What is claimed is:

1. A cover plate adapted for communication with a plurality of delivery containers during a lyophilization process, the cover plate comprising:

a base portion comprising a length and a width;

a plurality of protuberances extending from the base portion and distributed along at least one of the length and the width of the base portion;

each of the plurality of protuberances adapted to extend at least partially into a delivery container;

the cover plate further comprising a plurality of extensions in the form of posts or stand-off features spaced apart from the protuberances, and wherein the plurality of extensions are operable to provide a stand-off height and limit an amount, distance or extent in which the protuberances extend into delivery containers, and wherein free ends of the posts or stand-off features are operable to contact at least one of a rack and a tub and limit an amount, distance or extent in which the protuberances are allowed to extend into the delivery containers when the cover plate is applied or positioned on the delivery containers thus preventing the protuberances from fully extending into the delivery containers;

wherein at least one vent feature is provided by the stand-off height to allow at least one of a gas, a vapor, and a fluid to flow therethrough;

and wherein the cover plate substantially prevents the escape of a lyophilizate from delivery containers during a lyophilization process.

2. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of protuberances comprises a frustoconical member.

3. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the protuberances are provided in an array.

4. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the extensions are provided on the base portion.

5. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the base portion comprises four corners and the extensions are provided at each of the four corners of the base portion.

6. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the at least one vent feature comprises an annular gap between at least one of the plurality of protuberances and a delivery container.

7. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein at least some of the plurality of extensions are provided in contact with at least one of a rack and a tub.

8. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the plurality of extensions comprises four extensions.

9. A system for handling a plurality of delivery containers during a lyophilization process, the system comprising:

a tub;

a rack operable to suspend a plurality of containers in an upright position such that an opening of each of the containers faces toward a top of the tub;

a cover plate comprising a plurality of protuberances distributed along at least one of a length and a width of the cover plate, wherein each of the plurality of protuberances is adapted to extend at least partially into a container;

wherein the cover plate comprises a plurality of extensions in the form of posts or stand-off features;

wherein the extensions are operable to contact at least one of the tub and the rack and provide a stand-off height of the rack to prevent the protuberances from occluding the containers;

wherein free ends of the extensions are operable to contact at least one of a rack and a tub and limit an amount, distance or extent in which the protuberances are allowed to extend into the containers when the cover plate is applied or positioned proximal to the containers thus preventing the protuberances from fully extending into the containers;

and wherein the extensions provide a vent feature between the containers and the cover plate that substantially prevents the escape of a lyophilizate from the one or more containers during a lyophilization process.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the rack comprises a flange and wherein the flange comprises a contact surface for placing the rack in contact with the tub.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein each of the plurality of protuberances comprises a frustoconical member.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein the containers comprise syringe barrels.

13. The system of claim 9, wherein the delivery containers contain leuprolide acetate.

14. The system of claim 10, wherein the extensions are operable to contact the flange of the rack.

15. The system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of extensions comprises four extensions.

16. A method for lyophilizing a solution containing leuprolide acetate, comprising:

providing a cover plate comprising a base portion comprising a length and a width; a plurality of protuberances extending from the base portion and distributed along at least one of the length and the width of the base portion; each of the plurality of protuberances adapted to extend at least partially into a delivery container;

wherein the cover plate comprises a plurality of extensions in the form of posts or stand-off features that are operable to provide a stand-off height and limit an amount, distance or extent in which the protuberances extend into delivery containers;

wherein free ends of the extensions are operable to contact at least one of a rack and a tub and limit an amount, distance or extent in which the protuberances are allowed to extend into the containers when the cover plate is applied or positioned proximal to the delivery containers thus preventing the protuberances from fully extending into the delivery containers;

wherein at least one vent feature is provided by the stand-off height to allow at least one of a gas, a vapor, and a fluid to flow therethrough;

and wherein the cover plate substantially prevents the escape of a lyophilizate from delivery containers during a lyophilization process;

placing the cover plate over a plurality of syringe barrels containing a solution comprising leuprolide acetate, such that the plurality of protuberances extend at least partially into the syringe barrels;

wherein the syringe barrels are suspended in a rack contained within a tub, wherein the rack suspends the syringe barrels in an upright position such that an opening of each of the syringe barrels faces toward a top of the tub, and wherein at least some of the plurality of extensions contact at least one of the rack and the tub;

placing the tub containing the plurality of syringes on a shelf of a lyophilizing apparatus; and

lyophilizing the solution by cooling the solution and applying a vacuum to the solution.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein at least one of a gas, a vapor and a fluid are allowed to flow through the vent feature.

18. The method of claim 16, further comprising a step of examining the protuberances for the presence of lyophilizate.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the base portion comprises four corners and the extensions are provided at each of the four corners of the base portion.