



PACKAGING CONSULTANTS INTERNATIONAL

Aseptic Technique for Collection of Glass Container Samples

The following is a suggested procedure clients should follow when collecting samples to ensure they are not contaminated during acquisition or shipment before arrival at Packaging Consultants International (PCI) for microbiological testing.

Materials necessary for collection:

1. Single-Use Gloves
2. Parafilm and/or Plastic storage baggie
3. Tape
4. Permanent marker for labeling samples

Collection procedure:

1. Wash and sanitize hands.
2. Put on single-use gloves.
3. Collect the number of samples from the line that are required to be sent for testing by only touching the body of the container. Do not touch or allow the container opening to touch anything unsterile.

NOTE: It is recommended that at least twice the number of samples to be tested are collected in the event retesting is needed or at minimum a couple extra in the event any container is compromised and needs to be discarded.

Example: Collect 15 containers if the number of samples to be tested is 7.

4. Cover the opening of the container with sterile parafilm or place the inner portion of a plastic baggie over the opening. Use tape to adhere the baggie to the exterior of the container to ensure the baggie doesn't fall off or move and expose the container opening.
5. Label the samples and/or sample set with necessary identifying information (ex. cavity number, lot number, sample number, etc.)
6. Complete a chain of custody (COC)/sample submission form to accompany samples. This will contain sample set identifying information along with company name, collection date(s), lot numbers, sample number(s), requested microbiological testing, testing quantity, purchase order, report recipients, etc.
7. Securely place samples & COC in shipping box (wrapped in bubble wrap) and ship the samples to the following address:

**1101 State Fair Boulevard
Syracuse, New York 13209**

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