

The “Top 5” Mass-ive Problems with Element-ary Solutions



Dr. Ryan Brennan
President
Glass Expansion, Inc.



Who is Glass Expansion?

Since 1985, Glass Expansion (GE) has been designing and manufacturing high-quality, user-friendly sample introduction components—from the probe to the cones—for ICP and ICP-MS instruments.

- Many leading ICP and ICP-MS vendors include GE components as part of their standard configuration
- GE supports all major ICP and ICP-MS instrument brands
- They provide innovative sample introduction solutions for over 50 different ICP and ICP-MS models

Industry Standard Trademark Designs

For more than 40 years, Glass Expansion has been designing and manufacturing high quality ICP sample introduction components, including many we will discuss today:



Tracey™ & Twister™
Cyclonic Spray Chambers



SeaSpray™ & MicroMist™
Nebulizers



Helix™ CT Interface



Guardian™ Inline
Particle Filter



D-Torch™



IsoMist™ XR



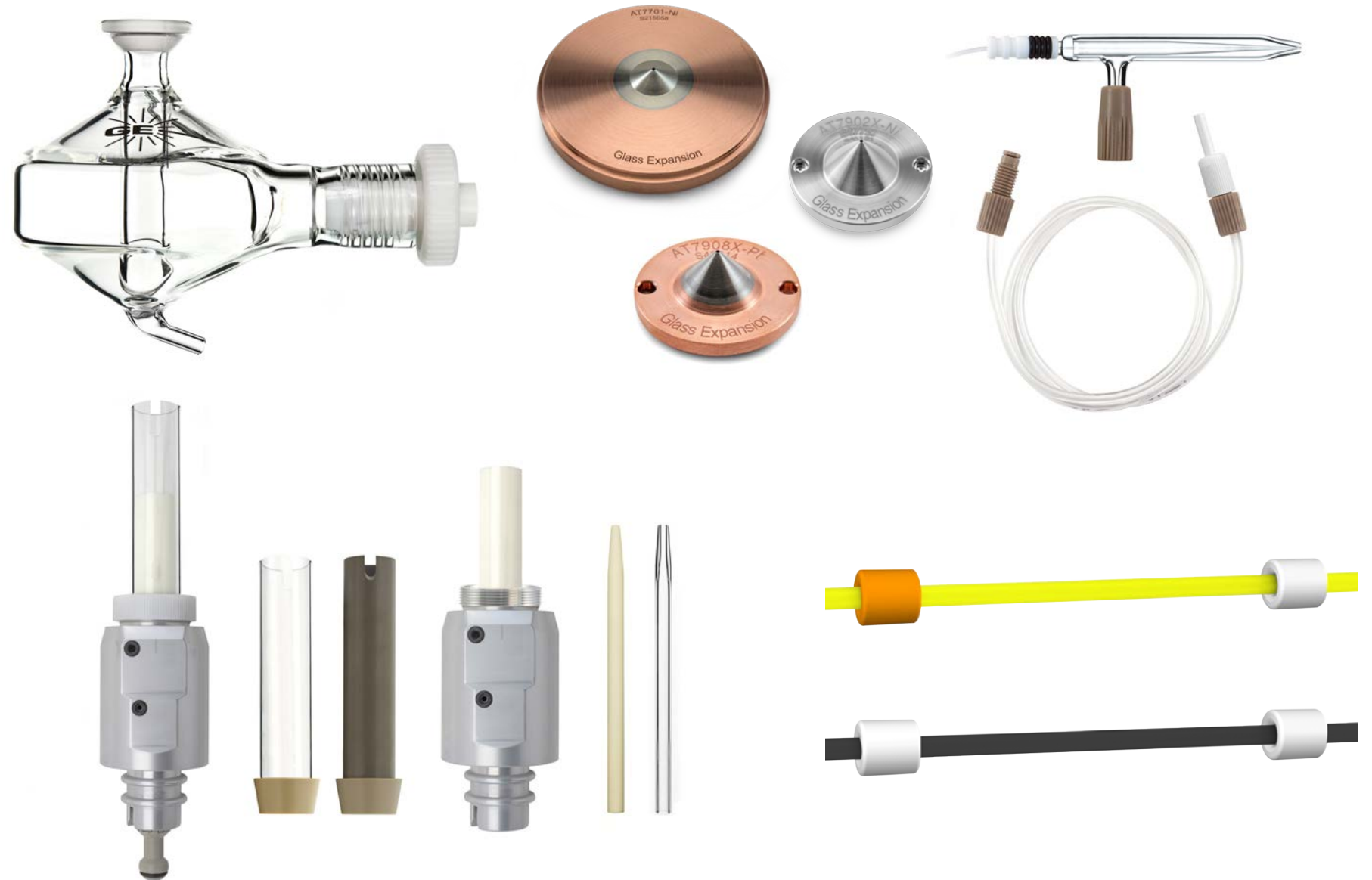
TruFlo™

Manufacturers Supported

- Agilent Technologies®
- Analytik Jena
- GBC Scientific
- Hitachi
- Horiba
- Nu Instruments
- PerkinElmer®
- Shimadzu®
- SPECTRO (Ametek)
- Standard BioTools™ (Fluidigm)
- Teledyne CETAC
- Teledyne Leeman
- Thermo Scientific™

Products Offered

- Autosampler Probes
- Pump Tubing
- Nebulizers
- Spray Chambers
- Torches
- Cones
- RF Coils
- Fittings, Connectors, & Adaptors
- Performance Enhancing Accessories



Helpful ICP Resources

Glass Expansion ICP Resources

As a world leader in research, design and manufacturing of high quality ICP sample introduction components, Glass Expansion places the same value on customer support, with www.geicp.com offering you a wealth of resources.



