



# Guide to significantly increase efficacy of maintenance in biotech plants

How the right gasket selection reduces maintenance related costs and efforts

30.06.2021

Flex-Pure™ EPDM: Increasing production uptime & reducing total cost of ownership

**Rubber Fab**

a Garlock Hygienic Technologies company

# Our Mission Together

## Our Mission Together:

- Partners with a high level of expertise
- Work closely together to serve verified market needs
- Serving special market needs

## Up to the challenge:

- Keeping up with the pace
- Reduce Waste, Smaller Footprint
- Safer Products and Production
- Less Maintenance



# Maintenance in Biotech plants

Industry trends



EXTENSIVE  
OUTSOURCING



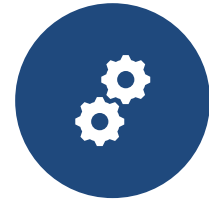
FOCUS  
ON PREDICTIVE  
AND RELIABILITY-  
BASED  
MAINTENANCE



FOCUS  
ON ADVANCED  
TECHNOLOGY, AUT  
OMATION, MOBILE  
TECHNOLOGY



ACQUIRING SKILL  
AND TECHNOLOGY  
TO IMPROVE  
SERVICE  
CAPABILITY



SINGLE USE AND  
CONTINUOUS  
MANUFACTURING

# Maintenance in Biotech plants

What does it take?



Five circular icons in dark blue with white symbols are arranged horizontally. From left to right: a rabbit (Speed), a clock (Efficiency), a stack of money (Cost Awareness), a magnifying glass (Inspection), and a document (Problem Prevention).

**SPEED**      **EFFICIENCY**      **COST AWARENESS**      **INSPECTION**      **PROBLEM PREVENTION**

**The Average Manufacturer Faces 800 Hours of Downtime Annually!**

# One Common Misconception

## Gasket Adhesion - And the impact on maintenance

- What cause a Gasket to adhere on a steel flange?
- Do all EPDM Compound Materials perform the same way?
- And what are the consequences for maintenance?

## Problems of surface adhesion

- Loss of surface pressure
- Swelling of the gasket
- Excessive cleaning



# One Common Misconception

What Causes Gasket Adhesion?

## Gasket Adhesion and the impact on maintenance

- Blooming / Compound - "sweating of gasket"
- Physical Properties
- Curing (Over and Under Curing)
- Wrong application
- Chemicals, Temperature or Sterilization



