

PROCESSING IN STEAM-AIR RETORTS
(Retort Survey)

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the question blocks below. Narrative responses to each item can be entered in the item's "comments" area or where otherwise prompted. Draw a diagram of the retort or obtain one from the firm. Attach the diagram as an exhibit to the EIR. Report all pipe sizes as inside diameter (ID). Cross-sectional area = $3.14r^2$ ($r = \frac{1}{2}$ diameter).

If problems are found with the firm's retort equipment or processing system, refer the reader to the narrative Turbo EIR under "Objectionable Conditions and Management's Response," and include a narrative explanation of specific problems and evidence under the subheading "Supporting Evidence and Relevance." Submit the completed form as an EIR attachment.

Steam-air retorts are covered by 113.40(j) - "Other Systems" and must meet the requirements found in applicable sections of 113.40. The retorts and operating procedures must be carefully evaluated to insure that they comply with Part 113.

Some of the questions in this form are designed to capture information useful in evaluation of the retort system and may not indicate a deviation from LACF Regulations, Part 113. The FDA "Guide to Inspections of Low Acid Canned Foods, Part 2" should be used as a guide when conducting inspections of steam-air retort systems.

Steam-air retorts are made by a variety of different manufacturers. They are normally horizontal batch type still or rotary end-over-end retorts. Steam-air has been used in some installations as the heating medium in continuous rotary, hydrostatic and hydrolock retorts. Photographs are an excellent means of enhancing the description of a retort system.

RETORT DESCRIPTION

RETORT NO.	TYPE OF RETORT	LENGTH OR HEIGHT	DIAMETER
	Vertical <input type="checkbox"/> Horizontal <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>		

RETORT MANUFACTURER:

RETORT MODEL:

TEMPERATURE RANGE OF THERMAL PROCESS (E.G., 245/250/260 DEGREES F):

NUMBER OF BASKETS OR CRATES PER RETORT:

PROCESSING MODE: Static Still Agitating End-over-End Axial Rocking

ARE THERE ANY PROTRUSIONS INSIDE THE RETORT OR THE RETORT DOOR CASING WHICH COULD DAMAGE CONTAINERS DURING LOADING/UNLOADING OF CRATES? Yes No

COMMENTS:

COMPUTER CONTROLS

DOES A COMPUTER CONTROL ANY OF THE RETORT FUNCTIONS? Yes No

EXPLAIN:

DOES THE FIRM HAVE DOCUMENTATION ON HAND THAT INDICATES THAT THE COMPUTER SYSTEM HAS BEEN VALIDATED?

Yes No

EXPLAIN:

IS RECORD KEEPING PART OF THE COMPUTER FUNCTION? Yes No

IF YES DOES THE RECORD KEEPING COMPLY WITH 21 CFR PART 11? Yes No

EXPLAIN:

AGITATION

IS THE AGITATING RETORT OPERATED IN THE STILL MODE? Yes No

COMMENTS:

HAVE PROCESS ESTABLISHMENT TESTS DETERMINED THAT RETORT CRATE POSITION IS CRITICAL TO THE PROCESS OR COME UP PROCEDURE? Yes No

IF YES, DESCRIBE THE CRATE POSITION RECOMMENDED BY THE PROCESS AUTHORITY:

HOW DOES THE FIRM DETERMINE CRATE POSITION?

WAS THE RECOMMENDED CRATE POSITION BEING USED DURING THE INSPECTION? Yes No

COMMENTS:

EXPLAIN HOW THE RETORT ROTATION SPEED IS DETERMINED:

EXPLAIN HOW THE RETORT ROTATION SPEED IS RECORDED:

STEAM-AIR MIXTURE

WHAT IS THE PROCESSING PRESSURE USED DURING THERMAL PROCESSING? (NOTE IF SEVERAL DIFFERENT PROCESSING TEMPERATURES ARE USED; PLEASE NOTE THE PRESSURE AT EACH TEMPERATURE. IF THE FIRM PROCESSES DIFFERENT CONTAINER TYPES, PLEASE NOTE THE PRESSURE FOR EACH CONTAINER TYPE.)

