



Biotech

Assembly and Installation Procedures

USD2291c

Pall® Pharmaceutical Grade Capsule Assemblies

Contents

1	Introduction.....	3
2	Specifications	3
3	Receipt of Equipment.....	3
4	Installation and Operation	4
4.1	Installation.....	4
4.2	Operation.....	4
4.2.1	Liquid Applications.....	4
4.2.2	Gas Applications.....	5
5	Sterilization.....	6
5.1	Steam In Place	6
5.2	Autoclaving.....	6
5.3	Gamma Irradiation.....	6
6	Integrity Testing.....	7
7	Filter Assembly Replacement.....	7
8	Scientific and Laboratory Services.....	7
9	TECHNICAL ADDENDUM FOR ATEX 2014/34/EC PALL ENCAPSULATED FILTER ASSEMBLIES ..	8

1 Introduction

The following procedures **must be followed** for the installation and use of Pall pharmaceutical grade capsule assemblies.

These instructions and the information contained within the product documentation must be read thoroughly because they contain valuable information gained by extensive experience and thus should be part of your process related **risk assessment** and application design. Such risk assessment is imperative for high commercial value and critical processes. It is very important that all instructions are carefully followed and where appropriate they should be incorporated into the end user's standard operating procedures. If some of the procedures do not suit your needs, please consult Pall or your local distributor before finalizing your system.

Use of this product in a manner other than in accordance with Pall's current recommendations may lead to injury or loss. Pall cannot accept liability for such injury or loss.

2 Specifications

The maximum working pressure and temperature can vary between capsule assembly types or filter media. Please check the datasheet and labeling for details, or contact Pall or your local distributor.



Short term exposure to pressurized air or nitrogen above the maximum working pressure is allowable for integrity testing of filter capsule assemblies. Please consult Pall for details.



Operation outside the specifications and with fluids incompatible with construction materials may cause personal injury and result in damage to the equipment. Incompatible fluids are fluids which chemically attack, soften, swell, stress, attack or otherwise adversely affect the materials of construction. Please refer to Pall for exact limits.



EUROPEAN DIRECTIVE 2014/34/EC (ATEX) 'EQUIPMENT INTENDED FOR USE IN POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES'

For information relating to European Directive 2014/34/EC (ATEX), please refer to Section 9. For information relating to Zone 0/20 Applications, please contact Pall.

More information can be obtained through Pall, your local distributor or the Pall website.

3 Receipt of Equipment



Capsule assemblies are suitable for sterilization by either gamma irradiation or by autoclaving, or may be supplied pre-sterilized by gamma irradiation. Please check the product label prior to use to ensure product part numbers correspond to the application. If unsure as to whether the filter has been pre-sterilized, or if unsure of suitable sterilization method, contact Pall.

- (a) Store the filter assembly in clean, dry conditions between 0 °C and 30 °C without exposure to irradiation sources like direct sunlight, and wherever practical in the packaging as delivered.
- (b) DO NOT remove from packaging until just before installation.
- (c) Check that the bag or packaging is undamaged prior to use.
- (d) Pre-sterilized capsules are double bagged. Check that the inner bag is undamaged prior to use.
- (e) Ensure that the type of capsule assembly selected is suitable for the application.

- (f) In addition to the part number, each filter assembly is identified by a unique identification batch and a unique serial number.
- (g) Ensure that pre-sterilized capsule assemblies have not exceeded the maximum recommended shelf life. Consult Pall product publications or contact Pall for information on shelf life.

4 Installation and Operation

Before installation, it is essential to verify that the capsule assembly type selected is suitable for the fluid to be filtered and to follow the appropriate instructions listed below.

4.1 Installation

Install the capsule assembly in-line using compatible connections. Ensure that it is installed in the correct orientation for flow from the inlet to the outlet and is adequately supported. Most capsules have the flow direction indicated on the filter assembly.

- (a) Open the plastic bag with scissors, taking care not to damage the filter capsule inside.



Avoid use of sharp blades or pointed instruments that could damage the filter capsule. Do not open bag by forcing the filter capsule through the sealed end as this can generate particulate contaminants.