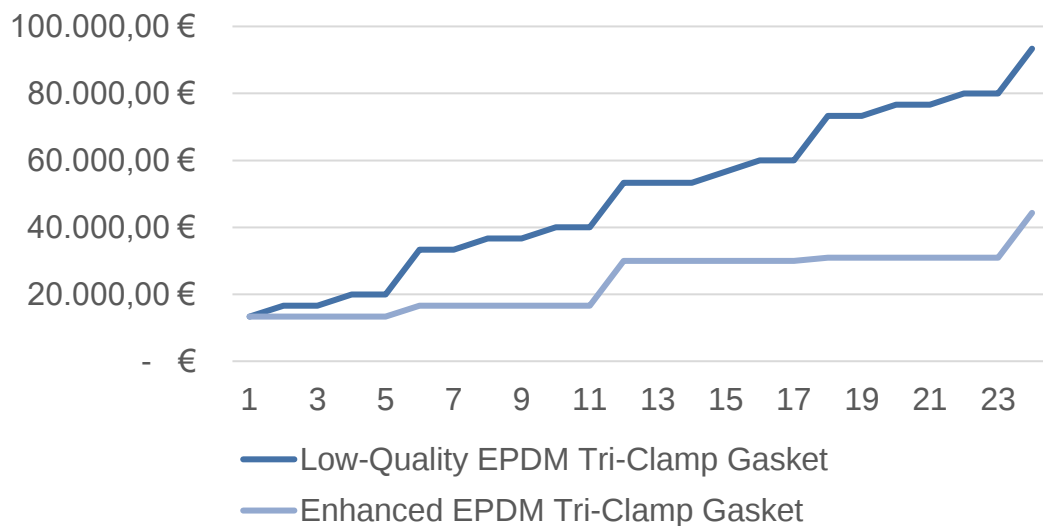
# Maintenance Cost

## Calculation of Installation Cost

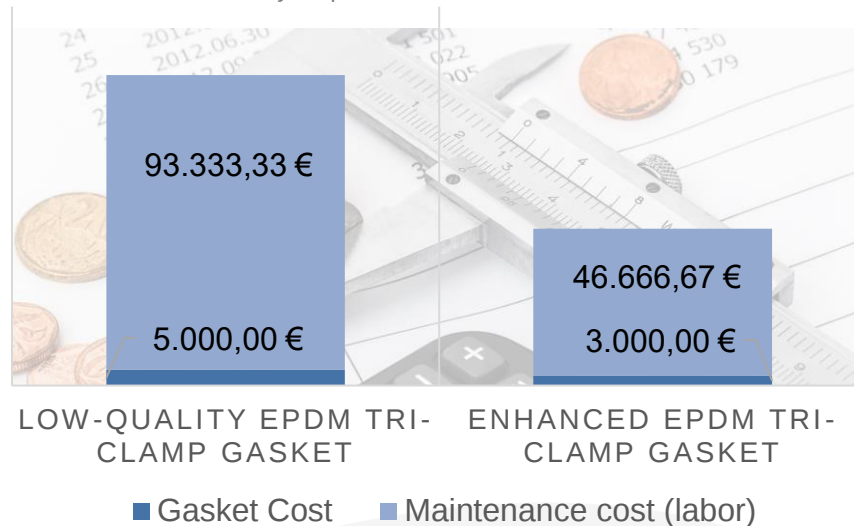
Maintenance time on hygienic connection

|                                               |              |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Number of connections in Biotech plant</b> | <b>1.000</b> |
| Average intallation time to replace a gasket  | 20 min       |
| Average time to re-torque a gasket            | 5 min        |

Maintenance costs over 2 year period



Estimated costs over 2 year period



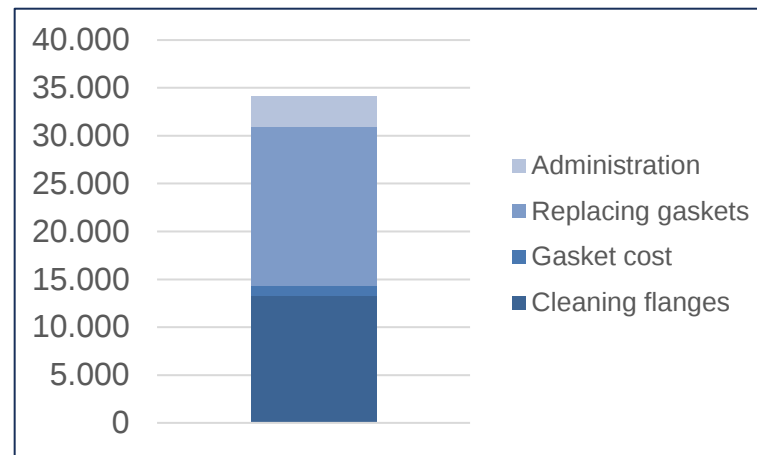
# Maintenance Cost

## Calculation of installation costs + Gaskets Sticking to Flanges

| Cleaning flanges                       | Value           |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Number of connections in Biotech plant | 1.000           |
| Number of flanges                      | 2.000           |
| Time to clean 1 flange                 | 10 min          |
| Time to clean 2.000 flanges            | 333h            |
| Labor costs                            | 40 €/h*         |
| <b>Overall Costs Cleaning Flanges</b>  | <b>13.320 €</b> |

\*Labor costs considering staff qualification according to UBS-research prices and loans

| Gasket replacement                            | Value           |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Number of connections in Biotech plant        | 1.000           |
| Purchase of new gaskets                       | 1.000 €         |
| Average intallation time to replace a gasket  | 20 min          |
| Average time to re-torque a gasket            | 5 min           |
| Time to replace & re-torque 1.000 connections | 417h            |
| Labor costs                                   | 40 €/h*         |
| <b>Overall Costs Gasket Replacement</b>       | <b>17.680 €</b> |



| Downtime                                        | Value        |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Inspection (2 FTEs)                             | 20 h         |
| Procurement/Project Management (2 FTEs)         | 15 h         |
| Cleaning Flanges / Gasket Replacement (10 FTEs) | 75 h         |
| Pressure tests + Passivation                    | 80 h         |
| <b>Overall downtime</b>                         | <b>190 h</b> |

# Maintenance Cost

Calculation of installation costs + Gaskets Sticking to Flanges + What else?



