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Third edition  
2015-04-01

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## Prefilled syringes —

Part 4:

### **Glass barrels for injectables and sterilized subassembled syringes ready for filling**

*Seringues préremplies —*

*Partie 4: Cylindres en verre pour produits injectables et seringues pré-  
assemblées stérilisées préremplissables*



Reference number  
ISO 11040-4:2015(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 76, *Transfusion, infusion and injection, and blood processing equipment for medical and pharmaceutical use*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 11040-4:2007), which has been technically revised and contains the following changes:

- Scope has been extended by adding sterilized subassembled syringes ready for filling and appropriate requirements, as well as test methods, have been included;
- general requirements have been added on quality systems, testing, and documentation;
- requirements on labelling have been revised;
- requirements on packaging have been added;
- requirements on syringes barrels have been revised by
  - adding requirements and related test methods for flange breakage resistance and Luer cone breakage resistance,
  - adding requirements on lubrication,
  - adding requirements and guidance on tolerances for Luer conical fittings, as well as on functional testing of Luer connections, and
  - deleting the clause on designation.

ISO 11040 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Prefilled syringes*:

- *Part 1: Glass cylinders for dental local anaesthetic cartridges*
- *Part 2: Plunger stoppers for dental local anaesthetic cartridges*
- *Part 3: Seals for dental local anaesthetic cartridges*

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- *Part 4: Glass barrels for injectables and sterilized subassembled syringes ready for filling*
- *Part 5: Plunger stoppers for injectables*
- *Part 6: Plastics barrels for injectables*
- *Part 7: Packaging systems for sterilized subassembled syringes ready for filling*
- *Part 8: Requirements and test methods for finished prefilled syringes*

## Introduction

In the past, ampoules and injection vials were mainly used for (parenteral) injectable products. However, for the injection of the products contained in those ampoules and vials, a hypodermic syringe combined with the appropriate injection needle is also needed. This means the injectable product has to be transferred by the user into the hypodermic syringe before its final use. This procedure is not only time-consuming, but also presents a great number of possibilities for contamination.

To ensure safe use of an injectable product, prefilled syringes for single use are on the market for many years. Without a doubt, such prefilled syringes permit immediate injection of the product contained after relatively simple handling. These syringes can also be used in injectors with automated functions where further and particular requirements apply.

Based on the diameter of the prefilled syringes, appropriate components, such as rubber plungers, tip caps, needle shields, and other closure systems can also be standardized. In conjunction with the right sealing components, they offer a system for (parenteral) injectable use. The producers of filling machines can apply this part of ISO 11040 to achieve a degree of standardization in the equipment of the machines.

At the start of prefilled syringe processing by the pharmaceutical industry, syringes made of tubing glass were delivered to the pharmaceutical companies in the form of so called non-sterile "bulkware" only. The process steps washing, drying, inner lubrication, sealing the syringe with a closure system, sterilization, as well as filling and closing, were then performed in the pharmaceutical companies. Processing of "bulkware" is performed like this until today. Sterilized subassembled syringes have partially replaced non-sterile "bulkware".

In the case of sterilized subassembled syringes ready for filling, responsibility for the aforementioned process steps relevant to the injectable product lies with the manufacturer of the primary packaging material. Following the assembly of the needle shield on syringes with a staked needle or tip caps for the Luer cone version, the subassembled syringes are placed into so called nests. The nests, in turn, are placed into a plastic tub. The syringes in the nest are protected by means of an insert liner and the tub itself is sealed by a sealing lid (which is currently and, so far, primarily achieved using a porous material). Thus, the tub properly sealed with the sealing lid represents the "sterile barrier system". The sealed tub is then wrapped into a sealable bag and, thus, ready for sterilization which is currently and, so far, primarily performed using ethylene oxide.

In this form, the sterilized subassembled syringes ready for filling are delivered to the pharmaceutical companies in a sterile condition, where they are processed on suitable machines.