

Elastomer Components

Case Study

Manufacturing Expertise Helps Resolve Issue of Stoppers Sticking



The Situation

When a large generics manufacturer noticed issues of coring and sticking with PTFE-coated stoppers, they chose a different option. While the new stoppers offered cost savings, issues with the stoppers sticking together on the manufacturing line persisted. In addition, the company now had issues with extractables finding their way into the drug product – putting patient safety at risk.

The Challenge

The company turned to West for help, seeking a qualified stopper for the drug product that would eliminate the extractables issue. West's PTFE-coated 13 and 20mm stoppers fit the bill, but the sticking issue on the manufacturing line continued to pose a challenge. A team was formed to help the generics company overcome the manufacturing issues, and members from West's engineering and analytical laboratory teams were brought onsite to evaluate the company's manufacturing operations, as well as the onsite steam sterilization process.

The Solution

Working together, the team was able to find process gaps and fine-tune operations, which helped to eliminate the sticking. Thanks to the PTFE-coating, the West stoppers helped to eliminate the extractables issue. Through expertise and high-quality component options, West was able to help its customer, resulting in cost savings for the company through a reduction in operational issues, and enhanced safety for patients.