

Case Study 29

Disposable Capsules in Pharma

Background

A manufacturer of generic capsule pharmaceuticals had an application which required the need for a filter cartridge to serve as a dust collector separator between their air granulator of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients and the collection basin. Their current setup consisted of a filter cartridge installed in a stainless-steel housing allowing free movement of air through two tanks. Using a filter cartridge, in reverse flow, allowed the customer to capture any free-floating API dust particles to be captured and returned their process basin to complete granulation. Using a quick reverse pulse of air to the filter cartridge they reclaim any APIs captured during their batch process. What started as a conversation for a direct cross to the filter element (for improved lead time) turned into a conversation about process optimization.

Solution

Northeast filter was given a plant tour to get a visual of the manufacturers process to get a better grasp on the full picture. Upon seeing the customers application, it became apparent that they may benefit from the use of single use disposable capsules in place of their permanent filter housing and replacement elements. Transitioning to a disposable capsules would eliminate the need for element installation integrity testing prior to granulating. Transitioning to disposable capsules shortened the down time between batches and eliminated the need for integrity testing the housings in line.

