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Cambridge Polymer Group

CPG Announces the Opening of a New West Coast Office

CPG is excited to announce the opening of its new West Coast office in Oakland Ca. While CPG's headquarters will remain in Boston Ma, the addition of a West Coast office will strengthen existing client relationships and expand opportunities to reach prospective clients in the West. Heading up the operation is Ayyana Ayyana Chakravartula



Testing of Woven Materials

Woven structures are increasingly making their way into medical devices. Ligament and tendon replacements, surgical mesh for hernias, vascular grafts, and composite structures all make use of weaving technology using polymeric fibers.

Proper characterization of the woven system can help ensure it will be the load requirements of the final application. Common testing, beyond biocompatibility, including characteristics of the mesh architecture itself, such as mesh thickness, pore size, mesh density, and characteristics of the weave. Mechanical testing includes tensile, tear, stiffness, burst strength, and suture pull out resistance. For newer polymer systems, elution characteristics of the polymer may necessary, along with an assessment of the response of the material to the environment in which it is placed (e.g. gastric, blood, fat, etc.). While similar to basic polymer testing, the macrostructure of these devices requires some modification to standard mechanical tests. Contact Cambridge Polymer Group for assistance in your woven material testing.

Are There Plasticizers in My Duck



Plasticizers are typically added to polymers (especially PVC) to increase material flexibility. Such materials are found in a broad range of applications, such as construction materials, cosmetics, medical devices, children's toys. The type and percent content of plasticizer directly affects the material's mechanical properties.

However, substantial concerns have been raised over the safety of some plasticizers. Several ortho-phthalates, for example, have been classified as potential endocrine disruptors that may cause developmental toxicity. Other concerns have been raised about possible carcinogenicity and the effects of plasticizers on the environment.

Because of the possibility that such plasticizers may leech out of a given material, the use of some plasticizers has

been restricted or banned in cosmetics, medical devices, and children's toys within the EU and the state of California.

CPG has developed chemical assays based on gas chromatography with mass spectroscopy (GC-MS) to identify and quantify plasticizers in plastics. Companies who purchased plasticized plastics from third party vendors are increasingly using these types of assays to verify that their materials comply with state and federal regulations.

A more detailed white paper on this assay can be found on CPG's [web site](#).

Cambridge Polymer Group, Inc. is an ISO 9001:2008 certified contract research laboratory specializing in polymeric materials. We provide routine analytical testing on materials, custom test design, failure analysis, consultation, instrumentation, custom polymer and hydrogel formulation, and out-sourced research.

Cambridge Polymer Group
56 Roland Street, Suite 310
Boston, MA 02129
617.629.4400 (office)
617.629.9100 (fax)
info@campoly.com
www.campoly.com

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