View Webinars

Webinars, covering tips & tricks, product selection & product highlights.



Application Notes

Library of Application Notes & Newsletter Application Spotlights.



View Videos

Instructional videos to aid in product assembly.



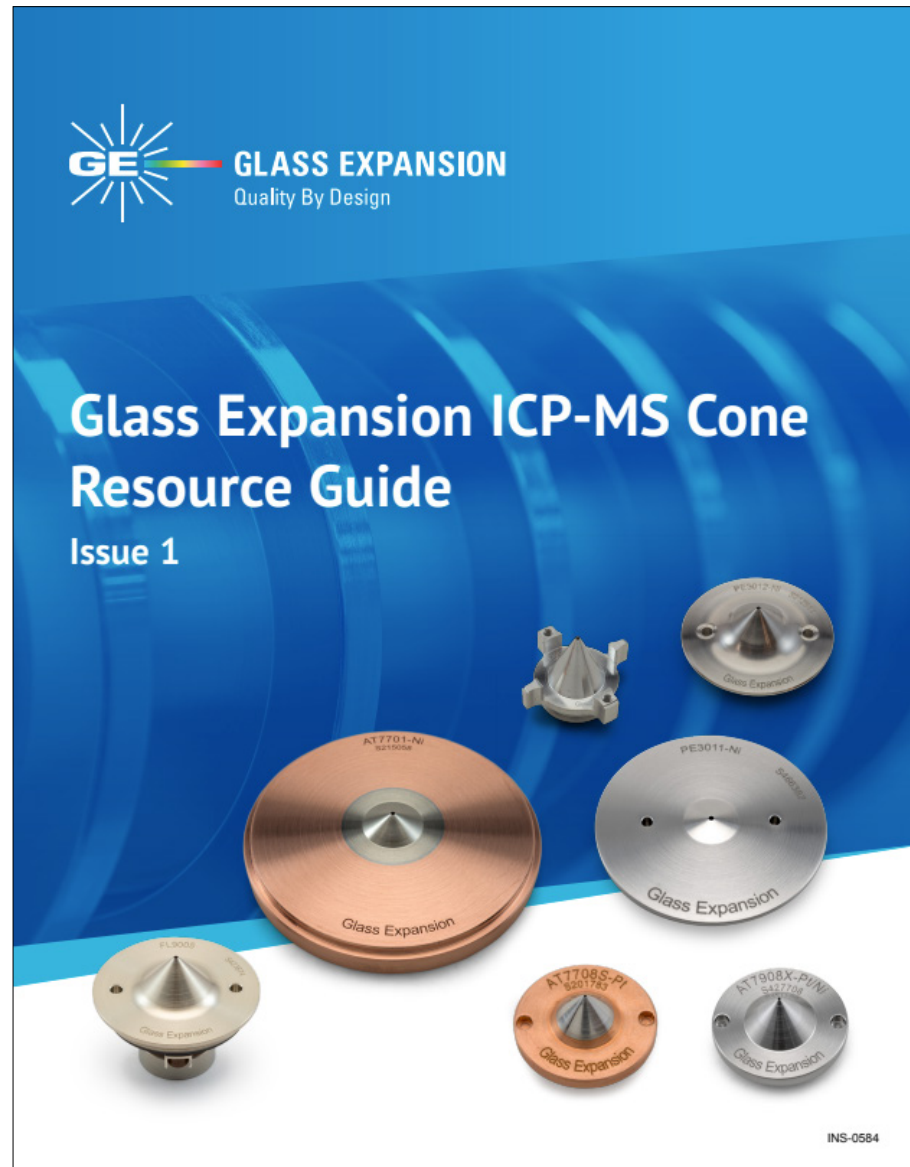
GE Catalogue

Full-color Catalogue organized by ICP-OES and ICP-MS models.

Click on the buttons above to take you to our ICP resources.

- Webinars
- Application and Technical Notes
- Product Assembly Guides
- Full Color Catalog Organized by ICP Model

Cone Resource Guide



- **Guidance on cone selection**
 - Advantages of different cone raw materials
 - Selection based on matrix and performance
- **Tips on Care and Maintenance**
- **Organized by ICP-MS Model**
 - Cross-reference OEM product numbers
 - [***Click here to view the Cone Resource Guide***](#)

Common Problems: “Real World” Samples

Perfect samples are nice—but they do not exist in the “real world”:

- Clogged nebulizers and injectors
- Torch devitrification
- Destabilization of plasma
- Increased oxide formation
- Long washout times / carryover
- Long stabilization times
- Signal suppression
- Signal drift
- Poor precision (RSDs)
- Carbon build-up
 - » Orifice occlusion
 - » Signal drift
 - » Carbon-based polyatomic interferences

Common Problems: “Real World” Samples

Perfect samples are nice—but they do not exist in the “real world”:

Take Home Note:

99% of analytical problems occur within the sample introduction configuration and can be traced back to a few common causes

#5

Abnormal Nebulizer Backpressure



#5

Abnormal Nebulizer Backpressure

It's good practice to record or take note of your nebulizer backpressure after the instrument has warmed up and use this as a benchmark while the instrument is running.

