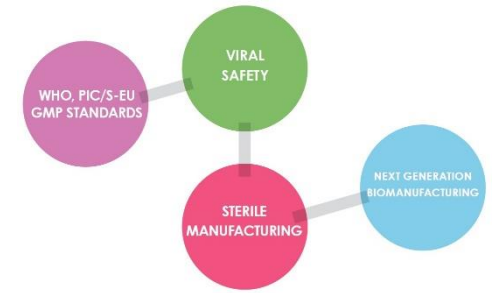




## Ellen Ying-Hua Chen, MBA, Taiwan ROC

- GMP Inspector and Senior Specialist, Quality Compliance and Management Division (GxP Inspectorate), Taiwan Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan ROC



# Sterile manufacturing based on Annex 1 of the PIC/S-EU GMP Guide

Ellen Ying-Hua Chen, MBA  
18 December 2019

2nd ASEAN Educational Workshop on GMP FOR BIOLOGICALS/BIOSIMILARS

# **Sterile manufacturing**

based on **Annex 1 of the PIC/S-EU GMP Guide**

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Ellen, Ying-Hua Chen

18 December 2019

# Outline

- General overview
  - PIC/S-EU GMP Guide
  - Manufacture of sterile products
- Today's focus on Aseptic Processing
  - Cleanrooms
  - Personnel
  - Monitoring system
  - Contamination Control Strategy
- Summary

# PIC/S GMP Guide - Global recognized GMP standards

## ✓ EU GMP Guide

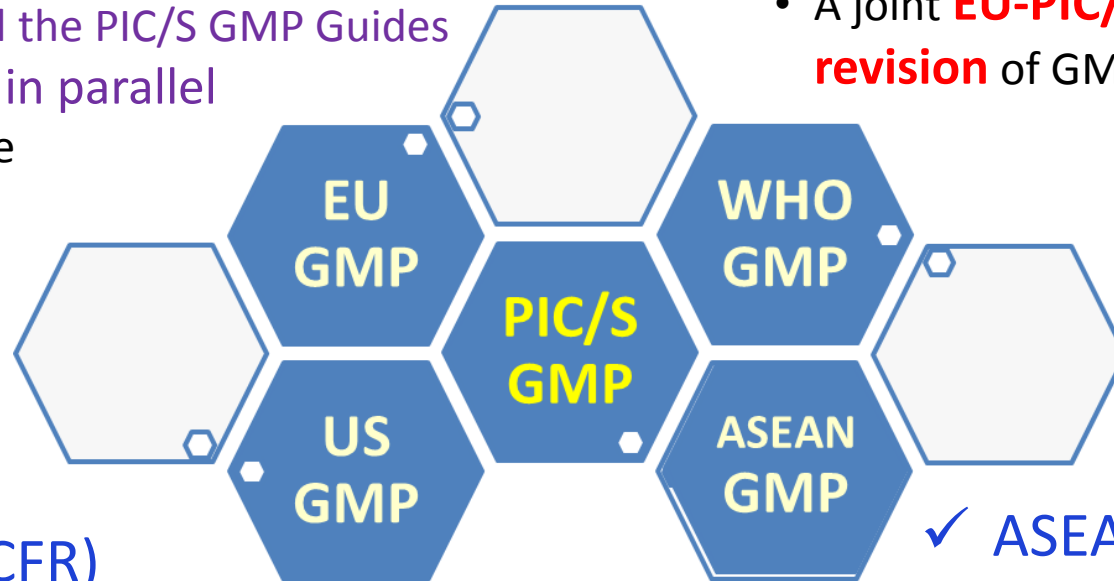
In 1989, the EU adopted its own GMP Guide, which was equivalent to the PIC/S GMP Guide. Since that time, EU and the PIC/S GMP Guides have been developed in parallel and whenever a change has been made to one, the other has been amended so that **both Guides are practically identical.**

## ✓ US CGMP (21 CFR)

The GMP regulatory framework covers all PIC/S GMP requirements & annexes is one of the assessment items for PIC/S membership. PIC/S presently comprises [52 Participating Authorities](#) coming from all over the world

## ✓ WHO GMP Guide

- WHO has signed co-operation agreement with PIC/S.
- A joint **EU-PIC/S-WHO Project on revision** of GMP for sterile and ATMPs

