



PC02 - Quality Incident Protection

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)



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PCO2 - Quality Incident Protection Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

What is a PCO2?

The PCO2 is a static adsorption bed constructed from specially selected adsorbents to remove trace contamination from CO₂. It is designed as a **quality incident protection device** (i.e. it will treat 'out-of-specification' CO₂ to return it back to specification (within the limits of the specification)).

The PCO2 is not designed to constantly purify poor quality CO₂; i.e. not allowing the beverage producer to lower the incoming CO₂ specification.

Why do I need a PCO2?

CO₂ is produced from a wide variety of processes with differing contaminants. Some of these remain in the gas after treatment at the gas recovery plant. There have been some publicised incidents where poor quality gas passed all the way through the supply chain and into the beverage. To prevent a repeat occurrence of these **quality incidents**, the bottlers are starting to fit in-line, on-site protection, in addition to tightening controls at the CO₂ suppliers.

What is a quality incident?

This is where a delivery of out-of-specification CO₂ has been made to the plant or where CO₂ has been contaminated on-site during the production process.

What is the specification for beverage CO₂?

ISBT (International Society of Beverage Technologists) & **EIGA** (European Industrial Gas Association) both have International recommended standards. In these standards, Potential Contaminants are named with a Critical PPM limit of acceptance.

Total Volatile Hydrocarbons (as Methane)

Total Aromatic Hydrocarbon

Acetaldehyde

Total Sulphur (excluding SO₂, as S)

When is the 6th Stage Sterile Gas Filter Required?

A 6th Stage HIGHFLOW TETPOR II Sterile Gas filter should be installed at point of use when -

- **Source of CO₂ is unknown.**
- **CO₂ has been produced from a fermentation process.**
- **When live bacteria and other micro-organisms are known to exist.**

How much contamination will the PCO2 protect against?

The PCO2 purifier will treat CO₂ with up to **10 times** the ISBT / EIGA levels of the named contaminants for a specified quantity of processed CO₂ gas.

How do I know when we have had a quality incident?

Many plants will find this very hard to observe if they do not have a CO₂ analyser or gas inspection process on site. Most plants take the QA certificate from the gas supplier as their goods inwards inspection. To improve monitoring of gas quality, several plants are starting to purchase on-line CO₂ analysers in addition to purifiers.

What can I expect to see when plants have analysers fitted?

In the most cases, the gas will be clean and have very low levels on monitored contaminants. Under these conditions there will be very little difference between inlet and outlet concentrations. In the event of a contamination spike, the purifier will remove it.

Should I change my elements after a Quality Incident?

Yes, always.

Who needs a PCO2?

All producers and bottlers of beverage products:-

- **Soft drinks**
- **Beer**
- **Carbonated water**

How does the PCO2 work?

The three layered adsorbent bed adsorbs contamination as it flows through. The three materials preferentially adsorb differing contaminants thus providing effective protection against a wide spectrum of potential contaminants.

Can the cartridges be regenerated?

No, although some companies may claim to be able to recover adsorbents and regenerate them, we are trying to remove contaminants to parts per billion levels and any trace residues may inhibit future performance. Additionally, many industrial processes for regenerating adsorbents may actually add contamination to the PCO2 cartridges.

Where should I install the PCO2?

The purifier treats vapour phase CO₂, so it has to be installed downstream of the vaporiser (evaporator), with a maximum approach temperature of 40°C.

Some plants have installed the purifiers close to the carbonator, while others have chosen a central point close to the evaporator for complete site treatment. The Parker domnick hunter PCO2 is suitable for either option.

The PCO2 is also suitable for external installation.

Is the PCO2 designed for gas or liquid CO2?

Gaseous CO₂ only.

What happens if liquid CO2 enters the PCO2?

Liquid CO₂ (which can be as cold as -78°C) boils off rapidly on contact with the aluminium surfaces and then the vapour passes at great speed through the adsorbent bed. Condensation, even ice, may appear on the exterior surfaces of the PCO2. The internal rubber seals and inlet filter may become damaged due to the intense cold.

Always service the purifier, replace cartridges, filters and seals immediately.

