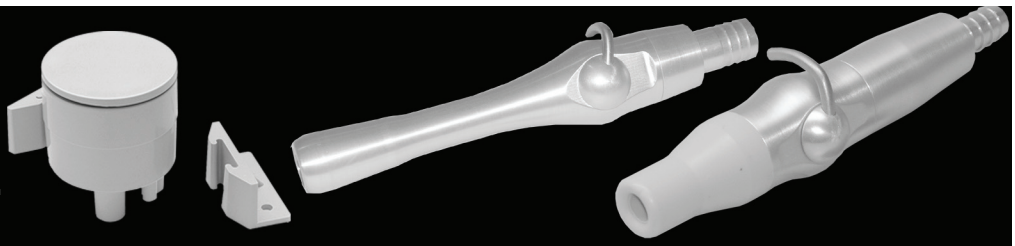
PARTS WAREHOUSE



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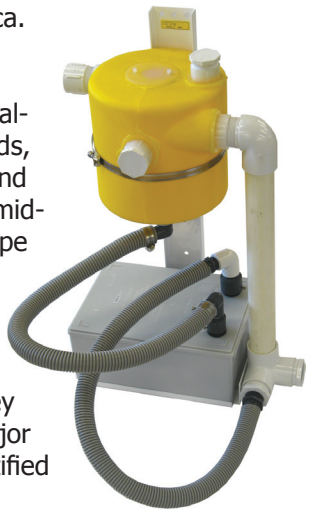
Rasch 890-1500 In-Line Separator for Wet or Dry Installations



Amalgam separators are relatively new to North America. As most domestic models had been quickly "designed" for this emerging market, about half of those remain today and even fewer are certified to function under real-world conditions. Our corporate partner, ab dental trends, has been involved with the development, distribution and support of the Rasch 980 separation system since the mid-1990s. This carefully refined product originated in Europe in 1987 and has truly set the standard for central vacuum system heavy metal separators with 20,000 units sold worldwide. ab dental trends offers the broadest range of installations of any vendor, going on the inlet as well as the outlet of suction pumps. They may very well be the only vendor able to cope with major teaching hospitals with 2-300 operatories with ISO certified separators.

Regulators have begun to scrutinize ISO 11143 testing and certification of vendors and revise their lists of approved models. Our Rasch 890 stands strong with tests of 99.3% removal at the 2 liter per minute flow rate, and 96.7% at 4 liters, with a certificate valid through February 28, 2012. Note that efficiency of removal is significantly affected by flow rate. The Rasch also uses the same compact replacement filter canister across our model line.

The Solmetex Hg5, a competitive product, was tested at only 0.05 liters (3.5 Tablespoons) per minute to meet ISO efficiency standards instead of their working flow rate of over 1 liter. This does not meet the ISO 11143 requirements on turnover of content, and does not appear to be valid. The Canadian Standards Association, which has oversight for the lab doing the Solmetex test, was asked to review the procedure. Some regulators have duly noted the flow rate after posting their regulations and listings on-line and have even added a column for flow rate to provide an accurate overall picture. Maine, Minneapolis (MCES-MDA), King County (Seattle), and the June 07 SF Bay Area listings all have been updated as a result. The American Dental Association also noted this as an issue as the general industry becomes more aware (Caveat emptor). These types of regulatory issues have created confusion for many dental dealers whose goal is simply to assist their clients in making the correct product decision. ab dental trends recognized the need for special help in this area and brought Roger Weiss on board as product manager. He not only works with our dealers to answer their questions, he continually monitors the geographical areas that are mandating the requirement for separators and reviews all compliancy requirements.

ISO 11143 has been under review for several years, and a revision may be available by the end of this year. The most significant addition expected is a requirement for testing at a minimum flow rate of 1 liter per minute.

For more information:

Roger Weiss,
Product Manager,
ab dental trends inc.
roger@amalgamseparation.com
www.amalgamseparation.com

Tech Tip:

Think tubing ID's and barb OD's are a little confusing? Wait till you try dealing with pipe sizes! NPS, Nominal Pipe Size.

According to Webster's Illustrated Encyclopedic Dictionary; Nominal (adj.): 1. Not real or actual. 2. Theoretical. 3. Minimal in comparison to real value. In a nutshell, this pretty well describes pipe sizes, flow capacity, and pipe threads.

In the dental industry we are fortunate that we are not inclined to get real involved in this arena. Here is a quick rule of thumb when looking at pipe and getting the correct size. The approximate (Nominal) outside diameters of the most common pipe threads when measured with a ruler or tape measure are:

1/8 NPS = 3/8" OD
1/4 NPS = 1/2" OD
3/8 NPS = 5/8" OD
1/2 NPS = 7/8" OD
3/4 NPS = 1" OD