COMMENTS:

WHAT IS THE PERCENT STEAM/AIR MIXTURE USED DURING PROCESSING:

(NOTE: % STEAM CAN BE DETERMINED BY DIVIDING THE STEAM PRESSURE POUNDS PER SQUARE INCH ACTUAL BY THE TOTAL SYSTEM PRESSURE.)

E.g., 10 PSI (generated by temp of 240 degrees F) + 14.7 PSI Atmospheric pressure = 24.7 = 83% steam

15 PSI gauge reading on retort + 14.7 PSI Atmospheric pressure = 29.7 (24.7/29.7 x 100 = 83%)

HOW IS STEAM ADDED TO THE RETORT? Steam Spreader Other
IF OTHER, EXPLAIN:

IS THE STEAM SPREADER OR OTHER SYSTEM IN A GOOD STATE OF REPAIR? Yes No
COMMENTS:

DESCRIBE THE LOCATION WHERE COMPRESSED AIR IS ADDED TO THE RETORT:

IS THE COMPRESSED AIR HEATED PRIOR TO BEING ADDED TO THE RETORT? Yes No
COMMENTS:

IS A DIFFUSER USED ON THE AIR ENTRY TO INSURE MIXING OF THE AIR AND STEAM? Yes No
COMMENTS:

HAS THE AREA WHERE AIR ENTERS THE RETORT BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A COLD SPOT IN THE RETORT? ... Yes No
COMMENTS:

HOW IS PRESSURE CONTROLLED IN THE RETORT?

Set Pressure Relief Valve Card Reader Computer Program Analog Controls Other

EXPLAIN:

DOES THE FIRM HAVE DOCUMENTATION WHICH INDICATES THE PERCENT AIR OR AIR PRESSURE PARAMETERS CRITICAL TO THE THERMAL PROCESS? Yes No
DESCRIBE THESE PARAMETERS:

DOES THE FIRM MONITOR AND RECORD RETORT PRESSURE DURING PROCESSING? Yes No
COMMENTS:

IF A PRESSURE GAGE IS PRESENT, IS IT GRADUATED IN DIVISIONS OF 2 LBS. OR LESS? Yes No
(NOTE: STEAM AIR RETORTS SHOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH A PRESSURE GAUGE TO INDICATE PROCESSING PRESSURE THAT CAN BE USED TO CALCULATE THE RATIO OF STEAM TO AIR IN THE RETORT.)
COMMENTS:

DO THE PRESSURES NOTED MEET THOSE ESTABLISHED BY THE TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION STUDIES?

Yes No

EXPLAIN:

DOES THE FIRM HANDLE DEVIATIONS FROM PROCESSING PRESSURES AS PROCESS DEVIATIONS? Yes No

EXPLAIN:

WHAT METHOD IS USED TO MIX THE STEAM AND AIR? Fan Bleeders Other

DESCRIBE:

IS WATER OR CONDENSATE ADDED TO THE STEAM AIR MIXTURE? Yes No

EXPLAIN:

HOW DOES THE FIRM INSURE THAT THE FAN IS OPERATING?

Indicator Light Computer Monitoring Visual Inspection

DESCRIBE INSPECTION FREQUENCY:

MERCURY IN GLASS THERMOMETERS/TEMPERATURE INDICATING DEVICES

IS THE RETORT EQUIPPED WITH A MIG THERMOMETER? Yes No

COMMENTS:

IS THE RETORT EQUIPPED WITH ANOTHER TYPE OF TEMPERATURE INDICATOR DEVICE? IF SO, DESCRIBE THE INDICATOR. Yes No

COMMENTS:

ARE SCALE DIVISIONS EASILY READABLE TO 1°F (.5°C)? Yes No

COMMENTS:

NO. OF DEGREES F OR C/IN. OF GRADUATED SCALE: _____. (TEMP. RANGE MUST NOT EXCEED 17°F(8°C) PER INCH (4°/CM) OF GRADUATED SCALE – 113.40(a)(1). ALSO, SEE LACF GUIDE, P. 14.)

