



# PC02 - Quality Incident Protection

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)



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# PCO2 - Quality Incident Protection Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

## What is a PCO2?

The PCO2 is a static adsorption bed constructed from specially selected adsorbents to remove trace contamination from CO<sub>2</sub>. It is designed as a **quality incident protection device** (i.e. it will treat 'out-of-specification' CO<sub>2</sub> to return it back to specification (within the limits of the specification)).

The PCO2 is not designed to constantly purify poor quality CO<sub>2</sub>; i.e. not allowing the beverage producer to lower the incoming CO<sub>2</sub> specification.

## Why do I need a PCO2?

CO<sub>2</sub> is produced from a wide variety of processes with differing contaminants. Some of these remain in the gas after treatment at the gas recovery plant. There have been some publicised incidents where poor quality gas passed all the way through the supply chain and into the beverage. To prevent a repeat occurrence of these **quality incidents**, the bottlers are starting to fit in-line, on-site protection, in addition to tightening controls at the CO<sub>2</sub> suppliers.

## What is a quality incident?

This is where a delivery of out-of-specification CO<sub>2</sub> has been made to the plant or where CO<sub>2</sub> has been contaminated on-site during the production process.

## What is the specification for beverage CO<sub>2</sub>?

**ISBT** (International Society of Beverage Technologists) & **EIGA** (European Industrial Gas Association) both have International recommended standards. In these standards, Potential Contaminants are named with a Critical PPM limit of acceptance.

**Total Volatile Hydrocarbons (as Methane)**

**Total Aromatic Hydrocarbon**

**Acetaldehyde**

**Total Sulphur (excluding SO<sub>2</sub>, as S)**

## When is the 6th Stage Sterile Gas Filter Required?

A 6th Stage HIGH FLOW BIO-X Sterile Gas filter should be installed at point of use when -

- **Source of CO<sub>2</sub> is unknown.**
- **CO<sub>2</sub> has been produced from a fermentation process.**
- **When live bacteria and other micro-organisms are known to exist.**

## How much contamination will the PCO2 protect against?

The PCO2 purifier will treat CO<sub>2</sub> with up to **10 times** the ISBT / EIGA levels of the named contaminants for a specified quantity of processed CO<sub>2</sub> gas.

## How do I know when we have had a quality incident?

Many plants will find this very hard to observe if they do not have a CO<sub>2</sub> analyser or gas inspection process on site. Most plants take the QA certificate from the gas supplier as their goods inwards inspection. To improve monitoring of gas quality, several plants are starting to purchase on-line CO<sub>2</sub> analysers in addition to purifiers.

## What can I expect to see when plants have analysers fitted?

In the most cases, the gas will be clean and have very low levels on monitored contaminants. Under these conditions there will be very little difference between inlet and outlet concentrations. In the event of a contamination spike, the purifier will remove it.

## Should I change my elements after a Quality Incident?

Yes, always.

## Who needs a PCO2?

All producers and bottlers of beverage products:-

- **Soft drinks**
- **Beer**
- **Carbonated water**

## How does the PCO2 work?

The three layered adsorbent bed adsorbs contamination as it flows through. The three materials preferentially adsorb differing contaminants thus providing effective protection against a wide spectrum of potential contaminants.

## Can the cartridges be regenerated?

No, although some companies may claim to be able to recover adsorbents and regenerate them, we are trying to remove contaminants to parts per billion levels and any trace residues may inhibit future performance. Additionally, many industrial processes for regenerating adsorbents may actually add contamination to the PCO2 cartridges.

## Where should I install the PCO2?

The purifier treats vapour phase CO<sub>2</sub>, so it has to be installed downstream of the vaporiser (evaporator), with a maximum approach temperature of 40°C.

Some plants have installed the purifiers close to the carbonator, while others have chosen a central point close to the evaporator for complete site treatment. The Parker PCO<sub>2</sub> is suitable for either option.

The PCO<sub>2</sub> is also suitable for external installation.

## Is the PCO2 designed for gas or liquid CO2?

**Gaseous** CO<sub>2</sub> only.

## What happens if liquid CO2 enters the PCO2?

Liquid CO<sub>2</sub> (which can be as cold as -78°C) boils off rapidly on contact with the aluminium surfaces and then the vapour passes at great speed through the adsorbent bed. Condensation, even ice, may appear on the exterior surfaces of the PCO<sub>2</sub>. The internal rubber seals and inlet filter may become damaged due to the intense cold.