An abnormally high or low backpressure indicates a problem that needs to be addressed.

Part Number: A13-1-UM04
Product: MicroMist DC Nebulizer 0.4mL/min

1L/min

Part Number: A31-07-USS2
Product: SeaSpray DC Nebulizer 2mL/min

0.7L/min

Glass Expansion nebulizers are designed to operate at 40 psi (275 kPa) when set to their specified gas flow

Low Backpressure

Typically coupled with a loss in sensitivity, this can indicate a gas leak. Check the tubing and connections at both the instrument and nebulizer.



Direct Connect (DC) fittings, with built-in torque control, are the most secure and easiest to replace. The large, soft-walled tubing prevents kinks and fatiguing often associated with rigid capillary tubing.

High Backpressure

A high backpressure typically indicates a blocked or clogged nebulizer

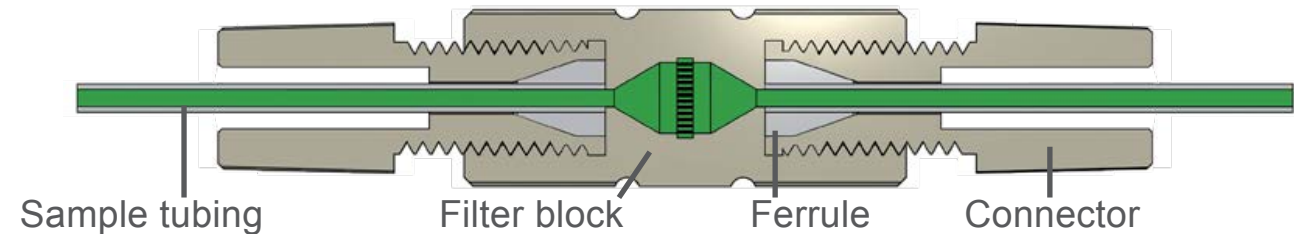
1. The nebulizer should be cleaned using appropriate procedures

- The **Eluo** device is recommended for all GE nebulizers



2. Determine the cause of the blockage (e.g., salts or particulates) and take preventative action

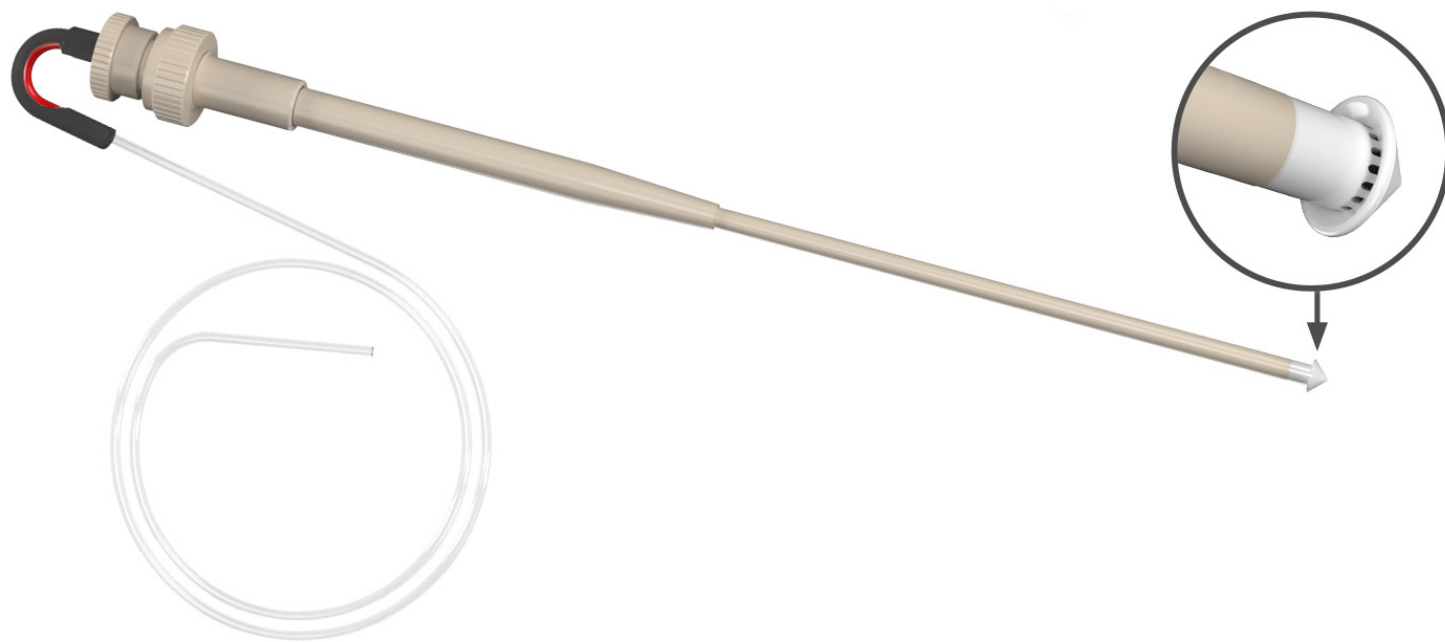
The **Guardian In-Line Sample Filter** installs directly onto the sample uptake or probe tubing. It contains a 120 µm PEEK filter that is designed to trap any large particulates that are taken up into the sample stream before they have a chance to reach and subsequently block or damage the nebulizer. The filter is reusable and can be backflushed with the **Eluo** and appropriate adapter.