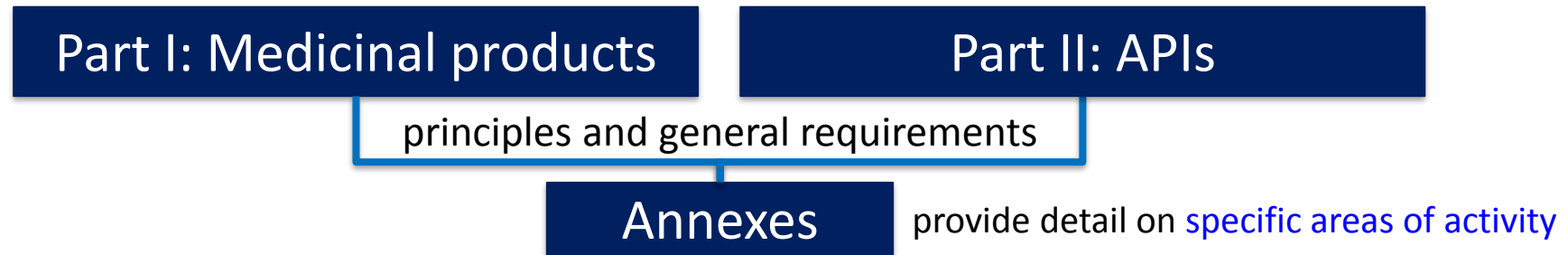


## ✓ ASEAN MRA on GMP Inspection of Manufactures of Medicinal Products:

"Equivalent GMP Code" means any GMP standard recognised by the JSC to **be equivalent to the PIC/S Guide to GMP** for Medicinal Products.

# Structure of PIC/S GMP Guide

PE 009-14 (1 July 2018)



- **Annex 1** Sterile Medicinal Products
- **Annex 2** Biological Medicinal Substances & Products for Human Use
- **Annex 3** Radiopharmaceuticals
- **Annex 4** Veterinary Medicinal Products other than immunologicals)
- **Annex 5** Immunological veterinary medical products
- **Annex 6** Medicinal Gases
- **Annex 7** Herbal medicinal products
- **Annex 8** Sampling of Starting and Packaging Materials
- **Annex 9** Liquids, Creams and Ointments
- **Annex 10** Pressurised Metered Dose Aerosol Preparations for Inhalation
- **Annex 11** Computerised Systems
- **Annex 12** Use of Ionising Radiation
- **Annex 13** Investigational Medicinal Products
- **Annex 14** Products derived from Human Blood or Human Plasma
- **Annex 15** Qualification and validation
- **Annex 17** Real Time Release Testing and Parametric Release
- **Annex 19** Reference and Retention Samples
- **Annex 20** Quality Risk Management

# Revision of Annex 1

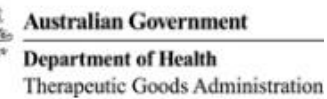


2003/9/1: Amendment of Annex 1

2009/1/15: Revision of Annex 1

**current version** (127 paragraph)

- ▶ 2015:  
EMA-PIC/S joint published  
Concept paper on the revision
- ▶ 2017/12/20  
**parallel public consultation  
by the EC, WHO and PIC/S.**
- ▶ 2018/3/20 6,200 comments received
- ▶ 2018~2019 Review process  
1st & 2nd NCA review (draft v10, 290)
- ▶ Dec 2019~Feb 2020 Targeted consultation
- ▶ Q2 2020 Review of the comments
- ▶ Q3 2020 Final document



## Draft Annex 1 (Document map)

1. Scope
2. Principle
3. Pharmaceutical Quality System
4. Premises
5. Equipment (RABS, Isolators, SUS)
6. Utilities
7. Personnel
8. Production and specific technologies (RABS, Isolators, SUS)
9. Viable and non-viable environmental & process monitoring
10. Quality control
11. Glossary

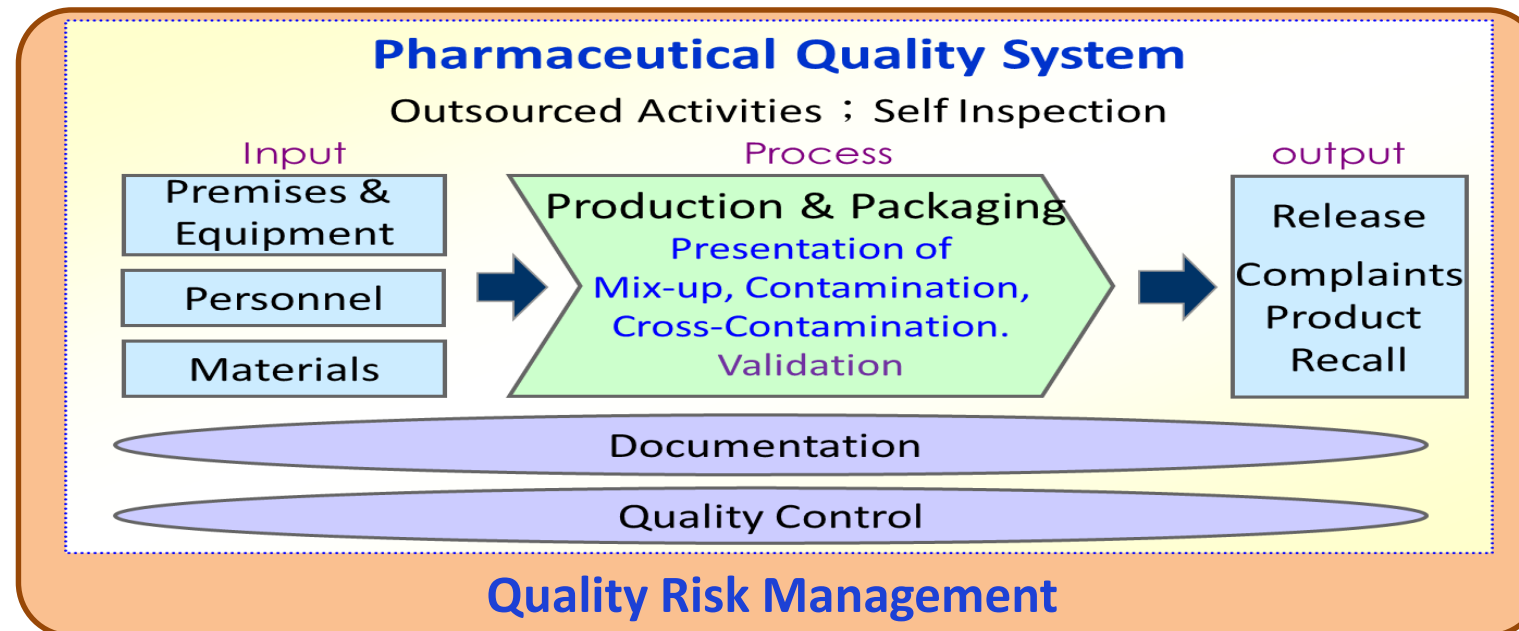
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  - PIC/S-EU GMP Guide
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# Manufacture of sterile products