**Always** service the purifier, replace cartridges, filters and seals immediately.

## How should I size the PCO2?

The plant operators need to identify their **peak** demand for CO<sub>2</sub> (typically the capacity of the evaporator). This is usually measured in lbs/hr or kgs/hr as all bulk CO<sub>2</sub> deliveries are ordered by mass. This is the figure to use when selecting a PCO<sub>2</sub> purifier unit.

## What are the risks of installing Non Genuine Parker cartridges and elements?

The use of Parker genuine parts is essential in minimising risk. Genuine Parker elements and cartridges are specially designed and tested to operate to the maximum quality standards of the original design build. Counterfeit parts are typically substandard and manufactured from poor quality non-conforming materials. Failure to use genuine Parker parts may result in:

- Increased contamination in process streams
- Spoilage and potential recall
- Compromised consumer safety
- Audit failure
- Voided warranty
- Manufacturing Downtime

Parker cannot provide support for non-original manufactured parts used with our PCO<sub>2</sub> systems and is not responsible for loss of revenue or quality concerns resulting from non-compliance.

## Can I over-size the PCO2 and extend the working life?

**NO.** The people asking this question usually have

no on-site CO<sub>2</sub> contamination monitoring and want to reduce their running costs. The PCO<sub>2</sub> is an insurance against the occurrence of quality incidents and therefore has to be properly maintained in order to be effective. Additionally, the cost of an 8000 lb/hr service kit is twice that of the 4000 lb/hr kit offering no cost saving.

## How do I change adsorbent cartridges?

Simple - remove the top manifold, exchange the pre-charged cartridges, and replace the top manifold. Full details can be found in the User Guide.

## When do I change adsorbent cartridges?

PCO<sub>2</sub> Mark 1 units supplied before July 2019, **every 6 months**, or after a **'quality incident'**, whichever comes first. For Next Generation units supplied after July 2019, adsorbent cartridges will require exchange after a **maximum of 12 months'** usage or after a **'quality incident'**, whichever comes first.

## When do I change filter elements cartridges?

For PCO<sub>2</sub> Mark 1 units, every **6 months**. For Next Generation units, it is recommended that filter exchange is undertaken every **12 months**.

It is advised that the filter cartridges are changed during the same planned maintenance schedule that the adsorbent cartridges are replaced. Replacing the cartridges during the same period will reduce downtime and the amount of time that the PCO<sub>2</sub> system is exposed to atmosphere and potential contamination.

## What is the shelf life of un-used replacement cartridges?

Currently 2 years in original packaging (a heavy gauge laminated plastic bag). A label indicates manufacturing date.

## What filtration should I use?

HIGH FLOW BIO-X sterile gas membrane filters should be used to ensure sterility of the gas and protect finished product quality. HIGH FLOW BIO-X is validated as a 0.2 micron sterilizing grade filter in liquids through ASTM F838-05 and 0.01 micron in gas through full retention to an aerosol challenge of MS2 phage. This ensures the filter will guarantee the sterility of your process in the worst-case scenario where the filter may be subjected to bulk liquid due to a process problem.

## Is PCO2 FDA approved?

Materials of construction have independent verifications to comply with FDA Code of Federal Regulations title 21 CFR.

## What is the approval status of PCO2?

All models of the PCO<sub>2</sub> system meet full CE approval including accreditation to the European Pressure Equipment Directive (PED). The USA does not require pressure vessel approvals.

