “Falling off a log”

Re-inspection of defect fractions in visual inspection

Different scenarios will be covered such as:

- Re-inspection or additional inspection of “grey-channel” units from (semi-) automated inspection
- Re-inspection in case of exceeding alert limits or AQL failures
- Focused re-inspection
- Inspection approaches in case of investigations due to unexpected particles (e.g., to determine frequency of occurrence of visible particles when particles are found during release/stability testing

Advanced techniques for particle detection and laser inspection process for vial CCIT

- Standard machine vision particle detection use only three or four algorithms. Already available and used in multiple industries are powerful algorithms which start to give you more information about the particle that has been detected. Using real case studies it will be shown how these new tools are adopted in the most recent automatic visual systems.
- Present visions inspection systems that are used for CCI checking of vials work with 2D images which are analysed by the vision software. This can lead to false fails because the closure condition is extrapolated from a 2D image. Using more advanced 3D laser profiling results in more human like data available to make judgments. Example what crimp angle is optimal and how far have we crimped the vial. This data is available real time and speeds can match the fastest AVI available at present.
Automated visual inspection of large volume parenterals – 360 degree approach for container quality control
A new technique for particle detection in LVP containers will be presented with very low bubble influence combined with detailed detection and monitoring of process related quality aspects for container integrity and cosmetic defects. Includes an outlook using the technique as an application for IV Bags.

Case Study Sanofi: Manual visual inspection
- Preparation of defect sets
- Sensitivity / threshold studies
- PQ & Knapp-Test studies
- Training and qualification of MVI operators

Case Study Novartis: Fully automated visual inspection
- Implementation of the system
  - Qualification concept
  - Knapp studies & test sets
- Routine use of the system
  - AQL testing
  - Re-inspection
  - Re-validation of the system

Manual detection of particles at the border of visibility
- General requirements
  - USP 1790: Composition of test kits for training, qualification and routine
  - Inspection conditions (inspection time, illumination, etc.)
- Manual Inspection:
  - Training and qualification of manual operators
  - Modified Knapp-Test
- Threshold study under different inspection conditions

Impact of the Annex 1 revision on the testing of parenterals
- The final draft for comments of Annex 1
- Contamination Control Strategy
- New requirements on process simulation
- PUPSIT
- Container Closure Integrity requirements
- New expectations on Visual Inspection

Visual Inspection and Health Authority Expectations & Observations
- Observation at the AIM qualification
- Comments to the 5000 test
- Dealing with particles & complaints

Best-Practice-Paper
All participants receive the current version of ECA’s Best Practice Paper on “Visual Inspection” for free.

Social Event
In the evening of the first conference day, you are cordially invited to a social event.

This is an excellent opportunity to share your experiences with colleagues from other companies in a relaxed atmosphere.
Speakers

GABRIEL ANDERSON, Novartis
Gabriel is going on 10 years of experience in the field of visual inspection of injectable products. He has a chemical engineering degree and joined Novartis Vaccines in the US in 2011 as a production engineer responsible for setting up the visual inspection program and validating an automated inspection machine. In 2014 he moved to Basel to take on a global role within Novartis in the manufacturing, science, and technology (MS&T) group and to co-lead Novartis’s visual inspection expert network.

DR MARTIN BECKER, Siegfried Hameln
Dr Becker studied Chemistry and is actually Head of Technical Operations and Head of Production Sterile Operations at Siegfried Hameln (formerly hameln pharmaceuticals). He previously held different positions in analytical development, quality assurance, and production at IDT in Dessau and Sandoz in Austria.

MARTIN DEARDEN, PaxVax Berna GmbH
Martin has over 25 years of experience in the Pharmaceutical Industry with over 20 years concerned with the manufacture of sterile products and Biologics. Martin holds Degree level qualifications in Applied Biology and also Immunology and Microbiology. He was Senior Director at UCB S.A. and as the UCB Corporate Microbiologist responsible for microbiological standards, policy and strategy. Now he is Vice President of Quality for PaxVax Berna in Switzerland.

