



Figure 2.9.4.-5. – Cylinder stirring element
Dimensions in centimetres

the patch and place the adhesive side on a piece of suitable inert porous membrane that is at least 1 cm larger on all sides than the patch. Place the patch on a clean surface with the membrane in contact with this surface. Two systems for adhesion to the *cylinder* may be used:

- apply a suitable adhesive to the exposed membrane borders and, if necessary, to the back of the patch,
- apply a double-sided adhesive tape to the external wall of the *cylinder*.

Using gentle pressure, carefully apply the non-adhesive side of the patch to the *cylinder*, so that the release surface is in contact with the dissolution medium and the long axis of the patch fits around the circumference of the *cylinder*.

The system for adhesion used is previously tested for absence of interference with the assay and of adsorption of the active ingredient(s).

Place the *cylinder* in the apparatus, and immediately rotate the *cylinder* at 100 r/min, for example. At determined intervals, withdraw a sample of dissolution medium from a zone midway between the surface of the dissolution medium and the top of the rotating *cylinder*, and not less than 1 cm from the vessel wall.

Perform the assay on each sample as directed in the individual monograph, correcting for any volume withdrawn, as necessary. Repeat the test with additional patches.

Interpretation. The requirements are met if the quantity of active ingredient(s) released from the patch, expressed as the amount per surface area per time unit, is within the prescribed limits at the defined sampling times.



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2.9.5. UNIFORMITY OF MASS OF SINGLE-DOSE PREPARATIONS

Weigh individually 20 units taken at random or, for single-dose preparations presented in individual containers, the contents of 20 units, and determine the average mass. Not more than 2 of the individual masses deviate from the average mass by more than the percentage deviation shown in Table 2.9.5.-1 and none deviates by more than twice that percentage.

For capsules and powders for parenteral administration, proceed as described below.

CAPSULES

Weigh an intact capsule. Open the capsule without losing any part of the shell and remove the contents as completely as possible. For soft shell capsules, wash the shell with a suitable solvent and allow to stand until the odour of the solvent is no longer perceptible. Weigh the shell. The mass of the contents is the difference between the weighings. Repeat the procedure with another 19 capsules.

Table 2.9.5.-1

Pharmaceutical Form	Average Mass	Percentage deviation
Tablets (uncoated and film-coated)	80 mg or less	10
	More than 80 mg and less than 250 mg	7.5
	250 mg or more	5
Capsules, granules (uncoated, single-dose) and powders (single-dose)	Less than 300 mg	10
	300 mg or more	7.5
Powders for parenteral administration* (single-dose)	More than 40 mg	10
Suppositories and pessaries	All masses	5
Powders for eye-drops and powders for eye lotions (single-dose)	Less than 300 mg	10
	300 mg or more	7.5

* When the average mass is equal to or below 40 mg, the preparation is not submitted to the test for uniformity of mass but to the test for uniformity of content of single-dose preparations (2.9.6).

POWDERS FOR PARENTERAL ADMINISTRATION

Remove any paper labels from a container and wash and dry the outside. Open the container and without delay weigh the container and its contents. Empty the container as completely as possible by gentle tapping, rinse it if necessary with *water R* and then with *alcohol R* and dry at 100-105 °C for 1 h, or, if the nature of the container precludes heating at this temperature, dry at a lower temperature to constant mass. Allow to cool in a desiccator and weigh. The mass of the contents is the difference between the weighings. Repeat the procedure with another 19 containers.



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2.9.6. UNIFORMITY OF CONTENT OF SINGLE-DOSE PREPARATIONS

The test for uniformity of content of single-dose preparations is based on the assay of the individual contents of active substance(s) of a number of single-dose units to determine whether the individual contents are within limits set with reference to the average content of the sample.

The test is not required for multivitamin and trace-element preparations and in other justified and authorised circumstances.

Method. Using a suitable analytical method, determine the individual contents of active substance(s) of 10 dosage units taken at random.

Apply the criteria of test A, test B or test C as specified in the monograph for the dosage form in question.

TEST A

The preparation complies with the test if each individual content is between 85 per cent and 115 per cent of the average content. The preparation fails to comply with the test if more than one individual content is outside these limits or if one individual content is outside the limits of 75 per cent to 125 per cent of the average content.

If one individual content is outside the limits of 85 per cent to 115 per cent but within the limits of 75 per cent to 125 per cent, determine the individual contents of another 20 dosage units taken at random. The preparation complies with the test if not more than one of the individual contents of the

30 units is outside 85 per cent to 115 per cent of the average content and none is outside the limits of 75 per cent to 125 per cent of the average content.

TEST B

The preparation complies with the test if not more than one individual content is outside the limits of 85 per cent to 115 per cent of the average content and none is outside the limits of 75 per cent to 125 per cent of the average content. The preparation fails to comply with the test if more than 3 individual contents are outside the limits of 85 per cent to 115 per cent of the average content or if one or more individual contents are outside the limits of 75 per cent to 125 per cent of the average content.

If 2 or 3 individual contents are outside the limits of 85 per cent to 115 per cent but within the limits of 75 per cent to 125 per cent, determine the individual contents of another 20 dosage units taken at random. The preparation complies with the test if not more than 3 individual contents of the 30 units are outside the limits of 85 per cent to 115 per cent of the average content and none is outside the limits of 75 per cent to 125 per cent of the average content.

TEST C

The preparation complies with the test if the average content of the 10 dosage units is between 90 per cent and 110 per cent of the content stated on the label and if the individual content of each dosage unit is between 75 per cent and 125 per cent of the average content.

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2.9.7. FRIABILITY OF UNCOATED TABLETS⁽⁷⁾

This chapter provides guidelines for the friability determination of compressed, uncoated tablets. The test procedure presented in this chapter is generally applicable to most compressed tablets. Measurement of tablet friability supplements other physical strength measurements, such as tablet breaking force.

Use a drum, with an internal diameter between 283-291 mm and a depth between 36-40 mm, of transparent synthetic polymer with polished internal surfaces, and subject to minimum static build-up (see Figure 2.9.7.-1.). One side of the drum is removable. The tablets are tumbled at each turn of the drum by a curved projection with an inside radius between 75.5-85.5 mm that extends from the middle of the drum to the outer wall. The outer diameter of the central ring is between 24.5-25.5 mm. The drum is attached to the horizontal axis of a device that rotates at 25 ± 1 r/min. Thus, at each turn the tablets roll or slide and fall onto the drum wall or onto each other.

For tablets with a unit mass equal to or less than 650 mg, take a sample of whole tablets corresponding as near as possible to 6.5 g. For tablets with a unit mass of more than 650 mg, take a sample of 10 whole tablets. The tablets are carefully dedusted prior to testing. Accurately weigh the tablet sample, and place the tablets in the drum. Rotate the drum 100 times, and remove the tablets. Remove any loose dust from the tablets as before, and accurately weigh.

Generally, the test is run once. If obviously cracked, cleaved, or broken tablets are present in the tablet sample after tumbling, the sample fails the test. If the results are difficult to interpret or if the weight loss is greater than the targeted value, the test is repeated twice and the mean of the 3 tests determined. A

(7) This chapter has undergone pharmacopoeial harmonisation. See chapter 5.8. *Pharmacopoeial harmonisation*.