# There is a Better Way

## What if...

- You could reduce your maintenance efforts significantly by using biopharma grade gaskets, that do not stick to your stainless-steel flanges?
- By using these gaskets, you could eliminate the need of endlessly checking your sealing connections?
- Not only that, what if these high-purity gaskets could deliver a higher sealing performance, even in the most challenging hygienic applications?

For example:

- Steam-In-Place (SIP) and Cleaning-In-Place (CIP) media
- Temperature cycling, etc.



Temperature Range



Sterilization

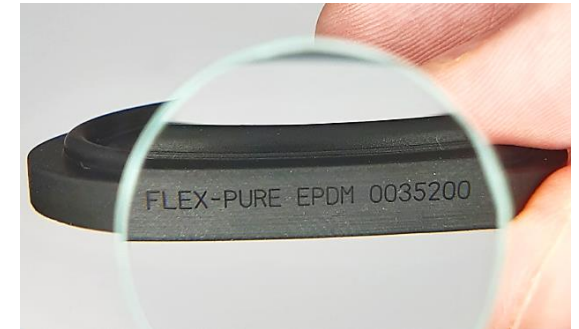


Safety Factor

# Our Solution – Flex-Pure™ EPDM

Gaskets for hygienic clamp connection (Tri-Clamp)

NEW  
PRODUCTS



# Our Solution – Flex-Pure™ EPDM

Gaskets for hygienic clamp connection (Tri-Clamp)

## Key Benefits

- Laser marked by default with Lot number and material name
- Full and Easy Traceability
- Highest Purity of Products – Peroxide Cured
- Suitable for SIP and CIP
- Good Steam Resistance - Very low swell and minimal loss of physical properties after repeated steam cycling
- Good Chemical Resistance - Very low swell and minimal loss of physical properties after long-term exposure to CIP media
- Clean and Easy Removal of gaskets - No sticking to the flanges
- Low Extractable values
- Excellent Dimensional Stability
- Very low Compression Set for best Sealing Performance

NEW  
PRODUCTS



# Our Solution - Flex-Pure™ EPDM

Gaskets for hygienic clamp connection (Tri-Clamp)

## Regulatory Compliance

- FDA 21 CFR177.2600 (Formulation review & Extraction testing)
- USP Class VI <87>, <88> 121°C (In-Vivo and In-Vitro Biocompatibility Testing)
- 3A Sanitary Standard 18-03 (Multiple-Use Rubber as Product Contact Surfaces in Dairy Equipment)
- EC1935/2004 (Food Contact Regulation)
- ADI (Animal Derived Ingredient) Free (EMEA 410/01)
- Manufactured in compliance with FDA 21CFR174.5 (cGMP)
- Manufactured in compliance with EC 2023/2006 (GMP)