The **Guardian In-Line Non-Return Gas Filter** prevents acidified sample or rinse solution from syphoning into the instrument gas box. It also contains a 30 µm PolyComb filter to protect the nebulizer from particulates in the instrument gas supply.

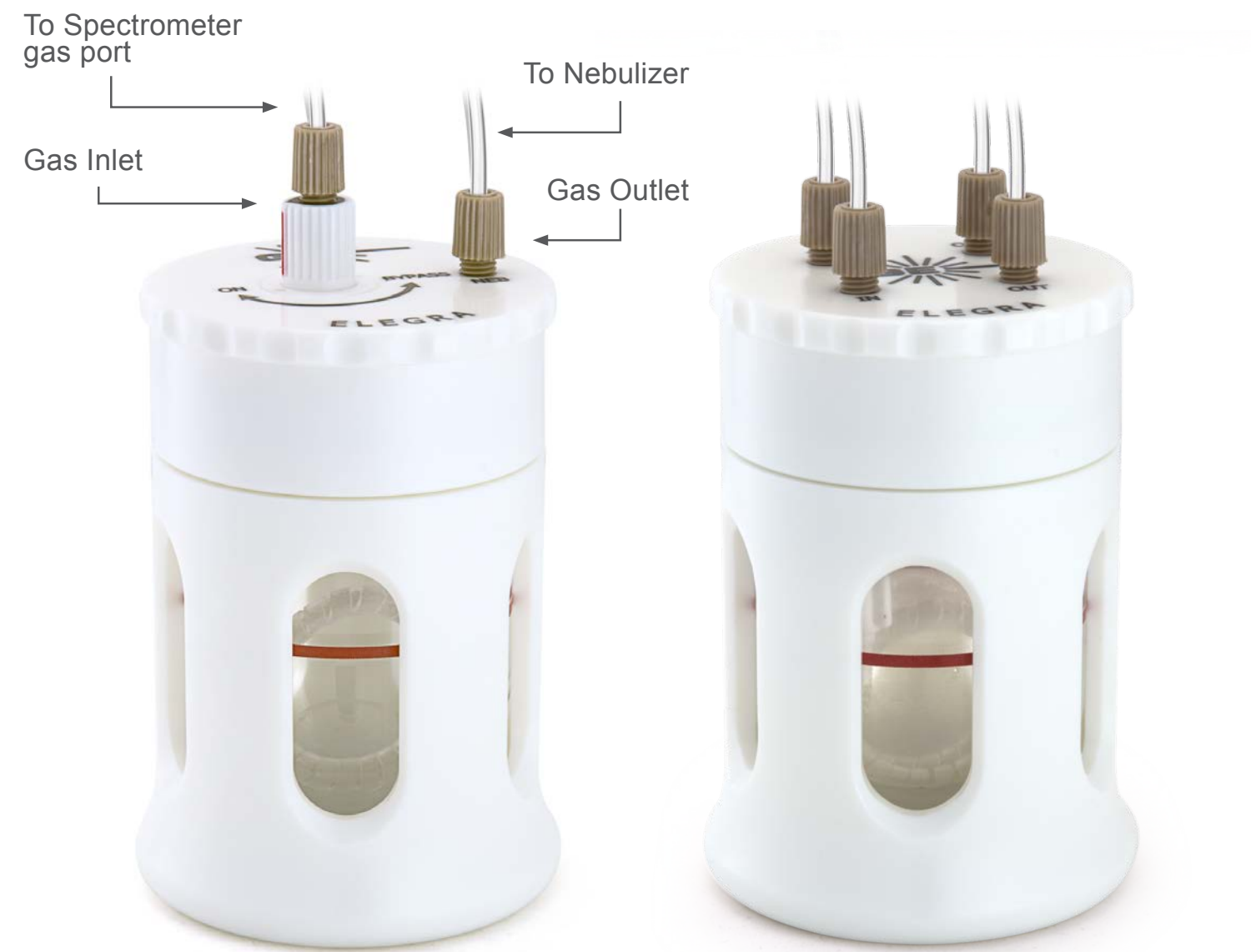


The **Guardian Autosampler Probe** is a new product from Glass Expansion that combines drip-resistance with a built-in filter tip. It is completely inert, with ceramic, PEEK, and PTFE construction.



