



United States Pharmacopoeia Plastics Designations



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"It's more than another company website, its a resource centre for the whole polymer industry"
David Eldridge - PRW

What is USP Class VI?

The United States Pharmacopoeia (USP) is an independent organisation that established a set of standards to ensure the quality of medicines and health care technologies. Many device manufacturers continue to use the USP Class VI test to determine biocompatibility though ISO 10993 is superseding USP as the reference standard in measuring material biocompatibility. USP protocols are used to classify plastics in Classes I - VI, based on end use, type and time of exposure of human tissue to plastics, of which Class VI requires the most stringent testing of all the six classes.

- Systemic toxicity tests are used to determine the irritant effect of toxic leachables present in extracts of test materials.
- Intracutaneous tests are used to assess the localised reaction of tissue to leachable substances.
- Implantation tests are used to evaluate the reaction of living tissue to the plastic.