- ❑ Sterile products are those products which are **free from**
  - **viable microorganisms** (**product sterility**),
  - **pyrogens** (**endotoxins free**) and
  - **particulate matter** (**particulate contaminants free**)
- ❑ The manufacture of sterile products is subject to **special requirements** in order to **minimize risks** of contamination



# Manufacture of sterile products

- Manufacturing of sterile medicinal products

## Terminal sterilization

Products filled in its final container is subject to a sterilization process.

## Aseptic Processing

Drug bulk, containers and closures are subject to a sterilization separately, and then brought together.

- **Biopharmaceutical** are typically large molecules and typically heat labile (temperature sensitive), cannot be terminally sterilized, and should be **manufactured aseptically**

# Outline

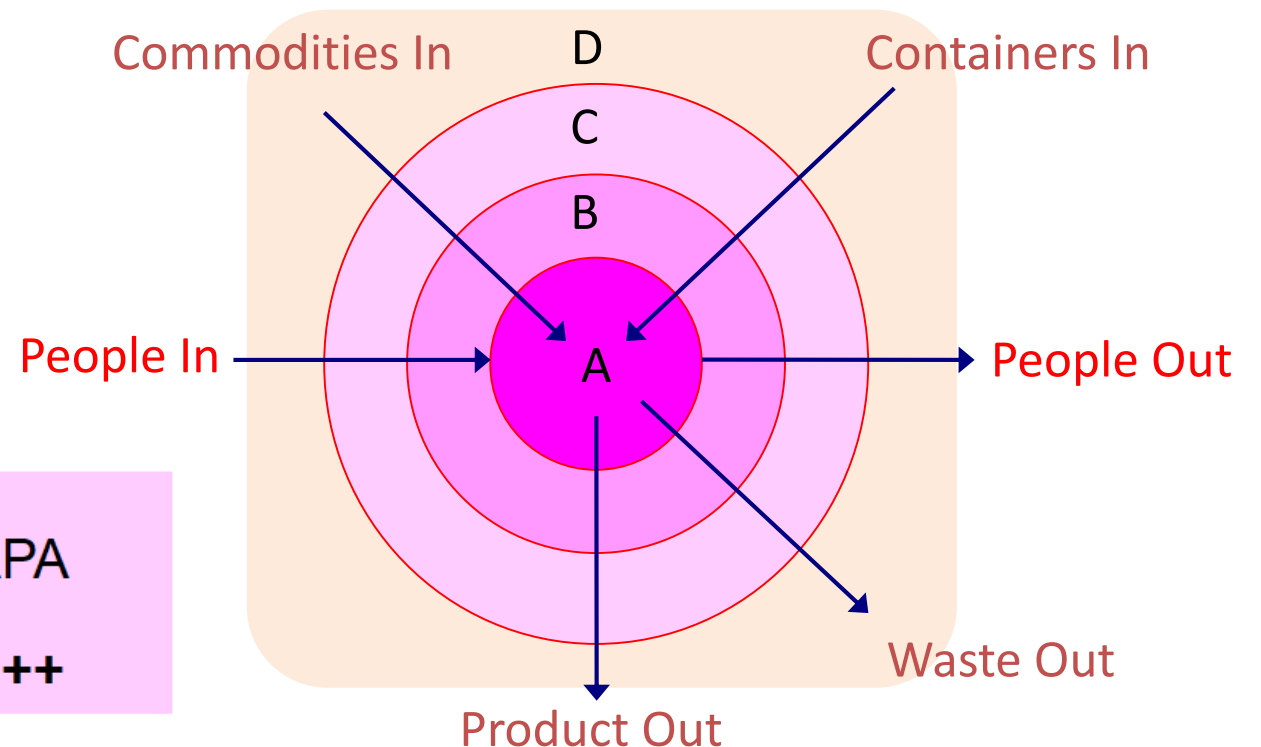
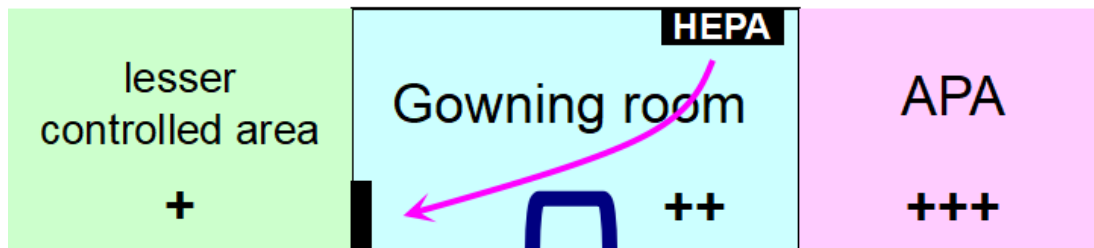
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# Today's focus