- Robust (ceramic) tip prevents crushed and damaged tips due to misalignment
- Drip-resistant design prevents cross-contamination of samples, especially with oils
- Built-in particle filter holds back particulates from blocking the sample line

A carrier gas humidifier, such as the **Elegra Argon Humidifier** from Glass Expansion, is recommended for samples containing high amounts of total dissolved solids (TDS), as there is an increased likelihood of salt deposits forming at the tip of the nebulizer and injector which can result in significant analytical drift in or even an extinguished plasma.



#4

Inconsistent or Low Sample Uptake Rate

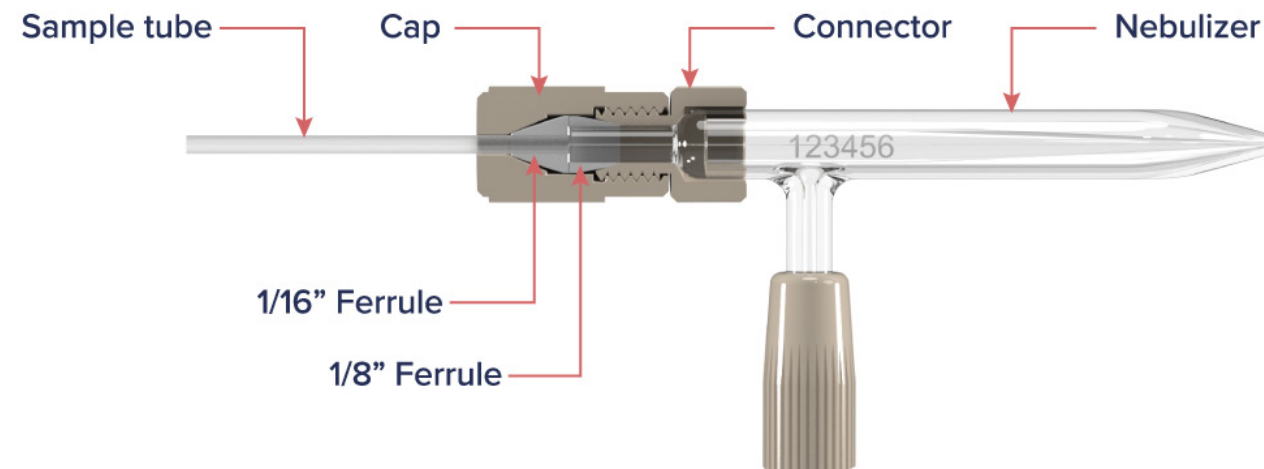
Just like with the nebulizer backpressure, it's good practice to monitor the sample uptake rate to ensure the correct or expected value.

A change in uptake rate can indicate a nebulizer or tubing blockage, worn pump tubing, or incorrect pump tension.

After checking for nebulizer issues covered in the previous slides, use the [Sample Uptake Calculator](#) on the Glass Expansion website to calculate the expected flow rate. Some ICP software also contains this feature.

The benchmark value should then be measured with new or recently-cleaned sample introduction components.

The **Nexus™ Universal Connection Kit** is a one-size-fits-all nebulizer connection kit which enables you to use any of Glass Expansion's industry- leading concentric nebulizers* with the sample introduction configuration of your choice, including switching valves, chromatographs (LC, HPLC, IC, etc.), and other high-performance accessories.



- **Switching Valves:** Simple and reliable custom-length connections to all high-throughput valve or syringe-drive systems
- **Speciation Analysis:** Zero-dead-volume and secure, high-pressure connection for hyphenated techniques, such as LC-ICP-MS, HPLC-ICP-MS, IC-ICP-MS, and FFF-ICP-MS
- **High-Efficiency Sample Introduction System (HE-SIS):** Connect to Glass Expansion's HE-SIS, which provides up to 95% transport efficiency for a variety of applications
- **High-Precision Analysis:** Create a high-pressure seal when performing self-aspiration for the most stable sample uptake and delivery

Poor precision (RSDs) or sensitivity can be symptoms of worn pump tubing. Be sure to replace pump tubing as frequently as necessary and ensure the correct pump tubing is used for your sample matrix.