FDA BfR

USP CLASS VI

3A

EC 1935/2004

ADI FREE

2023/2006 EC

**And more...**

# Our Solution - Flex-Pure™ EPDM

In-House Testing Capabilities



Chemical lab



Compound lab



Physical lab



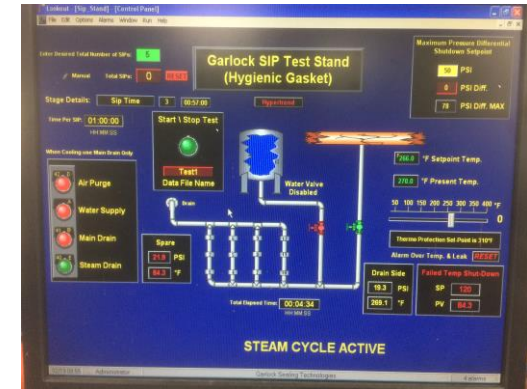
Functional lab

# Our Solution - Flex-Pure™ EPDM

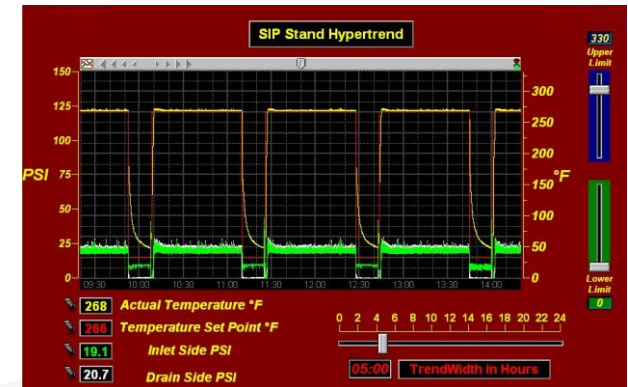
## Steam-In-Place Testing



Steam-In-Place test stand for hygienic gaskets



SIP (Hygienic Gaskets) Test Control Panel

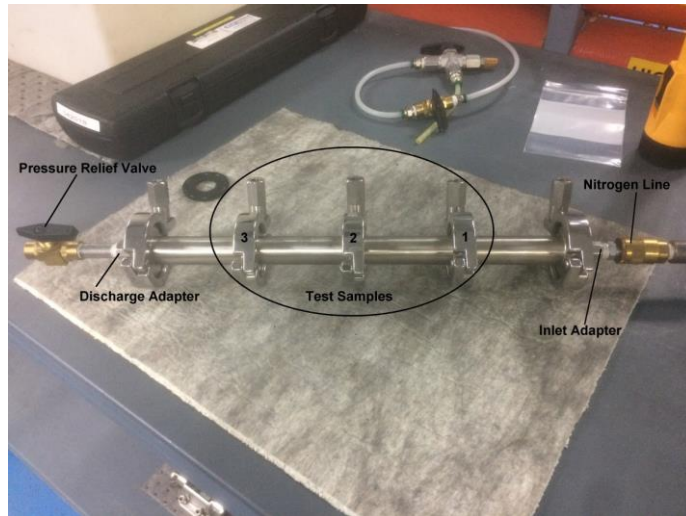


Plot of SIP (Hygienic Gaskets) Cycles in Series

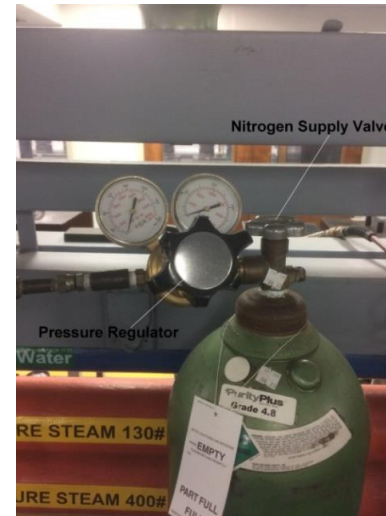
# Our Solution - Flex-Pure™ EPDM

## Steam-In-Place Testing

- Open nitrogen supply valve and set pressure regulator to 100 psi / 6,9 bar.
- Submerge test spool in water tank. Hold for 1 minute to test shell.



Pressure



## Acceptance Criteria:

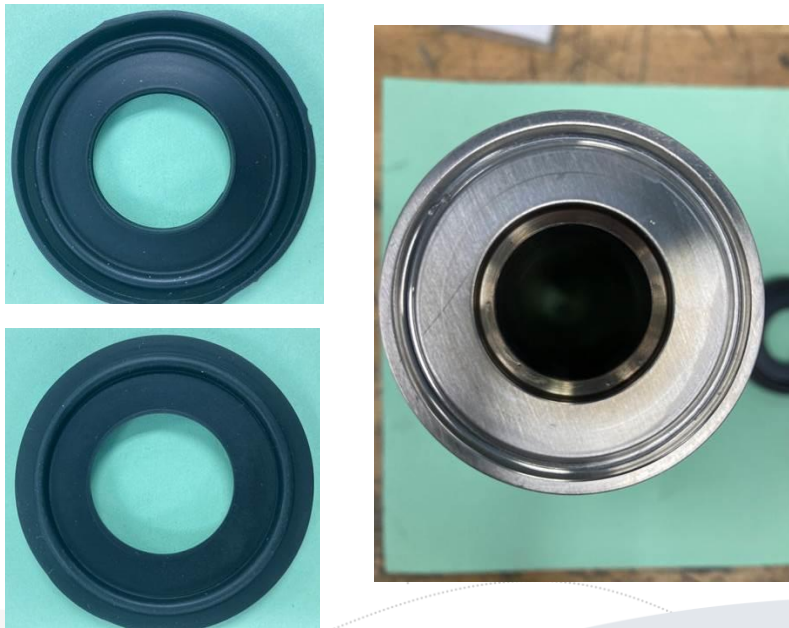
No bubbles are permitted to break the surface of the water when the spool is immersed in water.

