COMMERCIAL QUALITY SILICONE SPONGE
IN FOOD APPLICATIONS

Requests for “Food Quality” Silicone Sponge are increasing. Unfortunately information regarding suitability for this type of demand has been very limited and in some sources inaccurate. We believe that the statement “Food Quality type / worthiness” can be slightly mis-leading and recommend that customers assess and define the application requirements more clearly. For guidance we have split the potential use of Silicone Sponge into the following two categories:-

AREA 1) FOOD ZONE “CONTACT”

If the product is to come into contact with foodstuffs we still maintain our present position of “Not Recommended for Use”. This is because we have a responsibility under EEC law to submit migration data regarding “performance of the finished product” and whether it is safe for use in such applications. Unfortunately it still remains a very complex subject and other considerations have to be taken into account e.g. what type of foodstuffs will the product come into contact with and at what temperatures etc. However our company will continue to discuss the matter with the relevant parties and will hopefully clarify the situation in the future.

AREA 2) SPLASH ZONE “NON-CONTACT”

Lid seals on food containers (pre-packed or covered), oven door seals, refrigeration seals and some food processing equipment for example are recognised as “Splash Zone Areas” and it is unlikely that components manufactured for these types of applications will come into direct contact with foodstuffs.

Our Silicone Sponge has been used in many food applications for example as seals for food containers and assessed against the following criteria – “to be non-toxic, stable, corrosion resistant, odour free, non-absorbent and unaffected by food and normal cleaning methods”. Information regarding the material formulation was submitted and found acceptable for use following a review under FDA Regulation 21 CFR Parts 177-199 and N.S.F. Regulation 7.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The system of manufacture and the product mix are unique. All products are fully post cured and are manufactured under strict controlled conditions. The reduction and variations of some additive levels within the formulation has been part of an ongoing development strategy aimed at solving a number of policy objectives e.g. COSHH, Environment, Low Smoke/ Low Toxic etc.

However we must stress that our Commercial Quality Silicone Sponge has not, as yet, been listed separately under FDA/NSF Regulations but feel that the information gathered so far and the recommended guidelines may be of benefit to potential users of Silicone Sponge and reflects the present state of knowledge.