

# Material, Process, Handling, and Shipping Specification for Fluorel Parts

**HYTEC, Inc.**

June 4, 1997

Revision *a*, June 20, 1997

Revision *b*, August 20, 1997

This document summarizes HYTEC's requirements for fabrication of molded fluoro-elastomer parts for inclusion in the LIGO vacuum systems. This specification is preliminary. It is subject to changes pending results from RGA testing of prototypes and open to discussion with the manufacturer. A final set of requirements will have to be approved by HYTEC prior to fabrication of vacuum qualified parts.

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Hytec Document: HYTEC-TS-LIGO-05b  
LIGO Project Document: LIGO-E970130-00-D



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## 1. Scope

This specification covers aspects important to the fabrication, cleaning, handling, identification, documentation, and shipping of Fluorel rubber parts produced for installation within the LIGO vacuum systems.

## 2. Precedence

In the event of conflict, the order of precedence is

1. The Purchase Order
2. The Drawing
3. This Specification
4. Any Referenced Specification

Because of extremely tight requirements on outgassing and hydrocarbon pollution in the vacuum system, the molded Fluorel parts for in-vacuum installation must be kept extremely clean throughout the fabrication process. These tight cleanliness requirements apply to every step of the fabrication process, from preparation of the compound to final packaging.

Note that sources for CP-Stat film and Nitrilite gloves are listed in Appendix A.

## 3. General Notes

Because of extremely tight requirements on outgassing and hydrocarbon pollution in the vacuum system, the molded Fluorel parts for in-vacuum installation must be kept extremely clean throughout the fabrication process. These tight cleanliness requirements apply to every step of the fabrication process, from preparation of the compound to final packaging.

All requirements listed in this document are judged essential to the proper function of the system because of unusually tight requirements on hydrocarbon pollution in the vacuum systems. No substitutions of material types or brand names, or changes or additions to this specification are allowed unless explicitly approved by Hytec.

## 4. Material

The part shall be molded from the following compound. The formulation was selected based on the ultra-high vacuum application and the need to minimize potential for outgassing; it was suggested by Dyneon. ***Any changes to the formulation below must be approved in writing by Hytec.***

- 100 parts, Fluorel FC2180 (or FE5641)
- 20 parts, MT Black (N990)
- 3 parts, Maglite (MgO)
- 6 parts, Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>

- 3 parts, CaO
- absolutely no mold release agent allowed
- any other additive - even in minute quantities - is subject to prior approval

Special care should be taken to insure that compound preparation is performed in a clean mixing environment. Cleaning the mixing machines with any of the above solvents and/or running a small amount of the same compound for scrap prior to preparation of the compound to be used for parts are acceptable techniques.

## 5. Molding

Because of the need to keep parts as clean as possible throughout production, **the use of mold release agent(s) of any kind should be avoided if at all possible. If mold release is absolutely necessary, a water soluble type is required.** Parts should be kept clean at all times after they come out of the mold: they should be handled with clean tools, or by gloved hands (wearing clean, new gloves) and stored only on clean work areas (clean CP Stat film or new food grade aluminum foil). Contamination by oils, grease, solvents, and other hydrocarbons must absolutely be avoided.

## 6. Cleaning and Flash Removal

Mold design should be such that flash is minimized. Mold design shall be submitted to Hytec for approval prior to production (flash location in particular).

After removal from the mold and cool down:

1. cut off any burrs with clean scissors or a clean, sharp blade. Absolutely no abrasive removal allowed. Operator must wear clean Nitrilite gloves.
2. wash part with deionized water and nylon scrub brush (operator must wear clean Nitrilite gloves).
3. let dry in air at room temperature **on a clean CP Stat sheet (aluminum foil not allowed for this operation)**, in a clean area.
4. store in CP Stat wrapper or new food grade aluminum foil if awaiting further processing.

## 7. Post Cure

The suggested post cure is as follows; any deviation must be approved by Hytec:

1. ramp or step (25°F steps, 2 hrs each) from 175°F to 450°F in 24 hours.
2. bake at 450°F for 24 hrs.
3. cool
4. store in CP Stat wrapper or new UHV quality aluminum foil if awaiting further processing.

## 8. Vacuum Bake

A vacuum bake is the last operation. It is intended to remove the last traces of outgassing materials.

1. Ramp up from room temperature to 182°C (360°F) at a rate not to exceed 2.5°C/min (4.5°F/min).
2. Maintain 182°C (360°F) +/- 1°C (2°F) and a vacuum pressure not to exceed 10<sup>-6</sup> torr for 48 hours.
3. Cool down in vacuum at rate not to exceed 3°C/min (5°F/min). Handling of parts out of the vacuum oven is particularly critical. It should be performed with clean tools and/or gloved hands (Nitrilite gloves only). Gloves **must** be changed for new ones, should operators touch **anything** other than the parts or the packaging material.
4. After cool down, perform an RGA analysis. RGA test results shall conform to TBD requirement. If necessary based on RGA test results, re-bake for an additional 24 hours, and repeat the RGA analysis; repeat this last step until satisfactory RGA results are achieved.

## 9. Packaging, Identification, and Shipping

Handling of the parts after vacuum bake is particularly critical. All handling shall be done wearing new, clean Nitrilite gloves. The operators' gloved hands cannot come in contact with anything but the cleaned parts, any required tool (also cleaned), or approved packaging material (CP Stat or UHV quality aluminum foil). Gloves shall be changed if they come in contact with any other object.

Immediately after removing parts from the vacuum chamber, they shall be wrapped individually in CP Stat wrappers or bags or UHV quality Aluminum foil. Wrappers or bags may be sealed with tape (taking care to avoid contact between the tape and the part), or a tie wrap.

Each part shall be uniquely identified with a serial number (SN) applied on its wrapper. The wrapped or bagged parts shall then be double wrapped in a second bag or wrapper, in convenient quantities.

Each batch/shipment shall be accompanied by travelers identifying the production date, SN range, and any particularities of fabrication. The traveler will also identify the complete history of that batch, including operator signatures, dates, and notes for each processing step.

## **Appendix A. Required Materials**

### **CP Stat™ material**

C.P. Stat 100 ESD sheeting, clean to class 100 per MIL-Spec 1246C, with CFC certification that it passes JPL specifications.

Available in various forms and sizes from:

Caltex Plastics, Inc.

P.O. Box 58546

2380 E. 51<sup>st</sup> Street

Vernon, CA 90058

(213) 583-4140

### **Nitrilite gloves**

These are 100% Nitrile gloves from Ansell Edmont Industrial. They are widely available from industrial supplies companies.

### **UHV Quality Aluminum Foil**

One source is:

ASTM B-479 Dry Annealed A

Allfoil

4597 Vanepps Rd.,

Brooklyn Ohio 44131, (216)661.0211