# Parker Worldwide

## Europe, Middle East, Africa

**AE – United Arab Emirates,**  
Dubai

Tel: +971 4 8127100  
parker.me@parker.com

**AT – Austria,** Wiener Neustadt  
Tel: +43 (0)2622 23501-0  
parker.austria@parker.com

**AT – Eastern Europe,** Wiener  
Neustadt  
Tel: +43 (0)2622 23501 900  
parker.easteurope@parker.com

**AZ – Azerbaijan,** Baku  
Tel: +994 50 2233 458  
parker.azerbaijan@parker.com

**BE/LU – Belgium,** Nivelles  
Tel: +32 (0)67 280 900  
parker.belgium@parker.com

**BG – Bulgaria,** Sofia  
Tel: +359 2 980 1344  
parker.bulgaria@parker.com

**BY – Belarus,** Minsk  
Tel: +48 (0)22 573 24 00  
parker.poland@parker.com

**CH – Switzerland,** Etoy  
Tel: +41 (0)21 821 87 00  
parker.switzerland@parker.com

**CZ – Czech Republic,** Klecany  
Tel: +420 284 083 111  
parker.czechrepublic@parker.com

**DE – Germany,** Kaarst  
Tel: +49 (0)2131 4016 0  
parker.germany@parker.com

**DK – Denmark,** Ballerup  
Tel: +45 43 56 04 00  
parker.denmark@parker.com

**ES – Spain,** Madrid  
Tel: +34 902 330 001  
parker.spain@parker.com

**FI – Finland,** Vantaa  
Tel: +358 (0)20 753 2500  
parker.finland@parker.com

**FR – France,** Contamine s/Arve  
Tel: +33 (0)4 50 25 80 25  
parker.france@parker.com

**GR – Greece,** Athens  
Tel: +30 210 933 6450  
parker.greece@parker.com

**HU – Hungary,** Budaörs  
Tel: +36 23 885 470  
parker.hungary@parker.com

**IE – Ireland,** Dublin  
Tel: +353 (0)1 466 6370  
parker.ireland@parker.com

**IL – Israel**  
Tel: +39 02 45 19 21  
parker.israel@parker.com

**IT – Italy,** Corsico (MI)  
Tel: +39 02 45 19 21  
parker.italy@parker.com

**KZ – Kazakhstan,** Almaty  
Tel: +7 7273 561 000  
parker.easteurope@parker.com

**NL – The Netherlands,** Oldenzaal  
Tel: +31 (0)541 585 000  
parker.nl@parker.com

**NO – Norway,** Asker  
Tel: +47 66 75 34 00  
parker.norway@parker.com

**PL – Poland,** Warsaw  
Tel: +48 (0)22 573 24 00  
parker.poland@parker.com

**PT – Portugal**  
Tel: +351 22 999 7360  
parker.portugal@parker.com

**RO – Romania,** Bucharest  
Tel: +40 21 252 1382  
parker.romania@parker.com

**RU – Russia,** Moscow  
Tel: +7 495 645-2156  
parker.russia@parker.com

**SE – Sweden,** Spånga  
Tel: +46 (0)8 59 79 50 00  
parker.sweden@parker.com

**SK – Slovakia,** Banská Bystrica  
Tel: +421 484 162 252  
parker.slovakia@parker.com

**SL – Slovenia,** Novo Mesto  
Tel: +386 7 337 6650  
parker.slovenia@parker.com

**TR – Turkey,** Istanbul  
Tel: +90 216 4997081  
parker.turkey@parker.com

**UA – Ukraine,** Kiev  
Tel: +48 (0)22 573 24 00  
parker.poland@parker.com

**UK – United Kingdom,** Warwick  
Tel: +44 (0)1926 317 878  
parker.uk@parker.com

**ZA – South Africa,** Kempton Park  
Tel: +27 (0)11 961 0700  
parker.southafrica@parker.com

## North America

**CA – Canada,** Milton, Ontario  
Tel: +1 905 693 3000

**US – USA,** Cleveland  
Tel: +1 216 896 3000

## Asia Pacific

**AU – Australia,** Castle Hill  
Tel: +61 (0)2-9634 7777

**CN – China,** Shanghai  
Tel: +86 21 2899 5000

**HK – Hong Kong**  
Tel: +852 2428 8008

**IN – India,** Mumbai  
Tel: +91 22 6513 7081-85

**JP – Japan,** Tokyo  
Tel: +81 (0)3 6408 3901

**KR – South Korea,** Seoul  
Tel: +82 2 559 0400

**MY – Malaysia,** Shah Alam  
Tel: +60 3 7849 0800

**NZ – New Zealand,** Mt Wellington  
Tel: +64 9 574 1744

**SG – Singapore**  
Tel: +65 6887 6300

**TH – Thailand,** Bangkok  
Tel: +662 186 7000

**TW – Taiwan,** Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 2298 8987

## South America

**AR – Argentina,** Buenos Aires  
Tel: +54 3327 44 4129

**BR – Brazil,** Sao Jose dos Campos  
Tel: +55 800 727 5374

**CL – Chile,** Santiago  
Tel: +56 2 623 1216

**MX – Mexico,** Toluca  
Tel: +52 72 2275 4200

### EMEA Product Information Centre

Free phone: 00 800 27 27 5374

(from AT, BE, CH, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, IE, IL, IS, IT, LU, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RU, SE, SK, UK, ZA)

### US Product Information Centre

Toll-free number: 1-800-27 27 537

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