- **Cleanrooms** (environment quality)
  - Facility design and sterile barriers (Isolators & RABS)
  - Cleanrooms Qualification
  - Decontamination (cleaning and disinfection)
- **Personnel** (major source of contamination)
- **Monitoring system**
  - Environmental & personnel monitoring
  - Processing monitoring:
    - Aseptic process simulation (known as media fills)
- **Contamination Control Strategy**

# Cleanrooms - Facility Design

- ❑ Four grades (A, B, C & D) of clean rooms should be distinguished
- ❑ Entry to cleanrooms should be through **personnel airlocks** and **Material airlocks**, interlocking system
- ❑ Pressure differentials
- ❑ Airflow patterns/visualization in the critical processing areas



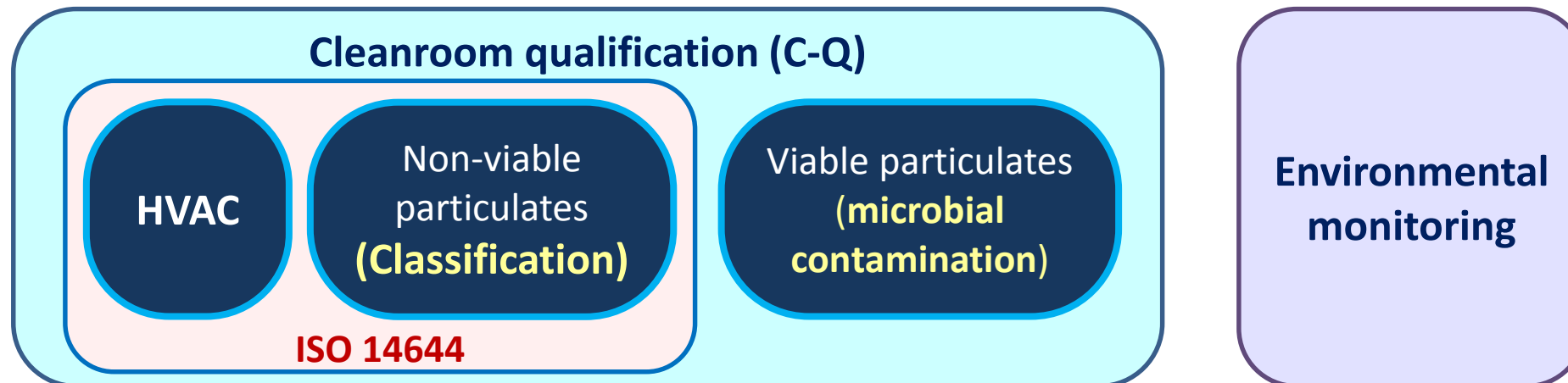
# Cleanrooms - sterile barriers

## ❑ Isolators or RABS

- are designed to provide protection of the grade A
  - with grade B background for RABS and open isolators used for aseptic processes
  - a minimum of grade D background environment for closed isolator
- ❑ Qualification according to Annex 15 of the PIC/S GMP Guide
  - ❑ Monitoring/maintenance
  - ❑ Decontamination: cleaning, disinfection, sterilization

# Cleanrooms Qualification

- ❑ Cleanrooms and clean air equipment (e.g. RABS, isolators) used for the manufacture of sterile products, should be **qualified** and **classified** according to the required characteristics of the environment.
- ❑ **Cleanroom classification** is part of a cleanroom qualification
  - a method of assessing the level of air cleanliness by measuring the non-viable airborne particulate concentration. Reference to ISO 14644 series of standards.
- ❑ The **microbial contamination** of the cleanrooms should be determined as part of the cleanroom qualification.
- ❑ **Cleanroom qualification** (including classification) should be clearly differentiated from operational **environmental monitoring**.