# Our Solution - Flex-Pure™ EPDM

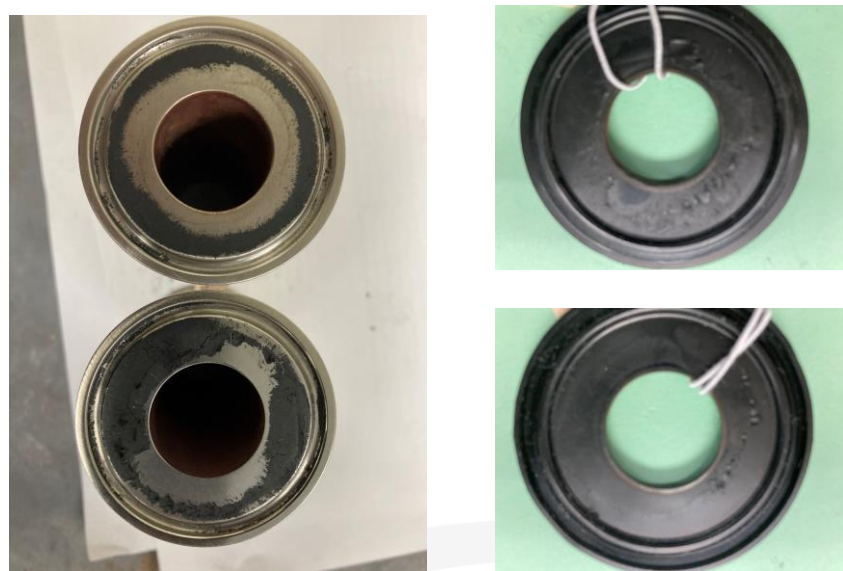
## Steam-In-Place Testing

- After exposure to 500 SIP cycles: Comparison of stainless-steel flanges after removal of EPDM gaskets

**Flex-Pure™ EPDM**



**EPDM-B**



# Our Solution - Flex-Pure™ EPDM

## Physical Property testing

| Physical Properties                     | Test method               | Flex-Pure™ EPDM            | EPDM - A           | EPDM - B           | EPDM - C          | EPDM - D           |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Hardness (Shore A)                      | ASTM D 2240               | <b>75 ±5</b>               | 76                 | 77                 | 71                | 77                 |
| Tensile Strength (MPa)                  | ISO 37 Type 1             | <b>19,5<br/>(2828 psi)</b> | 16,4<br>(2379 psi) | 12,9<br>(1880 psi) | 7,1<br>(1030 psi) | 16,2<br>(2350 psi) |
| Elongation (%)                          | ISO 37 Type 1             | <b>205</b>                 | 130                | 381                | 152               | 386                |
| Specific Gravity (g/cm³)                | ISO 2781 A                | <b>1,14</b>                | -                  | 1,29               | 1,07              | 1,11               |
| 100% Modulus (MPa)                      | ISO 37 Type 1             | <b>6,5<br/>(943 psi)</b>   | -                  | 3,4<br>(488 psi)   | 4,5<br>(652 psi)  | 4,2<br>(612 psi)   |
| Compression Set (%)<br>22 hours @ 100°C | ISO 815 /<br>ASTM D 395/B | <b>6</b>                   | -                  | -                  | -                 | -                  |
| Compression Set (%)<br>22 hours @ 150°C | ISO 815 /<br>ASTM D 395/B | <b>11,6</b>                | -                  | 25,7               | 13,6              | 13,6               |
| Compression Set (%)<br>48 hours @ 100°C | ASTM D 395/B              | -                          | 4,2                | -                  | -                 | -                  |
| Compression Set (%)<br>48 hours @ 150°C | ASTM D 395/B              | -                          | 10                 | -                  | -                 | -                  |

# Our Solution - Flex-Pure™ EPDM

## Steam Immersion Testing

- Steam Immersion Testing (or Steam Aging) is part of our Gate 1 Screening procedures, when developing and validating new compounds.
- Besides testing physical properties, we have performed extensive steam testing utilizing Parr bombs (pressure equipment) and glass tubes.
- EPDM materials are exposed to steam (liquid and gas phase) at 302°F(150°C) for duration of 70h. After exposure time, the key physical properties are measure again and a “before/after” comparison is made. The results are displayed on following slide.

