

## Over 70 Years of Allergy Problems

The issue of allergic reaction to the proteins in natural rubber latex first emerged in the early 1930s. However, it did not become a widespread issue until the late 1980s when protection against the AIDS virus mandated dramatic increases in the use of latex gloves.

The following timeline shows the events that have led to today's demand for Vytex<sup>TM</sup> natural rubber latex (NRL), safer latex with antigenic protein levels so low that they are "undetectable" by today's standard industry protein tests.

- 1933** First description of allergic reaction to latex gloves appears in American scientific literature – *The New England Journal of Medicine*.
- 1987** The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that health care workers practice universal precautions to protect them from HIV infection, dramatically increasing the use of latex gloves.
- 1991** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reports 16 deaths in patients who went into shock after exposure to latex-collared barium enema tips, and alerts manufacturers to severe reactions attributed to latex allergy.
- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration publishes its Occupational Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens Standard mandating the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), including latex gloves, when potentially exposed to blood and other bodily fluids (29CFR.1910.1030) causing glove demand to soar.
- 1992** Medical device manufacturers begin to voluntarily label their products relating to latex content.
- 1996** The FDA publishes a proposed regulation to require labeling on all medical devices containing latex.
- 2001** First of many latex glove liability suits begin in state and federal courts.
- Vystar develops a novel method for the deactivation of the antigenic proteins in liquid natural rubber latex and begins laboratory testing to extract antigenic proteins while retaining all the desirable attributes of latex at a competitive price.
- 2005** Vystar receives the first of its current 2 patents for the Vytex NRL process (U.S. Patent No. 6,906,126 B2), "Decreasing Allergenicity of Natural Latex Rubber Prior to Vulcanization". Vystar received notice of allowance of its second patent a mere six months after filing, which was formally published and issued in June 2006. Vystar's various international patent applications based on this 2<sup>nd</sup> patent were filed in October 2005, of which 8 are currently pending.
- Vystar presents first technical paper at the International Latex Conference, Charlotte, NC: "A Novel Protein-Free Natural Rubber Latex: Properties and Applications."

**2008**

Vystar signs toll manufacturing agreement with Revertex Malaysia, the world's largest producer of pre-vulcanized rubber lattices and post-vulcanizable latex compounds, to produce Vytex™ natural rubber latex (NRL).

Vystar begins first manufacturer trials of Vytex NRL in February.

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