

Sanitary Seal Division

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Metal Detectable Sanitary Gaskets are Important Contributors to Food Safety

An important aspect of food safety is keeping foreign materials from contaminating the food product.

Because sanitary gaskets and other elastomeric sealing components are a potential source of contamination, it is important to take the necessary steps to reduce this risk. Contamination can occur when rubber fragments are created when a sanitary gasket is damaged while in service. Damage to sanitary gaskets happens for a myriad of reasons ranging from faulty installation or over time from extreme temperatures, continuous vibration and corrosive clean-in-place (CIP) chemicals. Once created, rubber fragments can migrate into the product stream.

If rubber particles do find their way into the product, operators must shut down equipment to visually inspect for the contaminant. This method of detection can be very difficult and obviously expensive. Not to mention, the significant down time involved. If a contaminant goes undetected, product recall can't be ruled out.

To address this problem, many processors utilize a HACCP (Hazard Analyses Critical Control Point) program that requires that all parts be metal detectable and X-Ray inspectable.

The use of metal detectable sanitary gaskets is a very effective method for locating rubber fragments of gaskets that have migrated into the process stream. Metal Detectable gaskets are rubber gaskets (Nitrile, EPDM, Silicone, Viton® and Sanifluor®) that have been compounded with a very fine metal powder and additives that allows them to be detected by in-line metal detection equipment and also by X-Ray machines. Particles as small as 2mm can be detected with standard in-line x-ray inspection and metal detection systems. Once detected, the contaminating particle can be removed with magnetic equipment or by hand.

Metal detectable sanitary gaskets are designed to be drop in replacements for standard conventional sanitary gaskets and perform as well as standard Nitrile, EPDM, Silicone, Viton® and Sanifluor® sanitary gaskets.

The Sanitary Seal Division of PTI, Inc. offers the SEALDETECT™ line of metal detectable O-rings in AS568 and metric standard sizes. SEALDETECT™ O-rings and Sanitary gaskets are state of the art metal detectable and X-Ray inspectable sealing components.

Contact us today to speak with us about the optimum SEALDETECT™ products for your applications. TEL 610-603-7546