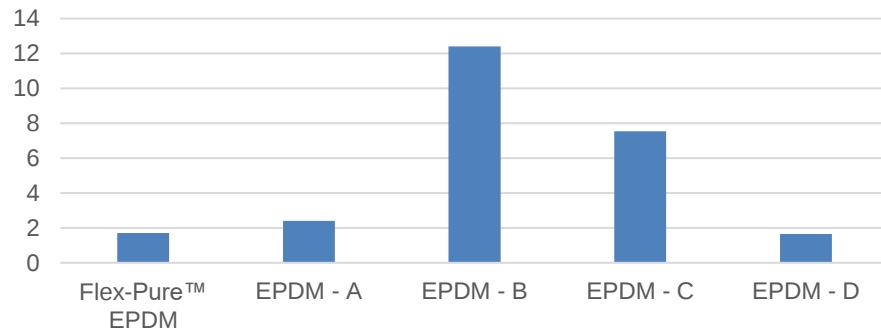


Picture Credit: Parr Instrument Company

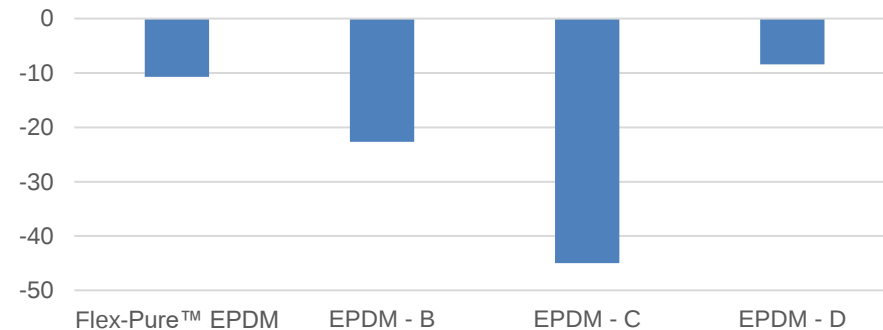
# Our Solution - Flex-Pure™ EPDM

## Steam Immersion Testing

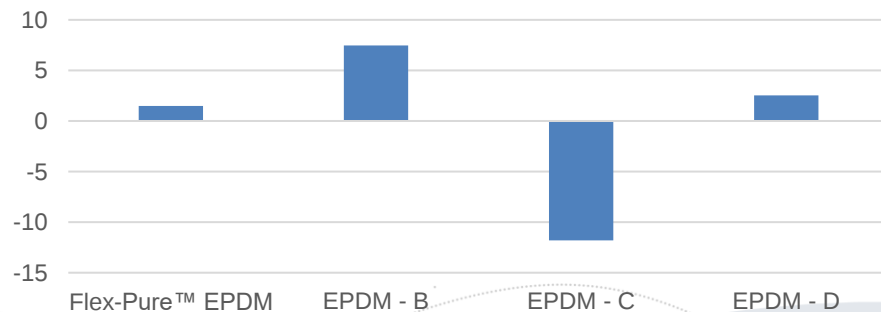
Change in Volume (70h at 302°F/150°C)



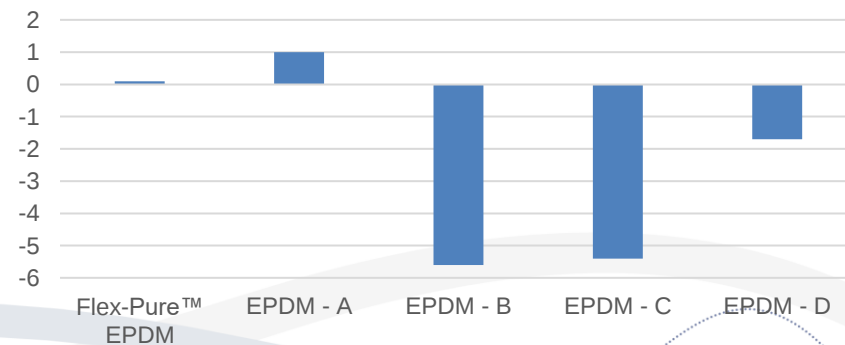
Change in Tensile Strength (70h at 302°F/150°C)



