STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

FRIABILITY TESTER
WITH ABRASION DRUM

Valid for: 2 years from approval

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1. **Scope**

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) applies to the staff and students using the Friability Tester in the laboratories of the Pharmacy Department, University of Malta.

2. **Objective**

To describe the procedure for the operation and maintenance of the Friability Tester.

3. **Definitions**

3.1. **Abrasion Drum**: Consists of 12 standardised internal plastic baffles used to test the abrasion strength of the tablets.

3.2. **Friability/Abrasion Tester**: Consists of a drive unit that rotates a transparent plastic drum at a standard 25rpm.

3.3. **Friability Test**: Provides a standardised, reproducible method for measuring the tendency of a tablet to chip or powder when subjected to the mechanical stresses of the manufacturing, packaging and transportation processes of the tablet.

4. **Responsibility**

4.1. The members of the Department of Pharmacy (staff and students) are responsible for following this SOP.

4.2. The designated Laboratory Officer or Laboratory Assistant is responsible for ensuring that this SOP is followed.

5. **Procedure**

5.1. **Operation**

5.1.1. Connect the power cord to an appropriate electrical outlet.

5.1.2. Unscrew the locking nut to release the drum.

5.1.3. Brush any loose dust from the tablets to be tested.

5.1.4. Accurately weigh the tablets.

5.1.5. Load the tablets into the drum.
5.1.6. Place the plastic cover over the drum.
5.1.7. Hold the cover firmly in place and slide the drum body onto the shaft.
5.1.8. Place the locking nut onto the end of the shaft.
5.1.9. Tighten the locking nut into position.
5.1.10. Turn the knob to the desired number of rotations.
5.1.11. Wait until the drum returns to a stationary position.
5.1.12. Remove locking nut.
5.1.13. Carefully remove the drum from the shaft.
5.1.14. Remove the tablets and brush away any loose powder from them.
5.1.15. Check for any obviously cracked, cleaved or broken tablets since this will indicate that the sample tablets have failed the friability test.
5.1.16. Reweigh the tablets.
5.1.17. Calculate the percentage of weight loss using the following formula:

\[
\% \text{ weight loss} = \frac{\text{Initial weight} - \text{Final weight}}{\text{Initial weight}} \times 100\%
\]

5.2. Maintenance

5.2.1. Routinely check drums for signs of cracks or chips.
5.2.2. Inspect electrical connections for signs of corrosion and damage.
5.2.3. Immediately wipe any spills from the exterior of the equipment using a moistened clean cloth.
5.2.4. Clean drums thoroughly after each use using deionised water and dry with a soft cloth.

5.3. Average time taken to carry out Procedure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure Section</th>
<th>Average Time (mins)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operation</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(for one test with standard 100 revolutions)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
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</table>
5.4. Flow Charts

5.4.1. Operation

Start

Connect power cord to an appropriate electrical outlet

Unscrew locking nut to release drum

Brush any loose dust from tablets

Accurately weigh tablets

Load tablets into drum

Place plastic cover over drum

Hold cover firmly in place and slide drum onto the shaft

Place locking nut onto the end of the shaft

Tighten locking nut into position

Turn timer to the desired number of rotations

Wait until drum returns to stationary position

Remove locking nut

Carefully remove drum from shaft

1
1. Remove tablets and brush away any loose powder

Any cracked, cleaved or broken tablets

Yes

Tablets sample has failed the friability test

No

Reweigh tablets

Calculate the percentage weight loss using the following formula:

\[
\text{% Weight Loss} = \frac{(\text{Initial weight} - \text{Final weight})}{\text{Initial Weight}} \times 100\%
\]

End
5.4.2. Maintenance

Start

Routinely check drum/s for signs of cracks or chips

Inspect electrical connections for signs of corrosion and damage

Any spills

Yes

Immediately wipe using a moistened clean cloth

No

No

Drum needs cleaning

Yes

Clean thoroughly using deionised water and dry with a soft cloth

End
6. Precautions

6.1. Do not open the electrical compartment due to the risk of shock and allow only trained personnel to do so.

6.2. When tightening the locking nut, ensure that it is not overtightened since this can cause damage to the drum.

6.3. Do not use cleaning compounds containing ammonia or abrasive cleaners to clean the plastic drum since such compounds may damage plastic, causing it to crack and fracture.

6.4. For tablets with a unit mass equal to or less than 650mg, a sample of tablets corresponding as near as possible to 6.5g is to be used whilst for tablets with a unit mass greater than 650mg, a sample of 10 whole tablets is to be used.

6.5. According to the British Pharmacopoeia, 100 rotations are considered to be the standard number of rotations to be used for each test.

6.6. According to the British Pharmacopoeia, a maximum loss of mass not greater than 1.0 per cent is considered acceptable for most types of tablets.

7. References


8. Appendices

N/A
9. Revision History

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<tr>
<th>Version Number</th>
<th>Amendments/ Reasons for change</th>
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