In the Spotlight

Pharmaceutical Science & Technology Innovations

Multipacker
(Grace Vydac)

KoolWatch
(Cold Chain Technologies)

Orbitron III
(Boekel Scientific)

Axial Compression Column Technology for Chromatographers

Grace Vydac (Columbia, MD) has launched its 4-in. "Multipacker" unit for simple self-packing of preparative high-performance liquid chromatography spring columns.

The system is designed to allow chromatographers to consistently pack their own columns on site. "You can get 25% more efficiency with these columns than with typical bed-length columns," says Susan Ehrlich, global marketing director of Grace Vydac.

In addition, the Multipacker systems are self-contained and maintain the axial pressure when moved. "Most axial compression columns are tied to a hydraulic piston that applies force to the column's bed," says Paul Garms, product manager at Grace Vydac. "With our system, you can compress the spring, lock it down, remove the column, and then pack another unit on the Multipacker." One unit can be used with several columns.

The unit is suitable for scaling up to production scale using media ranging from hard spherical silica to polymer gels.

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Temperature Sensor Offers Reliability

The "KoolWatch" temperature sensor from Cold Chain Technologies (Hollister, MA) detects when products are exposed to unacceptable conditions.

The disposable electronic sensor is preprogrammed with the product's required temperature range. When shipping temperatures extend above or beyond this parameter, the device issues "okay" or "not okay" alerts on its LCD screen. "It's extremely easy to use," says Larry Gordon, president of Cold Chain Technologies. "If there's a 'not okay' alert, the user can press a button to detect when the failure happened and at what temperature it occurred."

In addition, the sensor is more reliable and less prone to make false negative reports than chemical indicators. According to Gordon, "Traditional chemical-based temperature indicators can be undependable. The KoolWatch sensor offers a higher degree of accuracy than these products."

Users can activate the device up to three years after preprogramming, and the unit has a two-year shelf life. The sensor weighs 0.5 oz and does not add significant weight to shipping costs.

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Shaking Rotator for Heavy Loads

Boekel Scientific (Feasterville, PA) has introduced the "Orbitron III" shaker–rotator mixing equipment.

Designed for demanding applications, the Orbitron III shaker–rotator features a large rocker for large batches. "The heavy-duty rocker is double the size of rockers on previous versions of the equipment," says Chuck Carney, vice-president of sales and marketing at Boekel Scientific. The rocker can handle loads as heavy as 20 lb.

In addition, the shaking rotator is equipped with an adjustable timer that can be set for as long as 12 h. "Technicians can set a large vessel on it, walk away, and the machine will shut itself off automatically," Carney explains.

The equipment can operate at temperatures ranging from 4 to 55 °C and at speeds from 6 to 125 orbits/min. The rotator can simultaneously accommodate containers of various sizes, without racks or clamps.

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