# C-Q – HVAC



- HVAC: Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system
  - AHU, filters, BMS (Building Management system)

Test	Specification
Leak and integrity test of Filters (HEPA filters)	ISO 14644 part 3 Site's protocol
Air flow measurement / Airflow velocity / air change rate	Site's proposal Clean up period (15-20 mins) Velocity at the filter face: 0.36-0.54 m/s
Temperature	Site's proposal
Humidity	Site's proposal
Air pressure differentials	$\Delta P > 10$ pascals
Air flow visualization	Site's proposal



# C-Q – for classification



- Maximum permitted airborne particulate concentration during classification
  - the airborne particulates 0.5 µm and 5 µm should be measured.
  - both at rest and in operation should be performed
    - For grade D, in operation limits are to be defined. The company should establish in operation limits based on a risk assessment and historical data where applicable.
  - the minimum number of sampling locations:
    - ISO 14644 (Part 1), plus critical processing locations in grade A & B areas

Current version of Annex 1 of PIC/S GMP Guide

Grade	Maximum permitted airborne particulate concentration equal to or less than
	At rest
	0.5µm
A	3,520
B	3,520
C	352,000
D	3,520,000

draft Annex 1 for public consultation in Dec. 2017

Grade	At rest equal to or less than 0.5 µm/m <sup>3</sup>
A	3 520
B	3 520
C	352 000
D	3 520 000

Coming draft Annex 1 for targeting consultation

Grade	Maximum limits for particulates ≥ 0,5 µm/m <sup>3</sup>		Maximum limits for particulates ≥ 5 µm/m <sup>3</sup>	
	at rest	in operation	at rest	in operation
A	3 520	3 520	Not applicable	Not applicable
B	3 520	352 000	29	2 900
C	352 000	3 520 000	2 900	29 000
D	3 520 000	Not defined <sup>(a)</sup>	29 000	Not defined <sup>(a)</sup>

# C-Q – Microbial contamination



- Limits for microbial contamination during qualification
  - Qualification should include both at rest and in operation states.
  - Settle plates should be exposed for the duration of operations and changed as required after 4 hours.
  - for grade A, the expected result should be no growth

## Current version of Annex 1 of PIC/S GMP Guide

Recommended limits for **microbiological** operation:

Grade	Recommended limits for	
	Air sample cfu/m <sup>3</sup>	Settle plates (diam. 90 mm), cfu/4 hours <sup>(b)</sup>
A	< 1	< 1
B	10	5
C	100	50
D	200	100

## The draft Annex 1

Grade	Air sample cfu/m <sup>3</sup>	Settle plates (diameter 90 mm) cfu/4 hours <sup>(a)</sup>	Contact plates (diameter 55 mm) cfu/plate
A <sup>(b)</sup>	No growth <sup>(b)</sup>		
B	10	5	5
C	100	50	25
D	200	100	50

# Cleanrooms **re**-Qualification



- Maximum time interval for requalification
  - For Grade A & B areas: 6 months.
  - For Grade C & D areas: 12 months.

- Minimum test requirements for the requalification

Grade	Determination of the conc. of airborne particles (viable and non-viable)	Integrity test of Terminal Filters	Airflow volume measurement	Verification of air pressure difference between rooms	Air Velocity test
A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
B	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	*
C	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	*
D	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	*

\* performed according to risk assessment documented as part of the CCS. However, required for filling zones and back ground to Grade A RABS.

- Requalification should be considered
  - after action to correct out of compliance equipment or facility conditions
  - after changes to equipment, facility or process

# Cleanrooms - Cleaning and Disinfection

## Cleaning

- Removal of particulate , residues and Microbes from the surface
- Removal of residues and buildup that can complicate Disinfection

## Disinfection

- Saturate & Penetrate the Cell Wall of the microorganism by a chemical agent
- requires a specified **contact time**
- Concern with particulate, residues and irregular surfaces

- Written program for cleaning and disinfection
  - **More than one type of disinfecting agent** should be used, and should **include a sporicidal agent**
    - Isopropyl & Ethyl Alc. Solution @ 70%, Phenols (high/low pH), Quaternary ammonium, Hydrogen Peroxide @ 3-6%
    - Sporicide: Sodium Hypochloride, Peracetic acid and Hydrogen peroxide, Glutaraldehyde Products
  - **Fumigation or vapour disinfection** (vapour phased hydrogen peroxide) of cleanrooms and associated surfaces may be useful for reducing microbial contamination **in inaccessible places**

