Cleaning woven connectors & breather bags

LM3

LM4

TEFLEX

BREATHER BAG

In most cases, maintaining your BFM® products is purely a case of good housekeeping.

The media used to manufacture our fabric connectors and breather bags will naturally wear with usage over time, however good maintenance will give you the best possible life.

You should not prod or push the connectors or breather bags with sharp objects. These fittings are designed to be removed and installed by hand, and the use of tools such as pliers and screwdrivers could easily damage them.

If you have any difficulty removing smaller sized connectors, consider using the special BFM® TR (Tool Release) tool (refer to 'Guidelines: Tool Release' for more information).

Remember that the BFM® woven connectors and breather bags will lose some efficiency each time they are washed.

For hygiene and performance reasons, we recommend regular replacement of these products.

MANUAL CLEANING

WOVEN CONNECTORS:

- Agitate connector in bath of warm water, mild detergent and disinfectants.
- If contaminant is milk powder or protein based, soak overnight in 0.5% enzyme based detergent.
- Rinse with low pressure hose or fresh water bath.
- If sanitation is required, you may need to immerse in a sanitation solution.
- Drain BFM® and air dry thoroughly

BREATHER BAGS (FM1):

- Breather bags can be washed (as per above) but it is not recommended. The media has a dust release surface which helps keep it efficient and aids dust release and this will deteriorate making it less effective each time it is washed.
- It is best to either blow an air-gun through (in reverse and not too close), use a vacuum or shake/brush any dust from the breather bag.

CIP (CLEAN IN PLACE)

Woven connectors are permeable and likely to leak liquids, especially when under pressure, so CIP is not generally recommended.

However, if you do wish to use CIP with a woven connector and you are purely using detergents, there will not be a problem.

If the CIP process involves chemicals, there are a few guidelines to follow.

The following percentages are the maximum recommended concentration levels that should be used during CIP for acid and caustic:

Acid: No more than 0.8%
Caustic: No more than 1.5%

Any greater concentration does not provide an increased benefit in terms of cleaning the system, and could also adversely effect other parts in the system such as seals and gaskets.

IMPORTANT:

ALWAYS WIPE YOUR BFM® FITTING AFTER CIP BFM® Global recommends that the BFM® connectors are removed after CIP to clean any remaining chemicals, both inside and out. Also, check that the BFM® spigots are cleaned of any chemical prior to snapping the clean connector back in place.

BFM® FITTING MUST BE THOROUGHLY DRY BEFORE RE-USE to avoid powder sticking to the connector and building up.