Chemical Resistance Chart																	
Important note on service life, temperature, compatibility and chemical resistance: The data provided in the tables are advisory values and not guaranteed. In all cases customers should conduct tests to ensure compatability with their chemicals and processes.						We recommend: Place the tubing in the medium to be used for a period of 48 hours. After this time, examine the tubing for signs of swelling, softening or hardening. A judgement can then be made as to the likely suitability of the tubing.						Legend X = Satisfactory O = Use only after testing U = Unsatisfactory - = No data available					
Medium	PVC	Silicone	Viton	PVC Solva	Santo-prene	Medium	PVC	Silicone	Viton	PVC Solva	Santo-prene	Medium	PVC	Silicone	Viton	PVC Solva	Santo-prene
Acetaldehyde	U	X	U	X	X	Benzaldehyde	U	U	U	U	X	Ethyl bromide	U	-	X	X	-
Acetates (low mol. wt.)	U	O	U	X	X	Benzene	O	U	X	U	U	Ethyl chloride	U	U	X	X	U
Acetic acid (<5%)	X	X	X	X	X	Benzene sulfonic acid	O	-	X	X	-	Ethylamine	U	-	U	X	-
Acetic acid (>5%)	X	U	O	X	X	Benzoic acid	X	O	X	U	U	Ethylene chlorohydrin	U	U	X	X	U
Acetic anhydride	O	O	U	X	U	Benzyl alcohol	X	-	X	U	X	Ethylene di-chloride	U	U	X	X	U
Acetone	U	X	U	U	U	Bleaching liquors	X	O	X	X	X	Ethylene glycol	X	X	X	X	X
Acetyl bromide	U	-	-	X	-	Boric acid	X	X	X	X	X	Fatty acids	O	O	X	X	-
Acetyl chloride	U	-	-	X	-	Bromine	X	U	X	X	U	Ferric chloride	X	O	X	X	-
Air	X	X	X	X	X	Butane	O	U	X	U	U	Ferric sulfate	X	O	X	X	X
Alcohols	X	X	X	X	-	Butanol	X	O	X	-	-	Ferrous chloride	X	O	X	X	-
Aliphatic hydrocarbons	X	O	U	U	-	Butyl acetate	U	-	U	U	U	Ferrous sulfate	X	O	X	X	-
Aluminium chloride	X	O	X	X	-	Butyric acid	U	-	O	X	X	Fluoborate salts	X	-	-	X	X
Aluminium sulfate	X	X	X	X	X	Calcium salts	X	O	X	X	X	Fluoboric acid	X	-	-	X	X
Alums	X	-	X	X	-	Carbon bisulfide	U	-	X	U	-	Fluo-silicic acid	X	-	-	X	X
Ammonia (gas-liquid)	O	X	U	X	X	Carbon dioxide	X	O	X	X	X	Formaldehyde	X	O	U	X	X
Ammonium acetate	X	-	-	X	-	Carbon tetrachloride	O	U	X	X	U	Formic acid	X	O	U	X	X
Ammonium carbonate	X	-	-	X	-	Chloracetic acid	U	-	U	X	U	Freon	U	U	O	U	U
Ammonium chloride	X	-	X	X	-	Chlorbenzene	U	-	X	U	U	Gasoline (non-aromatic)	U	U	X	U	U
Ammonium hydroxide	O	X	X	X	X	Chlorine (wet)	O	U	X	X	U	Gasoline (high aromatic)	U	U	X	U	-
Ammonium nitrate	X	O	-	X	-	Chlorine (dry)	O	U	U	X	U	Glucose	X	X	X	X	X
Ammonium phosphate	X	X	-	X	-	Chloroform	O	U	X	U	U	Glue	X	-	X	X	-
Ammonium sulfate	X	X	X	X	X	Chlorsulfonic acid	O	U	U	X	U	Glycerine	X	X	X	X	X
Amyl acetate	U	U	U	U	U	Chromatic acid	X	U	X	-	X	Hydriodic acid	X	-	X	X	-
Amyl alcohol	X	U	X	U	X	Chromium salts	X	-	-	X	X	Hydro-bromic-acid	X	U	X	X	X
Amyl chloride	O	U	X	U	-	Copper salts	X	X	X	X	X	Hydrochloric acid (dil.)	X	U	X	X	X
Aniline	O	U	O	X	X	Cresol	O	X	X	U	U	Hydrochl. acid (med. conc.)	X	U	X	X	X
Aniline hydrochloride	O	U	X	X	-	Cyclohexanone	U	U	X	U	U	Hydrochloric (conc.)	O	U	X	X	X
Animal oils	U	O	X	X	X	Essential oils	O	-	-	X	X	Hydrocyanic acid	X	U	X	X	X
Antimony salts	X	-	O	X	-	Ethers	O	U	O	U	U	Hydrofluoric acid	O	U	X	X	O
Aqua regia	U	-	O	X	U	Ethyl acetate	U	O	U	U	U	Hydrogen peroxide (dil.)	X	X	X	X	U
Aromatic hydrocarbons	U	O	X	U	-	Ethyl alcohol	O	O	X	X	X						
Arsenic salts	X	-	X	X	X												
Barium salts	X	X	X	X	X												

Example of a chemical compatibility chart for peristaltic pump tubing

Customer Pain Points with traditional pump tubing:

1. Premature Tab Failure:

- **Description:** Tabs on the tubing can become loose or break off prematurely, especially if they are not properly bonded or are of poor quality.
- **Impact:** This can lead to detachment of the tubing from the connectors, causing interruptions in sample flow and requiring tubing replacement.

2. Tubing Slippage/Displacement:

- **Description:** Tubing can slip from the connectors or the pump rollers, particularly if the tubing is not properly fitted or if the connectors are worn.
- **Impact:** This can cause interruptions in the sample flow, inconsistent sample delivery and analysis interruptions.