# Cleanrooms - Cleaning and Disinfection

- Written program for cleaning and disinfection
  - General order: Ceiling → Walls → Equipment → Floors, Top to Bottom, Back to Front (towards person)
- Qualification of Disinfectant
  - Antimicrobial Effectiveness (Lab. study)
    - Time Contact Kill Studies: 3-10 minute contact time by surface challenge test (on surface)
  - “In Situ” Field Studies
    - Using the actual cleaning procedures, method with approval disinfectants, compares EM date
  - Expiration dates shall be qualified
- Disinfectants and detergents in Grade A and B to be sterile prior to use (may also apply to Grade C and D)
- Monitoring the effectiveness and detect changes in flora type

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  - Processing monitoring: Aseptic process simulation (media fills)
- **Contamination Control Strategy**

# Personnel

- Appropriate education, suitable knowledge and experience (including basic knowledge of microbiology, hygiene, aseptic techniques-cleanroom behavior and practices)
- Clothing considerations & Gowning processes
- for entering aseptic processing areas
  - Initial (a least 3 sets) & Annual gowning qualification
  - Qualification for aseptic processing ( participate in a successful aseptic process simulation once per year)
- There should be systems in place for **disqualification** of personnel from entry into cleanrooms

## Gowning Procedures

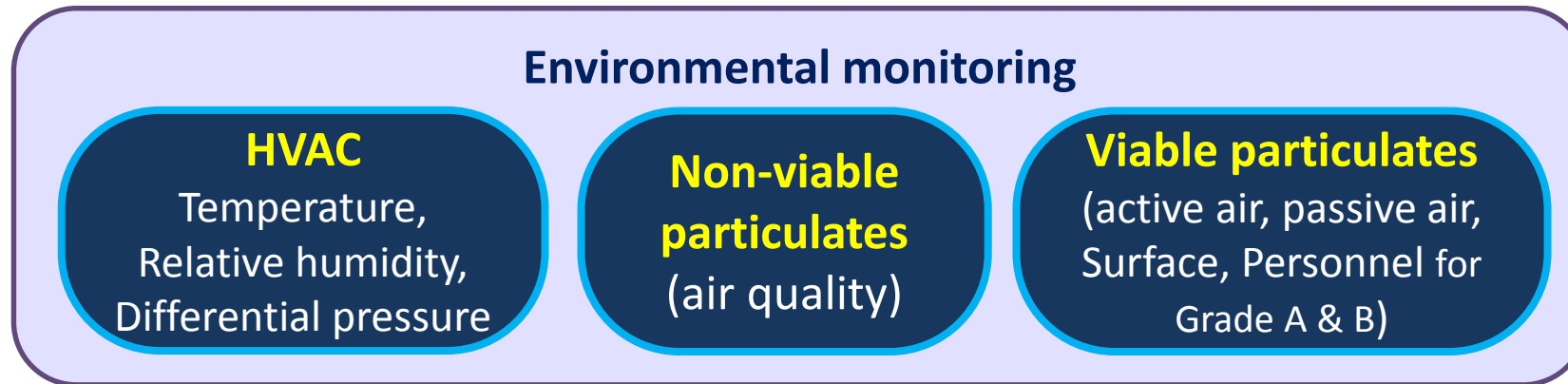
- ↓ Sanitize hands
- ↓ Don **first pair** of **sterile gloves**
- ↓ Sanitize the gowning bench
- ↓ Sanitize each garment package
- ↓ Sanitize the gloved hands
- ↓ Don **Face Mask**
- ↓ Don **sterile Hood**
- ↓ Don **sterile Gown**
- ↓ Don **sterile Boots**  
(swing the booted foot over the gowning bench )
- ↓ Don **sterile Goggles**
- ↓ Don **Second pair** of **sterile gloves**
- ↓ **Verify Proper Coverage**

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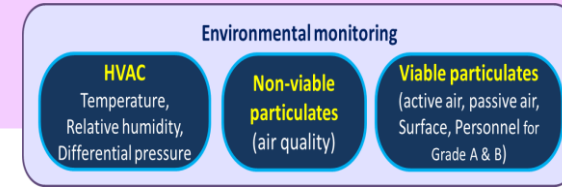


# Environmental monitoring (EM)



- ❑ **Risk assessments** should be performed in order to establish a comprehensive environmental monitoring program (i.e. locations, frequency of monitoring, monitoring method )
- ❑ Appropriate alert levels and action limits should be set, and should define the approach to trending.
  - If action limits are exceeded: **a root-cause investigation** including potential impact to product, followed by corrective and preventive action.
  - If alert levels are exceeded: **scrutiny and follow-up**
- ❑ Microorganisms detected in grade A & B should be identified to species level, potential impact on product quality should be evaluated.