Change in Elongation (70h at 302°F/150°C)



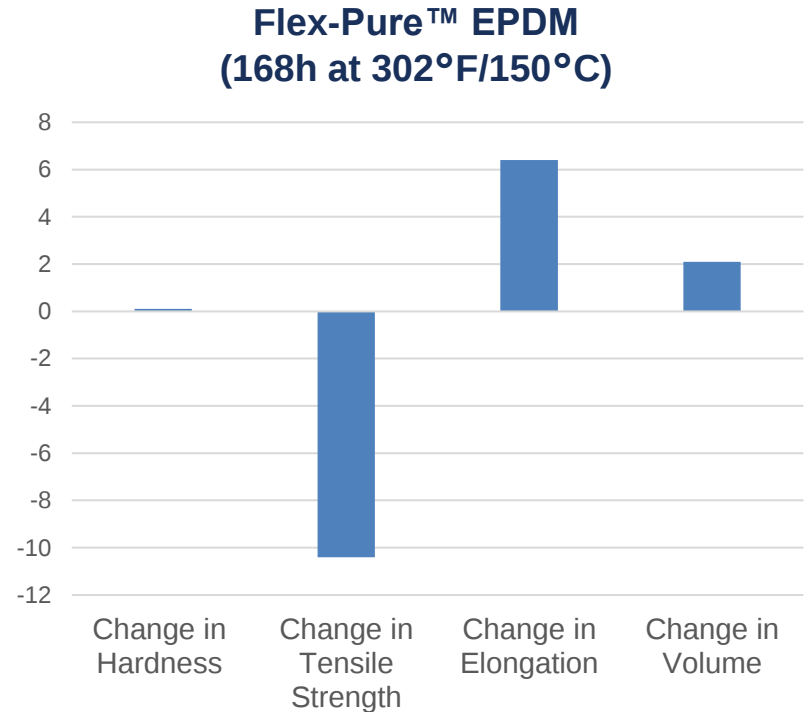
Change in Hardness (70h at 302°F/150°C)



# Our Solution - Flex-Pure™ EPDM

## Steam Immersion Testing

- Rubber Fab Flex-Pure™ EPDM shows best in class resistance to steam exposure (see previous slide)
- Even after prolonged exposure to steam (168h), our Flex-Pure™ EPDM shows only minimal change of physical properties.

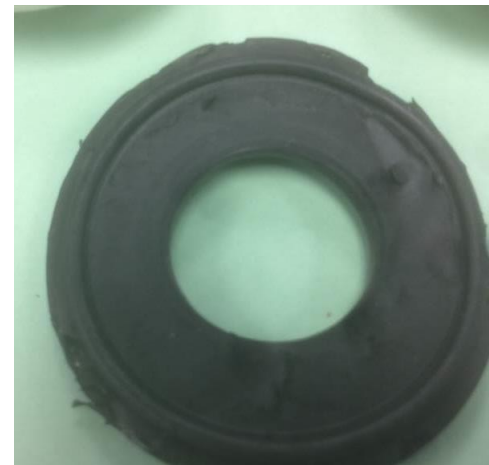
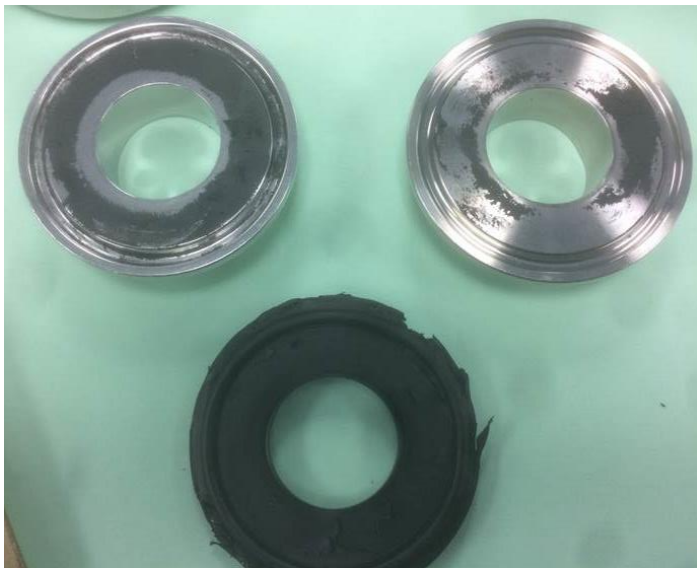