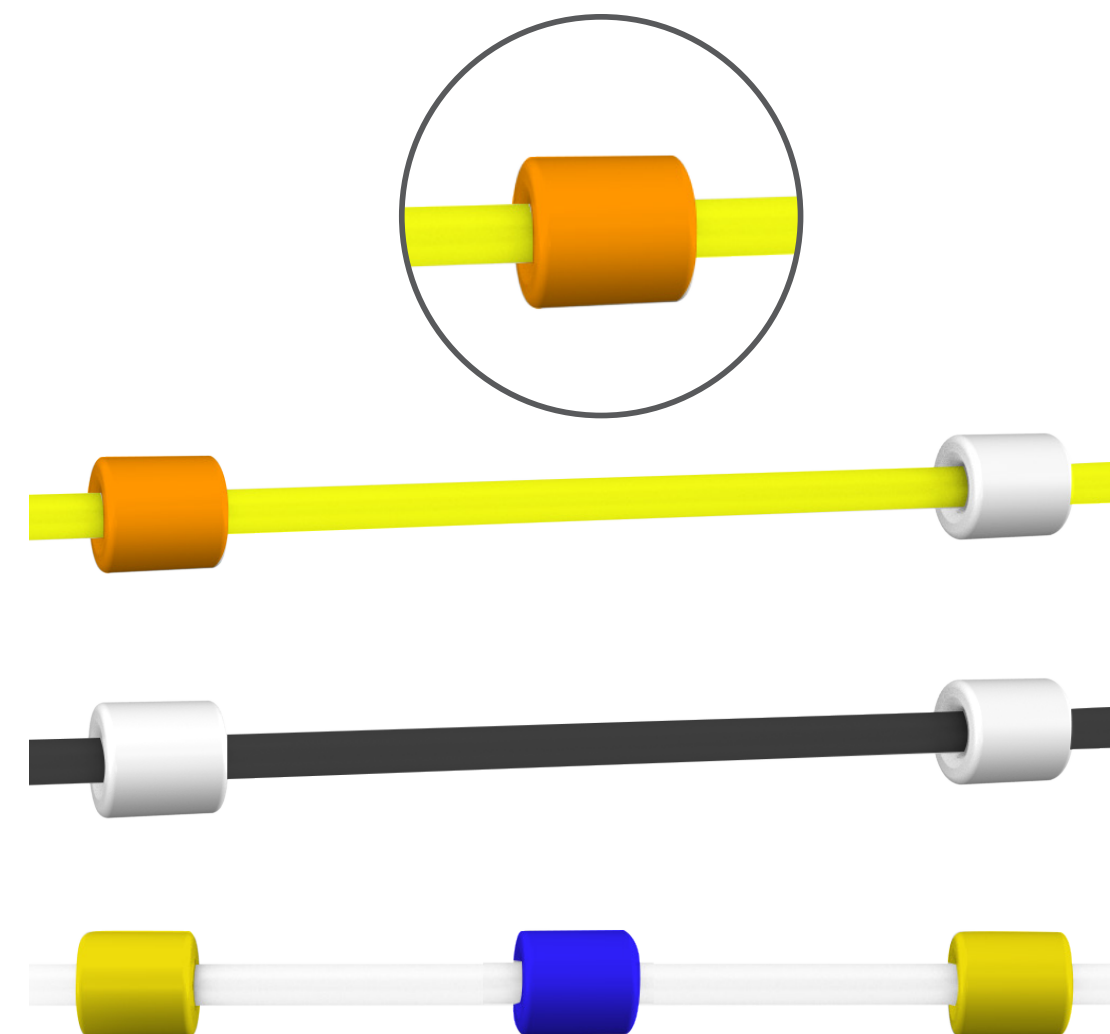


Traditional Pump Tubing

ProLok™ Peristaltic Pump Tubing

Features & Benefits:

- 1. Enhanced Bonding Strength:** The color tab now features twice the surface area, ensuring a stronger and more secure attachment to the pump tubing.
- 2. Durability:** Designed to prevent premature failure, the reinforced tabs eliminate issues with loose tubing connections.
- 3. Superior Material Quality:** Crafted from high-quality Tygon® material, this product delivers premium performance and exceptional consistency.
- 4. Consistent Compatibility:** Maintains the same GE part numbers for seamless integration.
- 5. Precisely controlled tab spacing** designed to meet and exceed industry standards for ICP-OES and ICP-MS peristaltic pumps.