COMMENTS:

DATE TEMPERATURE INDICATING DEVICE LAST TESTED FOR ACCURACY: _____

(THERMOMETERS SHALL BE TESTED FOR ACCURACY AGAINST A KNOWN ACCURATE STANDARD THERMOMETER UPON INSTALLATION AND AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR THEREAFTER; RECORDS OF ACCURACY CHECKS THAT SPECIFY DATE, STANDARD USED, METHOD USED, AND PERSON PERFORMING THE TEST SHOULD BE MAINTAINED. EACH THERMOMETER SHOULD HAVE A TAG, SEAL, OR OTHER MEANS OF IDENTITY THAT INCLUDES THE DATE IT WAS LAST TESTED FOR ACCURACY – 113.40(a)(1).)

STANDARD USED FOR THE TEST:

NAME AND TITLE OF PERSON WHO PERFORMED TEST:

IS THE LAST TEST DATE IDENTIFIED ON THE TEMPERATURE INDICATING DEVICE? Yes No

COMMENTS:

DESCRIBE THE FIRM'S ACTIONS REGARDING MIG THERMOMETERS/TEMPERATURE INDICATORS THAT WERE OUT OF CALIBRATION:

IS THE MIG THERMOMETER MERCURY UNDIVIDED? Yes No

(A THERMOMETER THAT HAS A DIVIDED MERCURY COLUMN OR THAT CANNOT BE ADJUSTED TO THE STANDARD SHALL BE REPAIRED OR REPLACED – 113.40(a)(1).)

COMMENTS:

WHEN TEMPERATURE INDICATING THERMOMETERS ARE FOUND TO BE PROVIDING READINGS ABOVE THE ACTUAL TEMPERATURES, DOES THE FIRM EVALUATE PRODUCTS PRODUCED USING THOSE THERMOMETERS? Yes No

DESCRIBE THE FIRM'S PROCEDURES: *(NOTE IF THE ACTUAL TEMPERATURE IS BELOW THAT REQUIRED BY THE SCHEDULED THERMAL PROCESS, THIS WOULD BE A PROCESS DEVIATION AS PER 113.89.)*

IS THE TEMPERATURE INDICATING THERMOMETER LOCATED WHERE IT IS EASY TO READ ACCURATELY?

Yes No

COMMENTS:

THE SENSOR BULB IS LOCATED IN THE Retort Shell External Well

COMMENTS:

DIAMETER OF OPENING TO EXTERNAL WELL: _____

HOW DOES THE FIRM INSURE THAT THE TEMPERATURE MEASURED IN THE WELL IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TEMPERATURE IN THE RETORT SHELL?

TEMPERATURE RECORDER

TYPE OF TEMPERATURE RECORDER: Round Circular Chart Strip Chart Other

COMMENTS:

IS THE TEMPERATURE CHART ADJUSTED TO AGREE AS NEARLY AS POSSIBLE WITH BUT NOT HIGHER THAN THE KNOWN ACCURATE MERCURY-IN-GLASS THERMOMETER DURING THE PROCESSING PERIOD? Yes No

(SHALL REQUIREMENT OF 113.40(b)(2))

NOTE ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE RECORDING THERMOMETER AND THE MERCURY-IN-GLASS THERMOMETER AND WHICH READING IS HIGHER:

IS THERE A MEANS FOR PREVENTING UNAUTHORIZED ADJUSTMENTS? Yes No

(A MEANS OF PREVENTING UNAUTHORIZED CHANGES IN ADJUSTMENTS SHALL BE PROVIDED. A LOCK OR NOTICE FROM MANAGEMENT STATING "ONLY AUTHORIZED PERSONS ARE PERMITTED TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS" & POSTED AT OR NEAR THE RECORDING DEVICE IS A SATISFACTORY MEANS FOR PREVENTING UNAUTHORIZED CHANGES – 113.40(b)(2).)

COMMENTS:

IS THE CHART DRIVE TIMING MECHANISM ACCURATE? Yes No

IF NO, EXPLAIN:

IS THE RECORDER COMBINED WITH A STEAM CONTROLLER? Yes No

COMMENTS:

THE TEMPERATURE SENSING BULB IS INSTALLED IN THE Retort Shell External Well

IF THE TEMPERATURE SENSING BULB IS INSTALLED IN AN EXTERNAL WELL, HOW DOES THE FIRM INSURE THAT THE TEMPERATURE SENSED IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TEMPERATURE IN THE RETORT SHELL?

