

## **Oil-free, trouble-free**

**SERTO Ltd now offers oil and grease-free unions. Developed especially for oxygen applications, the tube connection specialists in Switzerland have experienced a great demand for these cleaned products. Customers rely on the documented and warranted cleanliness, which means they don't have to worry about what could be explosive situations.**

"Users are very happy to finally have safer tube connecting elements in oxygen systems," says René Glaus. The product manager of the Swiss company, SERTO Ltd, is familiar with the problems his customers face. Wherever oxygen comes into play, the piping elements need to be absolutely free of oils and greases.

### **New service at SERTO: cleaned free of oils and greases**

The latest service to be offered at SERTO is the oil and grease-free cleaning of tube unions for oxygen applications. The guaranteed level of cleanliness of these components is  $< 33 \text{ mg/m}^2$ , significantly lower than the world-wide recognised ASTM G93-96 standard which specifies max.  $55 \text{ mg/m}^2$  of non-volatile residual contamination. This high cleanliness level of the surfaces which come into contact with the media is achieved thanks to the multi-stage cleaning process developed together with specialists.

Oxygen under pressure, whether pure or in a concentration of more than the atmospheric 21 percent, is extremely explosive and a high fire risk. Oxygen itself does not burn, but the higher the oxygen content is, the lower the ignition point will be and the higher the flame temperature. Oils and greases on the surface of tube unions are especially hazardous in oxygen systems because they are highly inflammable. All it takes is a bit of increased friction, high flow velocity or warming from adiabatic compression and already you could have an explosive combustion. Oxygen has many uses in industry; metallurgy, chemical technology, gas welding and many other areas could not be without it.

### **100% tested and individually packaged**

The components to be cleaned are placed individually in special baskets so that the cleaning fluids can flow easily off. Depending on the material – brass or stainless steel – the components go through a series of alkaline and acidic cleaning

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→ ASTM G93-96 = American Society for Testing and Materials, Chapter 11.4.3., Standard Practice for Cleaning Methods and Cleanliness Levels for Material and Equipment used in Oxygen-Enriched Environments

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baths. If lubricating or sealing is required, only lubricants or seals approved for oxygen applications are used. The products are subsequently inspected and individually packaged in sealed and labelled plastic bags.

**How clean are they?**

“Many customers clean our unions themselves before installing them in oxygen systems,” explains René Glaus, “but then of course they don’t know the actual level of cleanliness.” Inevitably, some degree of uncertainty remains. SERTO’s product manager has the solution. Every step in SERTO’s environmentally friendly and certified cleaning process is documented. The quality of the surface cleanliness is monitored periodically and warranted.

The new service is available for copper, brass and stainless steel products. The cleaning facility works with environmentally friendly and degradable acids, alkali solutions and DI-18 water instead of trichlorine. The collected and treated “waste water” is later disposed of normally in the sewage system. “Our customers trust us because of our expertise and because we exercise utmost care,” says Managing Director Umberto Dünki. “After all, we have been renowned for our quality for over 50 years.”

**Unparalleled success**

Since 1952 the SERTO brand name has stood for pipe and tube connections, the only ones in the world with radial mounting and dismounting. The SERTO Group has an annual turnover of 45 million Swiss francs (32 Mio. €) and employs approx. 150 people world-wide. SERTO products are implemented in the chemical industry, the metal industry, in plumbing, in professional coffee machines and many other sectors. The company has been publicly owned under the SERTO name since 2001.

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