# EM - Non-viable monitoring



- Limits for airborne particulate concentration for the monitoring of non-viable contamination

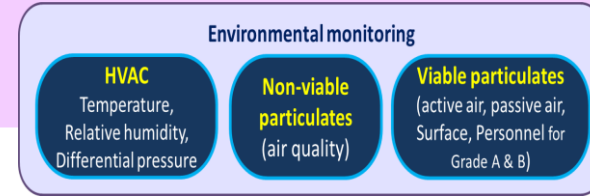
Current version of Annex 1 of PIC/S GMP Guide

Coming draft Annex 1 for targeting consultation

Grade	Maximum limits for particulates $\geq 0.5 \mu\text{m}$	Maximum limits for particulates			
		$\geq 0.5 \mu\text{m}/\text{m}^3$		$\geq 5 \mu\text{m}/\text{m}^3$	
		at rest	in operation	at rest	in operation
A	3,520	3 520	3 520	29	29
B	3,520	3 520	352 000	29	2 900
C	352,000	352 000	3 520 000	2 900	29 000
D	3,520 000	3 520 000	Not defined <sup>(a)</sup>	29 000	Not defined <sup>(a)</sup>

- For grade A: **full duration** of critical processing including equipment assembly, **continuous monitoring**
- For grade B area: similar to Grade A, frequency may be decreased
  - Filling locations: depend on the barrier between Grade A and B)
  - Entry airlock locations: beginning & end of filling operations

# EM - Viable monitoring



## Maximum action limits for microbial contamination

Current version of Annex 1 of PIC/S GMP Guide

Recommended limits for operation:

Grade	Air sample cfu/m <sup>3</sup>	Settle plates (diam. 90 mm) cfu/4 hours <sup>(a)</sup>	Contact plates (diam. 55mm), cfu/ plate <sup>(c)</sup>	Glove print 5 fingers on both hands, cfu/ glove
A	< 1	<b>No growth<sup>(b)</sup></b>		
B	10	5	5	5
C	100	50	25	-
D	200	100	50	-

Coming draft Annex 1 for targeting consultation

Grade	Air sample cfu/m <sup>3</sup>	Settle plates (diam. 90 mm) cfu/4 hours <sup>(a)</sup>	Contact plates (diam. 55mm), cfu/ plate <sup>(c)</sup>	Glove print 5 fingers on both hands, cfu/ glove
A	<b>No growth<sup>(b)</sup></b>			
B	10	5	5	5
C	100	50	25	-
D	200	100	50	-

Methods		Frequency
Active air	A	Continuous for the <b>full duration</b> of critical processing
	B	similar to Grade A, frequency may be decreased
Passive air		the <b>full duration</b> of operations
Surface		at the end of each fill (after filling operation have been completed prior to cleaning & sanitization)
Personnel		after critical interventions and exit from the cleanroom

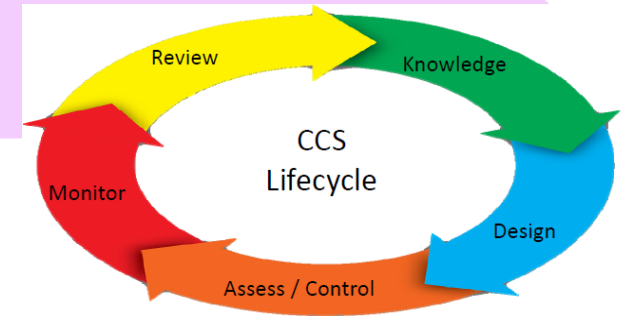
# Processing monitoring (media fills)

- requires for initial facility PQ, significant changes to the facility/process (a minimum of 3 consecutive successful media fills) and routine re-qualification (at least twice per year, per fill configuration)
- should imitate as closely as possible the routine aseptic manufacturing process and include all the critical manufacturing steps
  - Set-up operations, filling operations, hold times, lyophilization process, routine/non-routine interventions
- Count all filled media units and integral rejects
  - A 100% reconciliation is required after each media fill inspection
  - Unresolved counts must be immediately reported
- Acceptance criteria : the target should be zero growth.
- As any positive media vials found
  - Perform microbial identification
  - Filling line is not qualified for use
  - Evaluate filling line since last acceptable media fill
  - Once the cause has been identified and corrected, the media fill may be revalidated