AUTOMATIC STEAM CONTROLLER

IS THE STEAM CONTROLLER AUTOMATIC? Yes No

(EACH RETORT SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH AN AUTOMATIC STEAM CONTROLLER TO MAINTAIN THE RETORT TEMPERATURE – 113.40(a)(4).)

COMMENTS:

IS THE STEAM CONTROLLER TEMPERATURE ACTUATED? Yes No

EXPLAIN THE OPERATION OF THE TEMPERATURE CONTROL SYSTEM:

REPORT THE **MANUFACTURER, MODEL, TYPE AND SIZE** OF THE AUTOMATIC STEAM CONTROL VALVE:

IF THE TEMPERATURE (STEAM) CONTROLLER IS AIR OPERATED, DOES THE SYSTEM HAVE AN ADEQUATE FILTER TO ASSURE A SUPPLY OF CLEAN, DRY AIR? Yes No

(AIR OPERATED TEMPERATURE CONTROLLERS SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE FILTER SYSTEMS TO ASSURE A SUPPLY OF CLEAN, DRY AIR – 113.40(a)(2).)

COMMENTS:

COME UP PROCEDURE

DOES THE FIRM USE A STEAM BYPASS DURING COME UP? Yes No

EXPLAIN:

DOES THE FIRM (VENT) PURGE AIR FROM THE RETORT PRIOR TO THE THERMAL PROCESS? Yes No

COMMENTS:

DESCRIBE THE FIRMS PURGE PROCEDURE:

DESCRIBE THE PROCEDURES USED BY THE FIRM TO BRING THE RETORT UP TO OPERATING TEMPERATURE:

CAN THE FIRM DOCUMENT ALL STEPS OF THE COME UP PROCEDURE? Yes No

COMMENTS:

DOES THE FIRM IDENTIFY PROCESS COME UP STEPS AS CRITICAL ON THE PROCESS FILING FORMS?

Yes No

(NOTE: PROCESSING STEPS ARE REQUIRED ON THE PROCESS FILING FORM WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS CRITICAL TO THE THERMAL PROCESS.)

COMMENTS:

HEAT/TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION

DOES THE FIRM HAVE ON HAND TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION DATA OR OTHER SUITABLE INFORMATION THAT DEMONSTRATES THAT HEAT DISTRIBUTION IN THE RETORT IS ADEQUATE? Yes No

EXPLAIN AND PROVIDE COPIES OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

DATE OF LAST TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION STUDY: _____

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING PARAMETERS (RETORT INSTALLATION, COME UP PROCEDURES, CONTAINER TYPE, CONTAINER SIZE, CONTAINER POSITION, PRODUCT TYPE, OPERATING PRESSURE, CRATE AND RACK DESIGN, AND PARTIAL LOADS) MAY OR MAY NOT EFFECT TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION IN THE RETORT. ANY FACTOR, THAT CAN INFLUENCE THE MIXING OF STEAM-AIR IN THE RETORT, CAN POTENTIALLY HAVE AN EFFECT ON TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION IN THE RETORT.

HAS A TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION STUDY BEEN PERFORMED ON EACH INDIVIDUAL RETORT? Yes No

COMMENTS:

HAS A TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION STUDY BEEN PERFORMED ON EACH CONTAINER SIZE? Yes No

COMMENTS:

HAS A TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION STUDY BEEN PERFORMED ON EACH CONTAINER TYPE (E.G., GLASS, METAL, PLASTIC) Yes No

COMMENTS:

HAS A TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION STUDY BEEN PERFORMED ON EACH CONTAINER HOLDING ARRANGEMENT/RACKING SYSTEM USED BY THE FIRM? Yes No

COMMENTS:

HAS A TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION STUDY BEEN PERFORMED ON EACH INDIVIDUAL PRODUCT OR PRODUCT TYPE? (E.G., SEAFOOD SOUP VERSUS CANNED TUNA) Yes No