How should I size the PCO2?

The plant operators need to identify their **peak** demand for CO₂ (typically the capacity of the evaporator). This is usually measured in lbs/hr or kgs/hr as all bulk CO₂ deliveries are ordered by mass. This is the figure to use when selecting a PCO2 purifier unit.

What are the risks of installing Non Genuine Parker cartridges and elements?

The use of Parker genuine parts is essential in minimising risk. Genuine Parker elements and cartridges are specially designed and tested to operate to the maximum quality standards of the original design build. Counterfeit parts are typically substandard and manufactured from poor quality non-conforming materials. Failure to use genuine Parker parts may result in:

- Increased contamination in process streams
- Spoilage and potential recall
- Compromised consumer safety
- Audit failure
- Voided warranty
- Manufacturing Downtime

Parker cannot provide support for non-original manufactured parts used with our PCO2 systems and is not responsible for loss of revenue or quality concerns resulting from non-compliance.

Can I over-size the PCO2 and extend the working life?

NO. The people asking this question usually have

no on-site CO₂ contamination monitoring and want to reduce their running costs. The PCO2 is an insurance against the occurrence of quality incidents and therefore has to be properly maintained in order to be effective. Additionally, the cost of an 8000 lb/hr service kit is twice that of the 4000 lb/hr kit offering no cost saving.

How do I change adsorbent cartridges?

Simple - remove the top manifold, exchange the pre-charged cartridges, and replace the top manifold. Full details can be found in the User Guide.

When do I change adsorbent cartridges?

PCO2 Mark 1 units supplied before July 2019, **every 6 months**, or after a **'quality incident'**, whichever comes first. For Next Generation units supplied after July 2019, adsorbent cartridges will require exchange after a **maximum of 12 months'** usage or after a **'quality incident'**, whichever comes first.

When do I change filter elements cartridges?

For PCO2 Mark 1 units, every **6 months**. For Next Generation units, it is recommended that filter exchange is undertaken every **12 months**.

It is advised that the filter cartridges are changed during the same planned maintenance schedule that the adsorbent cartridges are replaced. Replacing the cartridges during the same period will reduce downtime and the amount of time that the PCO2 system is exposed to atmosphere and potential contamination.

What is the shelf life of un-used replacement cartridges?

Currently 2 years in original packaging (a heavy gauge laminated plastic bag). A label indicates manufacturing date.

What filtration should I use?

HIGH FLOW TETPOR II sterile gas membrane filters should be used to ensure sterility of the gas and protect finished product quality. The HIGH FLOW TETPOR II is validated as a 0.2 micron sterilizing grade filter in liquids through ASTM F838-05 and 0.01 micron in gas through full retention to an aerosol challenge of MS2 phage. This ensures the filter will guarantee the sterility of your process in the worst-case scenario where the filter may be subjected to bulk liquid due to a process problem.

Is PCO2 FDA approved?

Materials of construction have independent verifications to comply with FDA Code of Federal Regulations title 21 CFR.

What is the approval status of PCO2?

All models of the PCO2 system meet full CE approval including accreditation to the European Pressure Equipment Directive (PED). The USA does not require pressure vessel approvals.