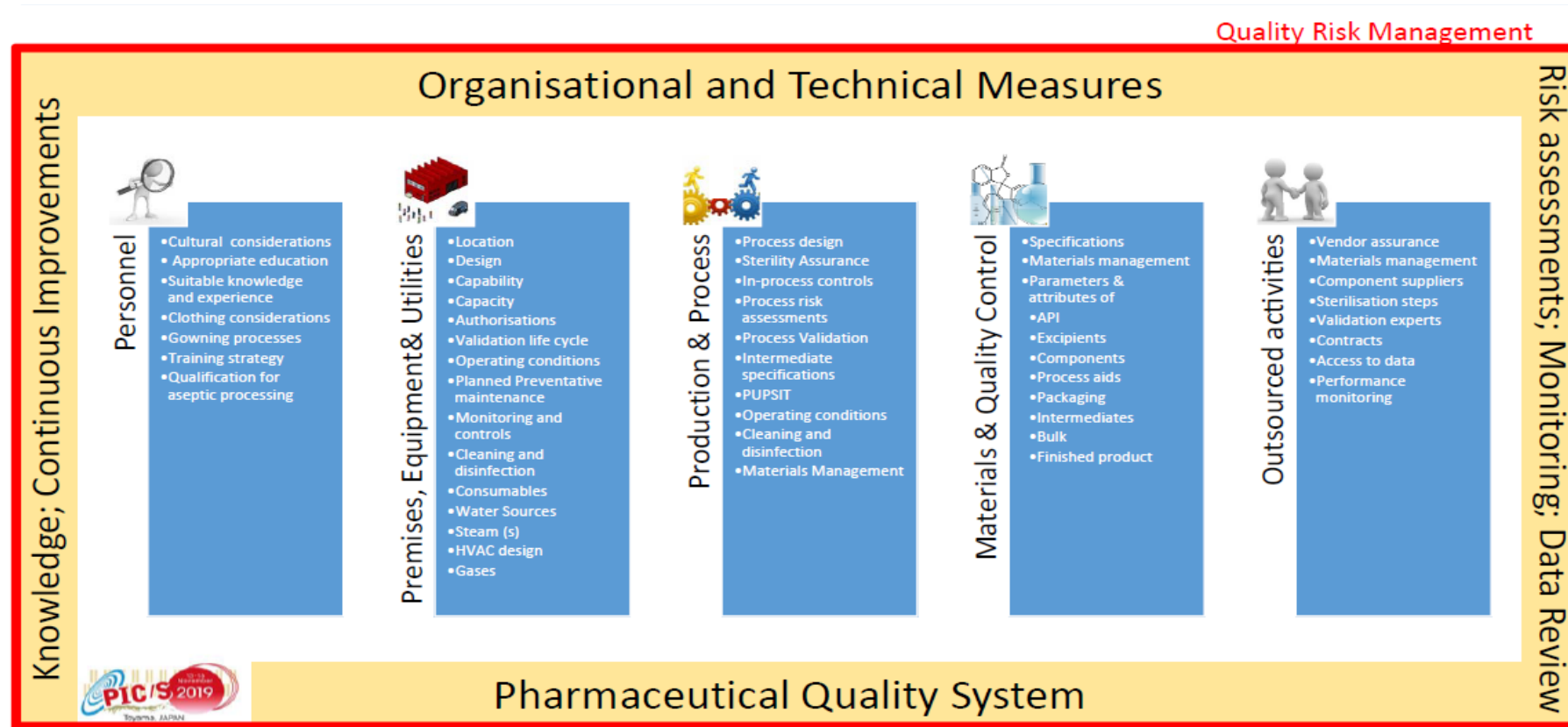
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# Contamination Control Strategy



- New language of Annex 1, cited 43 times

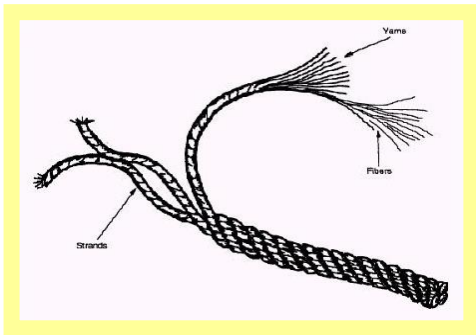


Reference to : Tracy MOORE/MHRA, SUMMARY OF REVISING ANNEX 1 & Discussed Points During Revision, 2019 PIC/S annual seminar

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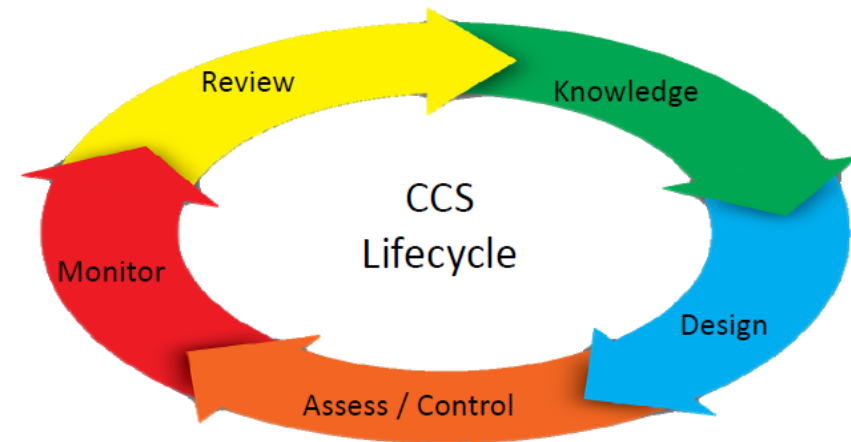
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# Summary



Each Unit operation of Aseptic Processing  
is like a strand of a rope

The more unit operations that have issues or  
fail,  
the higher risk to the product.





# Thank you for your attention

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Ellen, Ying-Hua Chen

Email: [ellenchen@fda.gov.tw](mailto:ellenchen@fda.gov.tw)

Phone: +886-2-2787 7103