Closing the contamination gaps in medical packaging

How MEDPETG 6763 helps Medipack AG become an integrated system supplier

The medical industry continues to demand higher standards of quality and regulatory compliance for medical device packaging. Any break from processing resin to the final sealed package creates an opportunity for contamination.

Swiss-based Medipack AG has applied decades of clean room thermoforming experience to raise the bar for rigid medical packaging by using Eastar™ 6763 copolyester in its patented sealed skin blister (SSB) packaging process.

The innovative technology of SSB and Eastar 6763—enabled by Medipack's class 7 and 8 ISO 14644-1 clean room thermoforming environments—lets Medipack offer a process-oriented quality assurance system that complies with ISO 9001: 2008 and ISO 13485: 2003 standards.

MEDPETG 6763 is the lifeblood of the system.

"Medipack AG began producing its own thermoformable films from Eastar 6763 in 2013," according to Georg Oesterreicher, Head of Development & Design at Medipack AG. "This control and system integration lets us stay ahead of evermore rigorous requirements for purity, production conditions, and traceability of raw materials."

The premium line of MEDPETG 6763 is made from 100% virgin material, with no reuse of edge trim or process-recovered scrap. Eastar 6763 is especially well-suited to high quality blister applications because of its unique combination of properties:

- Excellent clarity
- Excellent toughness
- Color and functional stability after gamma, e-beam, and EtO sterilization
- No dusting
- No stress whitening
- Good heat sealability

How Eastar 6763 fits within the MEDIPACK SSB process

To further improve quality and security, Medipack AG developed a unique kind of sealed skin blister packaging called MEDIPACK SSB. The patented process combines the best of conventional blister packaging and bag packaging. Advantages of the system include savings in package and tool design, and the product being held securely and aesthetically within the SSB packaging.

Medipack AG uses proprietary MEDPETG 6763 and its patented MEDIPACK SSB process to achieve reliable packaging and elegant device presentation.

The MEDIPACK SSB process creates a sealed skin blister in 2 steps:

Skinning—the product is inserted in the mold insert, and the prefabricated inlay is placed on the mold insert.

Sealing—with the product safely enclosed as a finished molded inlay, it is sealed.

By consciously specializing in Eastar PETG, removing outside sources, and automating key elements of the extrusion process, Medipack AG has been able to improve product quality and ensure no foreign particles are introduced into the system. The resulting advances in quality assurance and traceability helped Medipack AG win a prestigious innovation award in 2014.

Providing the benefits of a system supplier

By starting its own validated thermoform production of MEDPETG 6763 and patented SSB technology, Medipack AG is now a true system supplier for medical packaging—with its own development department, mold construction, and advanced clean room production and sealing technology. This lets customers get everything from one source.

"Advantages of this full-system approach go well beyond one-stop convenience," says Oesterreicher. "In today's highly regulated environment, this single-source approach eliminates potential sources for contamination. Production is traceable and complies with prescribed standards."

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About Eastman Chemical Company

Eastman is a global advanced materials and specialty additives company that produces a broad range of products found in items people use every day. With a portfolio of specialty businesses, Eastman works with customers to deliver innovative products and solutions while maintaining a commitment to safety and sustainability. Its market-driven approaches take advantage of world-class technology platforms and leading positions in attractive end-markets such as transportation, building and construction, and consumables. Eastman focuses on creating consistent, superior value for all stakeholders. As a globally diverse company, Eastman serves customers in more than 100 countries and had 2017 revenues of approximately $9.5 billion. The company is headquartered in Kingsport, Tennessee, USA, and employs approximately 14,500 people around the world.

For more information, visit www.eastman.com.

About Medipack AG

2017 celebrates 40 years of successful innovation for this family-owned company. Since 1977, Medipack AG has grown from a small production facility to a system supplier for medical packaging. It built its first class 100,000 certified clean room in 1993 and now provides materials, technology and support for blister packaging, sealing lids, MRP systems and bag packaging as well as packing tests and validation. Since introducing MEDPETG 6763 and the patented MEDIPACK SSB method, Medipack AG has grown PETG granule usage by more than 300% and has helped customers ensure beautiful, reliable packaging and regulatory compliance. Today, Medipack AG employs approximately 180 technical, development and support professionals and delivers high quality products around the world.

For more information, visit http://www.medipack.ch/page/medipack_ag.

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