



Implantable Medical-Grade UHMW Polyethylene (UPC15)

Material Data Sheet
M-67 (Rev. 01; 06-03-21)

19650 Pauling
Foothill Ranch, CA
USA 92610-2610
O +1 949 460 2100
F +1 949 460 2300

VIDA Building, 1st floor
Kabelweg 57
1014 BA Amsterdam
The Netherlands
O +31 20 638 6523
F +31 20 625 6018

Suite 901, Chinachem
Century Tower
178 Gloucester Road,
Wanchai, Hong Kong
O +852 28681860
F +852 22956753

www.balseal.com



Overview

UPC15 is an ultra-high molecular weight (UHMW) polyethylene-based material. It is manufactured through an extrusion process in a clean room environment for purity, and it is suitable for use in implantable medical, as well as pharmaceutical and food contact sealing applications.

UPC15 has excellent wear resistance in water and other aqueous media. It is recommended for use in temperatures ranging from -450 °F to +180 °F (-268 °C to +82 °C).

Chemical Compatibility

UPC15 exhibits excellent compatibility with most fluids and gases, including ketones, alcohols, amines, and esters. It has limited applications with oxidizing acids and chlorinated solvents. For more details, reference Technical Report 60A, "Chemical Compatibility Guide," in the technical library section of our website at www.balseal.com.

UPC15 can be repeatedly sterilized with standard ethylene oxide (EtO) methods without loss of biocompatibility or degradation of mechanical properties.

FDA Compliance

UPC15 is a USP Class VI pre-qualified material for implantable, medical, and pharmaceutical applications. It has been tested and verified by an accredited independent authority to meet ISO 10993-3,-4,-5,-6,-10,-11 (genotoxicity, hemocompatibility, cytotoxicity, implantation, irritation, systemic toxicity).

UPC15 is compliant with FDA regulation 21 CFR 177.1520, and is determined by the FDA to be safe and acceptable for use in food contact.

Color

White (color variations may occur during processing).

Heat Treatment

Certain seal sizes are supplied as UPC15 HT where HT stands for a heat treatment to limit dimensional changes. Material properties and composition remain the same.

Mechanical Properties of UPC15

Tensile Strength (typical)	Elongation (typical)	Hardness
5000 PSI (352 kg/cm ²)	300%	62 ShoreD (46 Rc)

Typical Applications

- Implantable devices for joint arthroplasty, reconstruction, and replacement
- Powered surgical tool motors
- Cardiac and arthroscopic catheter drive units
- Blood collection and processing equipment

For more information, contact a technical sales representative, or e-mail us at solutions@balseal.com.

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