
Pen systems —

Part 3:

Seals for pen-injectors for medical use

Systèmes de stylos-injecteurs —

Partie 3: Joints pour stylos-injecteurs à usage médical

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 76, *Transfusion, infusion and injection, and blood processing equipment for medical and pharmaceutical use*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 13926-3:2012), which has been technically revised. The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- extension of the nature of cap in [7.1](#);
- deletion of one reference to a minimum requirement in [8.1](#);
- change of the reference in [8.2.2](#) to a needle for medical use;
- complete editorial revision.

A list of all parts in the ISO 13926 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Primary packaging components made of elastomeric materials are an integral part of medicinal products. As such, the principles of current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) are applicable to the manufacturing of these components.

Principles of cGMP are described, for example, in ISO 15378.

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Pen systems —

Part 3: Seals for pen-injectors for medical use

1 Scope

This document specifies the shape, dimensions, material, performance requirements and labelling of seals for pen-injectors for medical use.

NOTE The potency, purity, stability and safety of a medicinal product during its manufacture and storage can be significantly affected by the nature and performance of the primary packaging.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3302 (all parts), *Rubber — Tolerances for products*

ISO 48-4, *Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Determination of hardness — Part 4: Indentation hardness by durometer method (Shore hardness)*

ISO 7864, *Sterile hypodermic needles for single use — Requirements and test methods*

ISO 8871-1, *Elastomeric parts for parenterals and for devices for pharmaceutical use — Part 1: Extractables in aqueous autoclavates*

ISO 8871-4, *Elastomeric parts for parenterals and for devices for pharmaceutical use — Part 4: Biological requirements and test methods*

ISO 8871-5:2016, *Elastomeric parts for parenterals and for devices for pharmaceutical use — Part 5: Functional requirements and testing*

ISO 8872, *Aluminium caps for transfusion, infusion and injection bottles — General requirements and test methods*

ISO 11608-3, *Needle-based injection systems for medical use — Requirements and test methods — Part 3: Finished containers*

ISO 13926-1, *Pen systems — Part 1: Glass cylinders for pen-injectors for medical use*

ISO 13926-2, *Pen systems — Part 2: Plunger stoppers for pen-injectors for medical use*

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

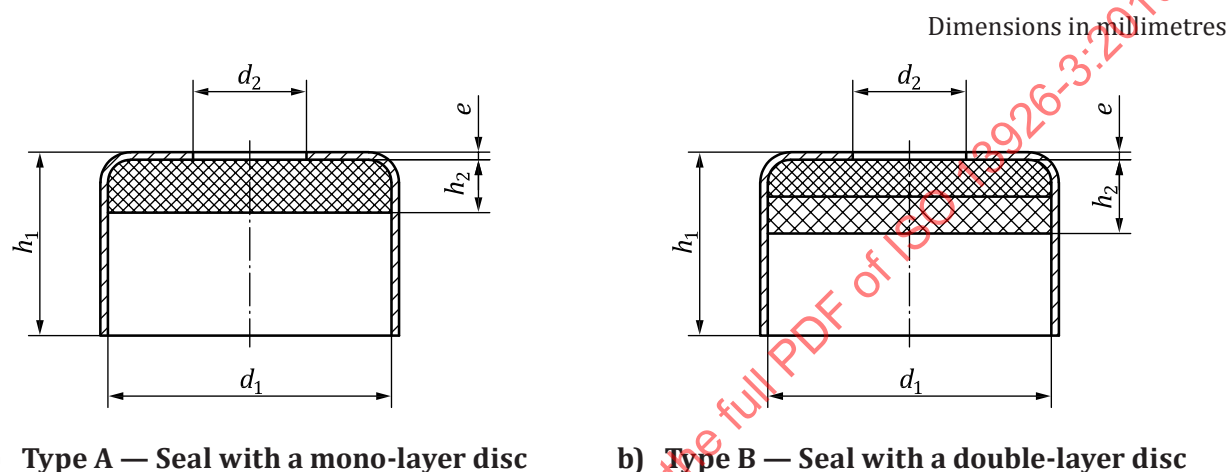
4 Classification

Seals shall be classified as follows:

- type A: seals with a mono-layer disc;
- type B: seals with a double-layer disc.

5 Shape and dimensions

5.1 The shapes and dimensions of seals shall be as shown in [Figure 1](#) and as given in [Table 1](#).



Key

- h_1 total cap height
 h_2 thickness of disc
 d_1 inner cap diameter
 d_2 bore diameter
 e aluminium shell thickness

Figure 1 — Shape and dimensions of seals for pen-injectors for medical use

Table 1 — Dimensions of seals

Dimensions in millimetres

Nominal size	Type	Total cap height ^a	Thickness of disc	Inner cap diameter	Bore diameter	Thickness of aluminium ^b	
		h_1 $\pm 0,15$	h_2 $\pm 0,15$	d_1 $\pm 0,05$	d_2 $\pm 0,2$	e min	max
7,5	A	4,85 to 4,9	1,3 to 1,5	7,5	3,0	0,15	0,25
7,5	B	4,85 to 5,3	1,45 to 1,95	7,5	3,0		

^a The height of the seal depends on the thickness and hardness of the disc.
^b The thickness of aluminium shall be agreed upon between the manufacturer and the user. It shall not differ from the nominal value by more than $\pm 0,02$ mm. The extreme limits are given without tolerance.