COMMENTS:

DID EACH TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION STUDY IDENTIFY A COLD SPOT IN THE RETORT? Yes No

PROVIDE LOCATION AND EXPLAIN:

HAVE TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION STUDIES BEEN PERFORMED TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTS OF TEMPERATURE DROPS DURING COME UP AND PROCESSING? Yes No

REPORT RESULTS:

HAVE TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION STUDIES BEEN PERFORMED TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTS OF PRESSURE DROPS OR EXCESS PRESSURE IN THE RETORT? Yes No

REPORT RESULTS:

ARE PARTIAL LOADS PROCESSED IN THE FIRMS RETORTS? Yes No

COMMENTS:

ARE BAFFLE PLATES OR DUMMY LOADS USED DURING THE PROCESSING OF PARTIAL LOADS? Yes No

EXPLAIN:

HAVE TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION STUDIES BEEN PERFORMED WITH PARTIAL LOADS? Yes No

COMMENTS:

RETORT CRATES, RACKS

DESCRIBE THE RETORT CRATES.

DIMENSIONS:

NUMBER OF HOLES:

SIZE OF HOLES:

LOCATION OF HOLES:

ARE CONTAINERS POSITIONED IN THE RETORT AS SPECIFIED IN THE SCHEDULED PROCESS? Yes No

COMMENTS:

ARE DIVIDERS, TRAYS, RACKS OR OTHER MEANS OF POSITIONING FLEXIBLE CONTAINERS DESIGNED AND EMPLOYED TO INSURE EVEN CIRCULATION OF HEATING MEDIUM AROUND ALL CONTAINERS? Yes No

COMMENTS:

ARE DIVIDER PLATES USED? Yes No

DESCRIBE NUMBER OF HOLES AND DISTRIBUTION IN DIVIDER PLATES:

IS THE SAME TYPE OF DIVIDER PLATE USED FOR ALL CONTAINERS? Yes No

DESCRIBE DIFFERENCES:

ARE CONTAINERS PROCESSED WITHOUT DIVIDER PLATES? Yes No

DESCRIBE STACKING ARRANGEMENT (E.G., BRICK ,OFFSET, JUMBLE):

IS CONTAINER NESTING POSSIBLE? Yes No

HOW DOES FIRM CONTROL NESTING OF CONTAINERS?

DOES THE FIRM PROCESS?

Metal Cans Yes No

Glass Jars Yes No

Pouches Yes No

Rigid Plastic Yes No

COMMENTS:

DOES THE FIRM PROCESS MORE THAN ONE CONTAINER SIZE? Yes No

LIST ALL CONTAINER SIZES:

- METAL CANS –
- GLASS JARS –
- POUCHES –
- RIGID PLASTIC –

IF MORE THAN ONE CONTAINER SIZE OR TYPE IS PROCESSED AT ONE TIME DESCRIBE PROCEDURE USED:

FOR POUCHES, ARE TRAYS ADEQUATELY DESIGNED WITH POCKETS TO CONTAIN AND RESTRAIN INDIVIDUAL POUCHES DURING PROCESSING? Yes No

COMMENTS:

ARE TRAYS OR DIVIDER PLATES IN GOOD CONDITION WITH NO ROUGH OR SHARP POINTS THAT COULD PUNCTURE CONTAINERS? Yes No

COMMENTS:

CONTAINER COOLING

CONTAINERS ARE COOLED BY: Air Water

EXPLAIN CONTAINER COOLING:

TYPE OF VALVE ON COOLING WATER LINES:

WERE COOLING WATER LINES NOTED TO BE LEAKING? Yes No

COMMENTS:

WATER DRAINS

ARE SCREENS USED OVER ALL DRAIN OPENINGS TO PREVENT CLOGGING OF DRAINS? Yes No

COMMENTS:

IS THE DRAIN VALVE WATER TIGHT AND NON-CLOGGING? Yes No

COMMENTS:

OTHER CONCERNS AND OBSERVATIONS

PLEASE EXPLAIN ANY OTHER CONCERNS WITH THE OPERATION OF THIS RETORT SYSTEM:
