

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DEGASSING
DEIONIZED WATER FOR INSPECTION AND PACKAGING

ABSTRACT

The specification describes the post hydration processing of contact lenses and the packages, into which the lenses are placed, and an apparatus and system for degassing ionized water and distributing it to assemblies used in processing of the contact lenses. Several assemblies are described, and include: a degas unit for degassing deionized water, a deionized water distribution system, a deionizing water injection assembly which fills the packaging elements prior to the lenses being inserted therein; a lens transfer and insertion assembly which removes contact lenses from hydration pallets, alters their spatial distribution, and deposits them into the packaging elements; a bubble blow off assembly; a low vibration lens-package transport and inspection assembly which transports the lenses while they are inspected to determine which are optically correct; and a deionized water extraction assembly which removes the deionized water from the lens-packaging elements prior to being filled with saline for packaging.

The degas unit includes a vacuum chamber, a plurality of gas permeable tubes mounted within the chamber, manifold assemblies for interconnecting the tubes and precision meter pumps for precision metering of small amounts (less than one ml) into the lens transfer and handling assemblies and the lens packages for inspection thereof.

Figure 3

This Sheet Has Been Replaced

