Smart Notes

Q A

Highlighting the innovative design features and useful applications for Thermo Scientific™ Nalgene™ PC Biotainer™ bottles and carboys

Why should I store my active pharmaceutical intermediate (API), bulk drug products and other critical reagents in a polycarbonate container versus a glass container?

While glass has been traditionally used to store materials for drug and vaccine production, presterilized, single-use containers in crystal-clear polycarbonate (PC) are recognized as a much safer alternative. PC containers maintain the visibility and integrity of the contents like glass containers do, but PC enables cold storage down to –130°C, with a fracture resistance that glass cannot offer.

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Why are PC containers good for storing critical materials?

Safer handling

If glass breaks, the resulting shards are dangerous. If a PC container breaks, the bottles may crack, but there is less danger to the handler, since the container will not shatter into sharp shards.

Single-use advantages

There is no need to perform washing validations, testing of washed products, or other types of processing that are associated with glass and that introduce more costs. Furthermore, a slight break in glass could compromise the contents with fragments of glass, even without leaking. A slight break in a PC container may result in visual defects, but the contents can still be transferred to another container without the loss or contamination of valuable material.

Ergonomic advantages

Plastics such as PC are much lighter than glass, making routine handling less likely to cause injury. Larger containers with molded-in handles or handles attached at the neck aid in gripping, pouring, and transport as well.

Summary

Nalgene Biotainer bottles and carboys are a safer alternative to glass that can also offer higher cost savings when storing critical drug reagents, APIs, and bulk products.

Find out more at **thermofisher.com/pcbiotainer**

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