5.2 For type B seals, both single layers shall be continuous. The ratio of thickness of the single layers shall be agreed upon between the supplier and the user.

5.3 The diameter of the rubber discs shall be such that a sufficient press-fit in the aluminium cap is achieved and that the discs cannot fall out.

5.4 If not otherwise specified, general dimensional tolerances shall be in accordance with the ISO 3302 series.

5.5 The surface of the discs can be structured in order to avoid sticking.

6 Designation

Seals can be designated according to their type (see [Clause 4](#) and [Figure 1](#)). The designation shall be expressed as the word “Seal”, followed by a reference to this document, followed by the nominal size, followed by the type letter.

EXAMPLE Designation of a seal type A (mono-layer disc) for a nominal head size of the cartridge of 7,5 mm complying with the requirements in this document:

Seal ISO 13926-3 - 7,5 - A

7 Material

7.1 Cap

General requirements for aluminium caps shall be in accordance with ISO 8872.

In addition, the cap shall be anodized or suitably coated, e.g. with a lacquer.

7.2 Disc

Discs shall be made from the elastomeric formulation originally tested and approved by the end user. The manufacturer of the discs shall ensure conformance of each delivery with the type sample and compliance with previously agreed functional and compendial requirements.

The elastomeric material shall withstand two sterilization cycles when autoclaving in saturated steam at $(121 \pm 2) ^\circ\text{C}$ for 30 min without impairment of its function under the conditions of normal use. In case of other sterilization methods, e.g. irradiation, the suitability of the material shall be evaluated.

8 Requirements

8.1 General

The requirements specified in [8.2](#) and [8.3](#) represent the minimum for the condition of the seals on receipt by the user.

8.2 Physical requirements

8.2.1 Hardness of the disc

The hardness agreed between the manufacturer and the user shall not differ from the nominal value by more than ± 5 Shore A when tested in accordance with ISO 48-4 on a special test specimen. Alternatively, the hardness can be tested on the discs according to ISO 48-2. If tested according to ISO 48-2, the micro-hardness shall not differ by more than ± 5 IRHD from the type sample.

The manufacturer should provide suitable test specimens upon request.

8.2.2 Fragmentation

The requirements and test method specified in ISO 8871-5:2016, 4.2, shall apply, using a needle with an outer diameter of 0,34 mm (29G), conforming to ISO 7864. See [Figure 2](#).

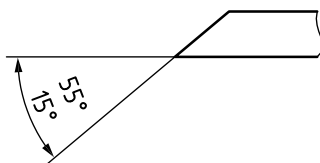


Figure 2 — Schematic representation of butt-end angle

8.2.3 Freedom from leakage

The cartridge shall be free from leakage at the seal when tested in accordance with [Annex A](#).

8.2.4 Resealability

ISO 11608-3 shall apply.

8.2.5 Resistance to ageing

The maximum time between the date of manufacture and the pharmaceutical use should be agreed upon between the manufacturer of the seals and the user.

The seals shall maintain their performance characteristics throughout the entire shelf-life of the medicinal product, which is tested as part of the stability test by the user.

NOTE Ageing depends on the storage and handling conditions. A guide to storing vulcanized rubber is given in ISO 2230.

8.3 Chemical requirements

The requirements in ISO 8871-1 shall apply for the disc.

8.4 Biological requirements

The requirements in ISO 8871-4 shall apply.

Toxicity tests apply to the disc only.

9 Labelling

Packed seals which meet the requirements of this document can be labelled with the designation given in [Clause 6](#).

Annex A (normative)

Leakage test

A.1 Principle

Water-filled cartridges are prepared, using the seals to be tested. By means of a suitable device, a force is applied to the seal during a defined time interval. Any observed leakage is recorded.

The leakage test of the seals and the plunger stoppers (see ISO 13926-2) can be combined.

A.2 Apparatus

A.2.1 Cartridge cylinders with a silicone-treated inner surface in accordance with ISO 13926-1.

A.2.2 Seals to be tested.

A.2.3 Plunger stoppers in accordance with ISO 13926-2.

A.2.4 Suitable equipment to prepare water-filled cartridges.

A.2.5 Cartridge holder, for example, as described in ISO 11608-3.

A.2.6 Device, capable of applying a force as calculated in accordance with [A.3.2](#).

A.3 Procedure

A.3.1 Take 10 cartridges and fill them, using the seals to be tested, with water that is as air-free as possible.

NOTE The water can be replaced by a coloured solution in order to improve the visibility of the leakage.

A.3.2 Place the first cartridge, mounted in the cartridge holder ([A.2.5](#)), into the pressurizing device ([A.2.6](#)), and apply a force, F , as calculated in accordance with [Formula \(A.1\)](#) for 1 min.

$$F = 0,64 \text{ N/mm}^2 \cdot d^2 \quad (\text{A.1})$$

where

F is the force to be applied, in newtons;

d is the inner diameter of the glass cylinder, in millimetres, in accordance with ISO 13926-1 (in ISO 13926-1, the inner diameter of the glass cylinder is designated d_2).

Check for leakage at the seal.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS — Adequate safety measures should be in place to protect the operator.

A.3.3 Repeat the operation described in [A.3.2](#) on the remaining cartridges.