

Fluid Systems Critical Process Markets

Approved Manufacturer: Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics (SGPPL)
Approved Distributor: Ryan Herco Products



Yeast Culture Hose Specification at World's Largest Brewery

They Brewmaster says “taste is everything.” Last year, field sales and factory support worked with a Los Angeles Brewery to develop a flexible yeast culture hose that could meet FDA sterilization standards. As a result, the hose is now approved for use at all. The following is an interview with the Brewmaster.

Could you describe for us the application for the flexible hose you have specified?

Brewmaster: We use the hose for culture yeast pitching. We needed a flexible hose from the air line to the keg and from the keg to the cold wort line.

What requirements made you specify silicone?

Brewmaster: Well, the first one we chose was PVC and it was not autoclavable. Another of our facilities had recommended PVC and sent a sample. When we got it, we autoclaved it and it melted. So we looked around to see what else was available that could meet specifications like pressure and temperature. But most importantly, we had to get it approved by headquarters.

One of the most important things we learned after meeting with you was the “taste issue.”

Brewmaster: Yes, since the material is in contact with beer it cannot impart any taste. And the first test of the hose failed for that reason. The braiding left a taste. What we do is to soak the beer hoses in beer and test to see if it imparts any taste.

Obviously, braiding was required because of the pressure; but we then realized only the inner core of the hose would touch the beer so we got our factory to provide us with only the inner core of the hose to test.

Brewmaster: It passed since the hose in contact with the beer did not impart any taste. The hose has been approved by headquarters and as far as I know, it is the only yeast pitching hose that can withstand autoclave, pressure and taste requirements.