- (b) If valves and inlet/outlet connectors are protected by plastic caps, the caps should be removed prior to use.
- (c) For capsules suitable for vent applications, flow can be in either direction, but must be maintained within the specifications.
- (d) Liquid filter capsule assemblies can be positioned in any orientation, providing that effective venting of the filter can be carried out before and during operation.
- (e) Where a positive pressure exists downstream of the capsule assembly, a sensitive check valve may be needed to prevent back pressure damage due to reverse flow.
- (f) Where pulsating flow is present, the capsule assembly should be protected by a surge tank or similar device upstream.
- (g) Where a rapidly closing downstream valve is present, the possibility of pressure pulsing and subsequent filter damage exists. The capsule assembly should be protected by a surge tank or similar device between valve and filter.

4.2 Operation



Do not remove or attempt to remove the vent and drain valves while the capsule assembly is in use.



All valves, blanking caps or luer-compatible fittings must be closed during filtration once venting operation has been performed.

4.2.1 Liquid Applications

- (a) For sterile filtration, the capsule assemblies and all components of the filtration system downstream from the assembly must be sterilized prior to use. For best results, sterile filtration should be performed in a controlled environment (e.g., laminar flow bench or cleanroom).
- (b) Remove the capsule from bag or protective autoclave wrapping and attach tubing to the inlet. If hose barb connections are used, the tubing should be secured in place by a suitable fastener. If a sanitary

connection is used, then the gasket should be properly installed and the clamp should be adequately tightened.

- (c) Partially open vent valve and slowly begin to fill the capsule. The valves are operated by rotation. Fully close vent valve as soon as all excess air escapes the assembly and liquid reaches the level of the vent.
- (d) Gradually increase flow rate or pressure to the desired value. Do not exceed the maximum operating parameters listed in the specifications section of the product datasheet.
- (e) When filtration is complete, fluid can be followed by an air purge to minimize hold-up of solution in the assembly.



When using capsule assemblies with hydrophobic media (e.g. Emflon® PFR filters) for aqueous or high surface tension liquid applications, the filter must be pre-wetted with a suitable low surface tension liquid such as ethyl or isopropyl alcohol to initiate flow.

4.2.2 Gas Applications

- (a) For gas systems with possible liquid or condensate entrainment, the filter must be installed vertically with the outlet facing downwards to allow any liquid that may be in the gas to drain naturally from the inside of the filter.



For vent applications or low-pressure gas service, if wetted for integrity test purposes, the filter should be thoroughly dried before use. However, for non-volatile wetting fluids, it may be necessary to flush first with water or other volatile miscible fluid and then dry.



For Kleenpak™ Nova assemblies used in gas service, the maximum operating pressure is 0.5 barg (7 psig) up to 40 °C. If it is possible that the pressure may exceed 0.5 barg (7 psig) during operation, then a safety shield is required. However, the maximum pressure of 3 barg (44 psig) must not be exceeded at any time.

5 Sterilization



Not all pre-sterilized capsule assemblies may be re-sterilized. Please contact Pall for details

The efficiency of the sterilization should be validated using an appropriate method

5.1 Steam In Place

Capsule filters must not be in-line steam sterilized (with the exception of Novasip™ capsules). Material design limitations will be exceeded when these capsule filters are exposed to pressurized steam and the housing may be ruptured.

5.2 Autoclaving



Please refer to the appropriate Pall product information literature for products which can be autoclaved and the maximum recommended cumulative autoclave exposure time.

Autoclave sterilization procedures are detailed in Pall publication USTR805.



Certain membrane types must be wetted with water prior to autoclaving. Please refer to product documentation or contact Pall for guidance



Do not autoclave the capsules in the bag supplied.



When capsule filters with sanitary connections are used, it is recommended that the sanitary clamp is not fully tightened prior to autoclaving. The clamp should be fully tightened only when autoclaving is completed.



The vent and drain valves should be opened at least one turn before autoclaving.

5.3 Gamma Irradiation

- (a) Specific capsule assemblies can be sterilized by gamma irradiation. Please check product datasheet for further information.
- (b) Gamma irradiatable capsules typically have a 'G' as the last letter in the part number structure. Consult Pall to confirm suitability.
- (c) Connect the filter assembly to the equipment to be sterilized.
- (d) Consult Pall for maximum allowable radiation dose. Gamma irradiation above maximum allowable doses or carried out on a product not specified for gamma irradiation can result in degradation of material of construction and may lead to personal injury.

