

ON-LINE STEAM SANITIZATION SYSTEM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 An on-line steam sanitization system and
method for a deionized water supply system for a plant
production line such as a plant for the production and
5 packaging of contact lenses. The sanitizing operation
is performed by directing a clean deionized steam
through all of the deionized water supply system while
the deionized water supply system is closed, rather than
disassembled and open to possible recontamination as in
10 the prior art, which provides a much more effective
sanitization operation, and also substantially reduces
the down time for the plant production line. The clean
steam is generated by using available house steam to
heat deionized water from the deionized water supply to
15 generate a clean steam therefrom which is suitable for
the sanitization operation. The use of steam in an on-
line sanitizing operation in the existing deionized
water supply system required that the production line
equipment be modified to withstand the pressure and heat
20 of the steam sanitizing operation, which entailed the
removal of reservoirs and their replacement with
pressure regulators, a new manifold design which has a
symmetrical design with an equal number of fixtures
leading to each of the pumps, and by utilizing Kynar
25 tubes and Kynar fixtures.

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