DR HELMUT GAUS, WinSol & former Director Quality Control at Boehringer Ingelheim
Dr Gaus was Head of Quality Control Service at Boehringer Ingelheim, Biotechnology. He has also been working as Vice President Quality Control and Qualified Person for Novartis Generics, Vetter Pharma and Rentschler Biotechnologie were he gained an extensive knowledge in the field of visual inspection. In 2018 he founded his own company WinSol.

AL GOODWIN, Amgen
From the Headquarters of Amgen in California, Al specifies and supports globally all of Amgen’s AVI systems for vials, syringes, plastic cartridges and drug delivery devices. Al has 25 years of experience in optical inspection systems. He has also worked in Japan for 5 years on optical test measurement systems. In the last 15 years he has worked closely with key International Machine Vision Software design companies and has used this experience in areas of Particle detection, Glass flaw detection and improvements and evaluation of Vision Algorithm Robustness in the pharmaceutical industry.

ALAN KELLY, Sanofi
Alan Kelly is a Senior Process Engineer currently working in the Technical Services Department at Sanofi in Ireland.

FELIX KRUMBEIN, Roche Diagnostics
Felix Krumbein studied optotechnics and image processing. He worked for Scanware and for Laetus as head of the group identifications systems were he was responsible for the implementation of GMP-compliant imaging tools. Since 2011 he is working for Roche as head of Inspections-Systems-Support. He is responsible for the qualification of visual inspection systems in the GMP environment.

CHRISTOF LANGER, OSConsulting
Christof Langer studied Biotechnology and is certified Risk Manager as well as a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt. He has been working as Managing Director at Baxter BioScience, responsible for Operations. Since 2009 he runs his own consultancy business.

DR TOBIAS POSSET, Roche Diagnostics GmbH
Tobias Posset studied Biochemistry and Chemistry. He is heading the Production Support unit in the Pharma Production at Roche Diagnostics in Mannheim. Herein he is responsible for the IPCs, the particle laboratory, the automated visual inspection and the coordination of the manual inspection training. He is also the chairman of the ECA Visual Inspection Group.

DR HEINO PRINZ, Rommelag AG
Dr Prinz was in charge for research and development at Wilco in Wohlen, Switzerland and changed to Rommelag in 2014 were he has the position of the Director Inspection Devices.
Date
Pre-conference course: 
Fundamentals of Visual Inspection
Tuesday, 9 October 2018, 
10.00 to approx. 17.00 h
Registration and coffee 08.30 – 09.00 h

Pre-conference Course
Wednesday, 10 October 2018, 
09.00 – 17.30 h
Registration and coffee 08.30 – 09.00 h
Thursday, 11 October 2018, 
08.30 to approx. 15.45 h

Venue
Barceló Hotel Hamburg
Ferdinandstrasse 15
20095 Hamburg, Germany
Phone +49 40 22 63 62 0
Email hamburg@barcelo.com

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Mr Rouwen Schopka (Organisation Manager)
at +49(0)62 21 / 84 44 13, or per e-mail at
schopka@concept-heidelberg.de.

Pre-conference course:
Fundamentals of Visual Inspection (9 October)
ECA Members € 790
APIC Members € 890
Non-ECA Members € 990
EU GMP Inspectors € 495
The conference fee is payable in advance.

The official conference language will be English.

Pre-conference Course AND Conference, 9-11 October 2018, Hamburg, Germany
Particles in Parenterals Conference, 10-11 October 2018, Hamburg, Germany
“Fundamentals of Visual Inspection & AQL Testing”,
9 October 2018, Hamburg, Germany

Please note that there will not be any
print-outs at the conferences. Instead you
will receive all presentations prior to the
event as Downloads as well as after the
event, in the case of updates.

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