6 Integrity Testing



Pall recommends that sterilizing and virus grade filters should be integrity tested pre-use, if applicable after sterilization, to ensure that the individual filter is capable of performing its stated function, and integrity tested post-use. Consider application-specific regulatory and technical guidelines for process design details, including your process-specific risk assessment, see also Section 1. Contact Pall for recommended integrity test procedures and integrity test values.

Some pre-filters filters can also be integrity tested - contact Pall for recommended procedure.



For vent applications or low-pressure gas service, Pall recommends integrity testing with the Water Intrusion Test method. If capsule assemblies are to be wetted for the Forward Flow integrity test, they should be thoroughly dried before use. The capsules assemblies can be dried by blowing through clean dry air or nitrogen at pressures exceeding the bubble point of the given filter membrane. For non-volatile wetting fluids however, it may be necessary to flush first with water or other volatile miscible fluid and then dry. Please contact Pall for recommended procedures.

7 Filter Assembly Replacement

Capsule assemblies should be replaced in line with the GMP requirements of the process. Where capsule assemblies are used for more than one manufacturing batch, replacements are recommended when the maximum allowable differential pressure has been reached (refer to appropriate Pall datasheet), if the flow rate has become unacceptable, or if the cumulative steam life has been reached, whichever occurs first. Discard capsule assembly in accordance with local Health and Safety and Environmental procedures. No attempt should be made to clean disposable capsule assemblies.

8 Scientific and Laboratory Services

Pall operates a technical service to assist in the application of all filter products. This service is readily available to you and we welcome your questions so that we can help. In addition, a full network of technical representatives is available throughout the world.

9 TECHNICAL ADDENDUM FOR ATEX 2014/34/EC PALL ENCAPSULATED FILTER ASSEMBLIES

Installation and maintenance should be undertaken by a competent person. National and local codes of practice, environmental regulations and Health & Safety directives must be adhered to and take precedence over any stated or implied practices within this document.

For fluids having low conductivity, there exists the possibility of the generation of static electricity during use with all- polymeric components. This could potentially lead to a static electricity discharge resulting in the ignition of a potentially explosive atmosphere where such an atmosphere is present.

These Pall products are not suitable for use with such low conductivity fluids in an environment that includes flammable liquids or a potentially explosive atmosphere.

Where flammable or reactive fluids are being processed through a Pall capsule assembly, the user should ensure that spillages during filling, venting, depressurizing, draining and capsule change operations are minimized, contained or directed to a safe area. In particular, the user should ensure that flammable fluids are not exposed to surfaces at a temperature that may ignite the fluid, and that reactive fluids cannot contact incompatible materials that may lead to reactions generating heat, flame or that are otherwise undesirable.

Pall capsule assemblies do not generate heat, but during the processing of high temperature fluids, including steam sterilization operations and process upset conditions, it will take on the temperature of the fluid being processed. The user should ensure that this temperature is acceptable for the area in which the filter is to be operated, or that suitable protective measures are employed. When processing flammable fluids, the user should ensure that any air is fully purged from within the assembly during filling and subsequent operation to prevent the formation of a potentially flammable or explosive vapor/air mixture inside the equipment. This can be achieved through careful venting of the assembly or system as detailed in the user instructions.

To prevent damage or degradation which may result in leakage of fluids from this equipment it is imperative that the end user check the suitability of all materials of construction (including seals on the connections where appropriate) with the process fluid and conditions. The user should ensure that the assembly is regularly inspected for damage and leaks, which should be promptly corrected, and that seals (where appropriate) are renewed after every capsule change.

Leakage of flammable or reactive fluids from this assembly, arising through incorrect installation or damage to the equipment (including any seals), may generate a source of ignition if flammable fluids are exposed to a heated surface, or if reactive fluids contact incompatible materials that may lead to reactions generating heat, flame or that are otherwise undesirable. The user should ensure that the assembly is regularly inspected for damage and leaks, which should be promptly corrected, and that any seals are renewed after every filter change.

The user should ensure that these products are protected from foreseeable mechanical damage that might cause such leakage, including impact and abrasion.

Regular cleaning with an anti-static material is required to avoid the build-up of dust on the filter assembly. Should you have any queries – then please contact your local Pall office or distributor.



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The information provided in this literature was reviewed for accuracy at the time of publication. Product data may be subject to change without notice. For current information consult your local Pall distributor or contact Pall directly.

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