# Our Solution - Flex-Pure™ EPDM

Dry Heat - Surface Adhesion

EPDM gasket and stainless-steel flanges after exposure to dry heat  
(24h @ 130°C/266°F):

EPDM-B



# Our Solution - Flex-Pure™ EPDM

Dry Heat - Surface Adhesion

EPDM gasket and stainless-steel flanges after exposure to dry heat  
(24h @ 130°C/266°F):

**Flex-Pure™ EPDM**



# Our Solution - Flex-Pure™ EPDM

CIP Detergent (Alkaline and Acid) exposure testing

## Flex-Pure™ EPDM

| CIP 100®*<br>(4% by volume in de-ionized water) | Unit | 4 weeks at<br>60°C/140°F |
|-------------------------------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| Hardness Change                                 | IRHD | -0,9                     |
| Tensile Change                                  | %    | 1,9                      |
| Elongation Change                               | %    | -3,3                     |
| Volume Change                                   | %    | 0,53                     |

\* Based on potassium hydroxide. CIP 100® is a registered trademark of Steris Corporation.

| CIP 200®*<br>(4% by volume in de-ionized water) | Unit | 4 weeks at<br>60°C/140°F |
|-------------------------------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| Hardness Change                                 | IRHD | -1,8                     |
| Tensile Change                                  | %    | 2,7                      |
| Elongation Change                               | %    | -2,9                     |
| Volume Change                                   | %    | 0,61                     |

\* Based on phosphoric acid. CIP 200® is a registered trademark of Steris Corporation.

## EPDM-A

| CIP 100®<br>(4% by volume in de-ionized water) | Unit | 4 weeks at<br>60°C/140°F |
|------------------------------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| Hardness Change                                | IRHD | -2                       |
| Tensile Change                                 | %    | -9,7                     |
| Elongation Change                              | %    | -7                       |
| Volume Change                                  | %    | 2,6                      |

| CIP 200®<br>(4% by volume in de-ionized water) | Unit | 4 weeks at<br><b>20°C/68°F</b> |
|------------------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------|
| Hardness Change                                | IRHD | 0                              |
| Tensile Change                                 | %    | -24                            |
| Elongation Change                              | %    | -16                            |
| Volume Change                                  | %    | 0,1                            |

# Our Solution – Flex-Pure™ EPDM

Gaskets for hygienic clamp connection (Tri-Clamp)

## Key Benefits

- Laser marked by default with Lot number and material name
- Full and Easy Traceability
- Highest Purity of Products – Peroxide Cured
- Clean and Easy Removal of gaskets - No sticking to the flanges
- Suitable for SIP and CIP
- Good Steam Resistance - Very low swell and minimal loss of physical properties after repeated steam cycling
- Good Chemical Resistance - Very low swell and minimal loss of physical properties after long-term exposure to CIP media
- Low Extractable values
- Excellent Dimensional Stability
- Very low Compression Set for best Sealing Performance

NEW  
PRODUCTS



# Rubber Fab - Flex-Pure™ Gaskets

**Flex-Pure™** **NEW PRODUCTS**  
Silicone - Platinum cured  
Sanitary Tri-Clamp® gasket



**Flex-Pure™** **NEW PRODUCTS**  
EPDM - Peroxide-cured  
Sanitary Tri-Clamp® gasket



**Flex-Pure™** **NEW PRODUCTS**  
FKM - Peroxide cured  
Sanitary Tri-Clamp® gasket



# Thank you for your attention!

Do you have any questions?

Get in touch with our team!



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