Parker Worldwide

Europe, Middle East, Africa

AE – United Arab Emirates,
Dubai

Tel: +971 4 8127100
parker.me@parker.com

AT – Austria, Wiener Neustadt

Tel: +43 (0)2622 23501-0
parker.austria@parker.com

AT – Eastern Europe, Wiener
Neustadt

Tel: +43 (0)2622 23501 900
parker.easteurope@parker.com

AZ – Azerbaijan, Baku

Tel: +994 50 2233 458
parker.azerbaijan@parker.com

BE/LU – Belgium, Nivelles

Tel: +32 (0)67 280 900
parker.belgium@parker.com

BG – Bulgaria, Sofia

Tel: +359 2 980 1344
parker.bulgaria@parker.com

BY – Belarus, Minsk

Tel: +48 (0)22 573 24 00
parker.poland@parker.com

CH – Switzerland, Etoy

Tel: +41 (0)21 821 87 00
parker.switzerland@parker.com

CZ – Czech Republic, Klecany

Tel: +420 284 083 111
parker.czechrepublic@parker.com

DE – Germany, Kaarst

Tel: +49 (0)2131 4016 0
parker.germany@parker.com

DK – Denmark, Ballerup

Tel: +45 43 56 04 00
parker.denmark@parker.com

ES – Spain, Madrid

Tel: +34 902 330 001
parker.spain@parker.com

FI – Finland, Vantaa

Tel: +358 (0)20 753 2500
parker.finland@parker.com

FR – France, Contamine s/Arve

Tel: +33 (0)4 50 25 80 25
parker.france@parker.com

GR – Greece, Athens

Tel: +30 210 933 6450
parker.greece@parker.com

HU – Hungary, Budaörs

Tel: +36 23 885 470
parker.hungary@parker.com

IE – Ireland, Dublin

Tel: +353 (0)1 466 6370
parker.ireland@parker.com

IL – Israel

Tel: +39 02 45 19 21
parker.israel@parker.com

IT – Italy, Corsico (MI)

Tel: +39 02 45 19 21
parker.italy@parker.com

KZ – Kazakhstan, Almaty

Tel: +7 7273 561 000
parker.easteurope@parker.com

NL – The Netherlands, Oldenzaal

Tel: +31 (0)541 585 000
parker.nl@parker.com

NO – Norway, Asker

Tel: +47 66 75 34 00
parker.norway@parker.com

PL – Poland, Warsaw

Tel: +48 (0)22 573 24 00
parker.poland@parker.com

PT – Portugal

Tel: +351 22 999 7360
parker.portugal@parker.com

RO – Romania, Bucharest

Tel: +40 21 252 1382
parker.romania@parker.com

RU – Russia, Moscow

Tel: +7 495 645-2156
parker.russia@parker.com

SE – Sweden, Spånga

Tel: +46 (0)8 59 79 50 00
parker.sweden@parker.com

SK – Slovakia, Banská Bystrica

Tel: +421 484 162 252
parker.slovakia@parker.com

SL – Slovenia, Novo Mesto

Tel: +386 7 337 6650
parker.slovenia@parker.com

TR – Turkey, Istanbul

Tel: +90 216 4997081
parker.turkey@parker.com

UA – Ukraine, Kiev

Tel: +48 (0)22 573 24 00
parker.poland@parker.com

UK – United Kingdom, Warwick

Tel: +44 (0)1926 317 878
parker.uk@parker.com

ZA – South Africa, Kempton Park

Tel: +27 (0)11 961 0700
parker.southafrica@parker.com

North America

CA – Canada, Milton, Ontario

Tel: +1 905 693 3000

US – USA, Cleveland

Tel: +1 216 896 3000

Asia Pacific

AU – Australia, Castle Hill

Tel: +61 (0)2-9634 7777

CN – China, Shanghai

Tel: +86 21 2899 5000

HK – Hong Kong

Tel: +852 2428 8008

IN – India, Mumbai

Tel: +91 22 6513 7081-85

JP – Japan, Tokyo

Tel: +81 (0)3 6408 3901

KR – South Korea, Seoul

Tel: +82 2 559 0400

MY – Malaysia, Shah Alam

Tel: +60 3 7849 0800

NZ – New Zealand, Mt Wellington

Tel: +64 9 574 1744

SG – Singapore

Tel: +65 6887 6300

TH – Thailand, Bangkok

Tel: +662 186 7000

TW – Taiwan, Taipei

Tel: +886 2 2298 8987

South America

AR – Argentina, Buenos Aires

Tel: +54 3327 44 4129

BR – Brazil, Sao Jose dos Campos

Tel: +55 800 727 5374

CL – Chile, Santiago

Tel: +56 2 623 1216

MX – Mexico, Toluca

Tel: +52 72 2275 4200

EMEA Product Information Centre

Free phone: 00 800 27 27 5374

(from AT, BE, CH, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, IE, IL, IS, IT, LU, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RU, SE, SK, UK, ZA)

US Product Information Centre

Toll-free number: 1-800-27 27 537

www.parker.com/gsf