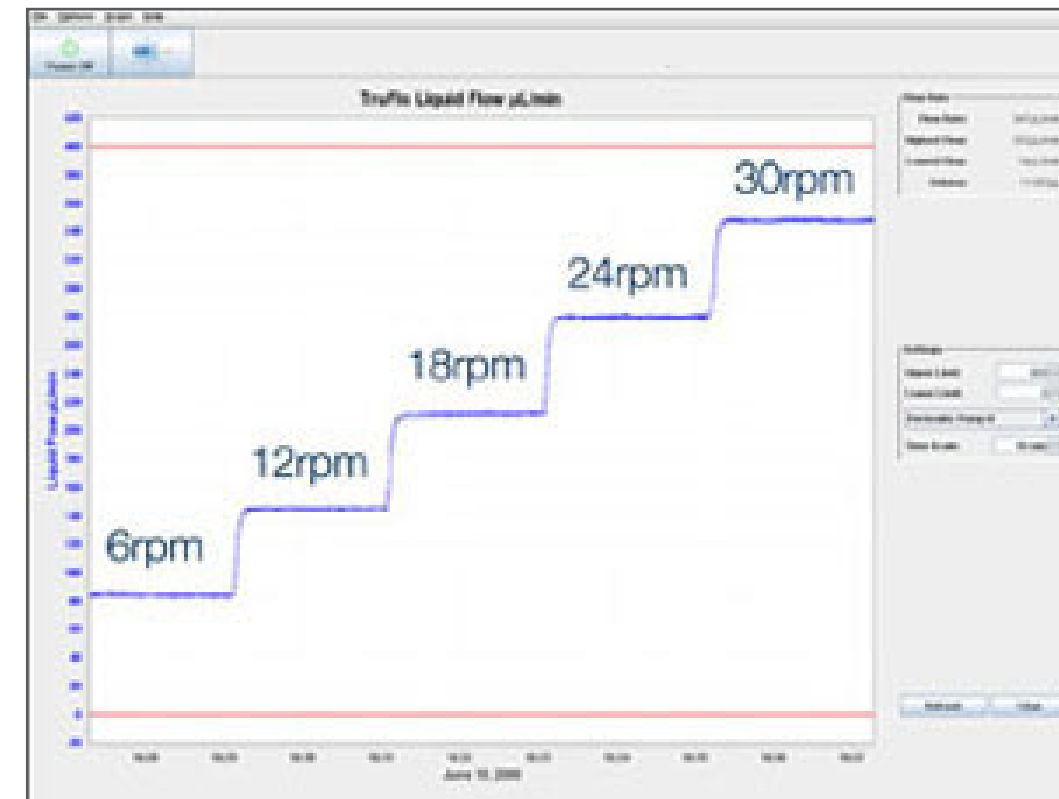
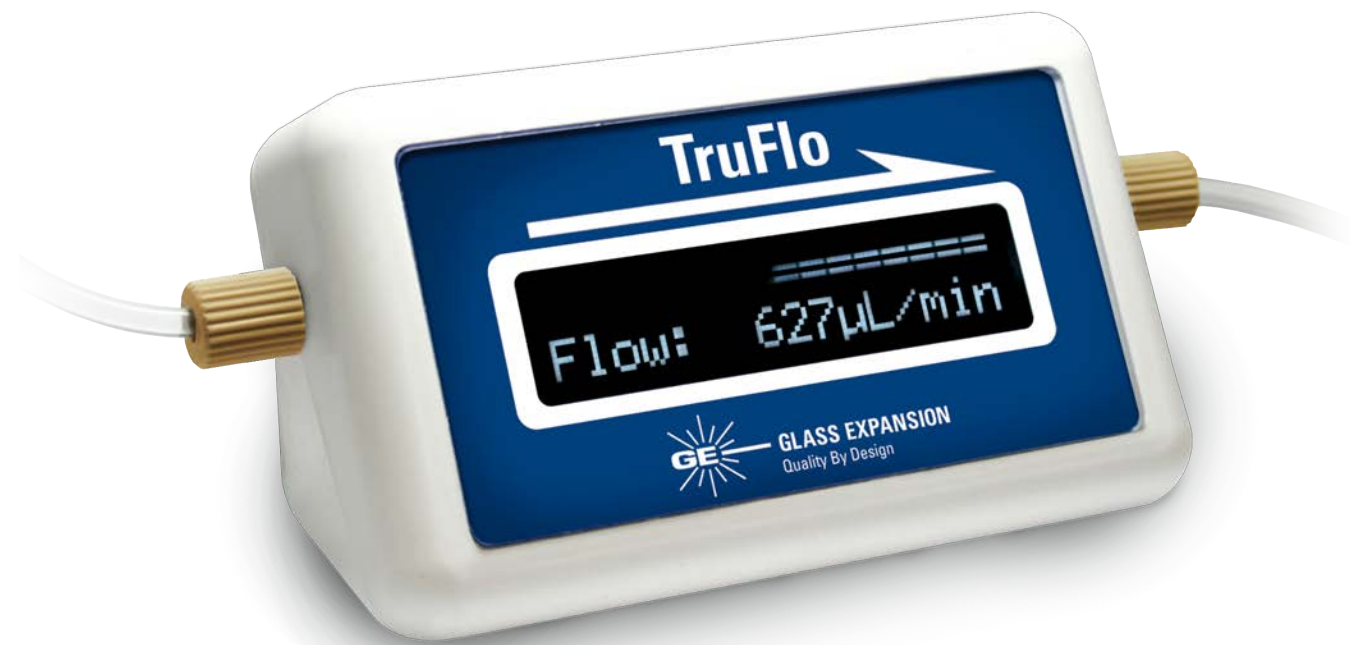


ProLok™ Peristaltic Pump Tubing

The **EzyGlide Cloth** another simple but useful product that can be used to lubricate pump rollers. This lubrication reduces pump tubing wear to increase the service life of pump tubing.



For precise analyses and complete diagnostic control, the **TruFlo Sample Monitor** actively monitors sample uptake rate, as well as enabling you to set optimal pump tension, allowing you to always know the actual rate of sample uptake to your nebulizer. It provides continuous, real-time flow measurement and will sound an alarm if the uptake rate falls outside of the pre-determined range.



#3

Not “Seal”-ing the Deal



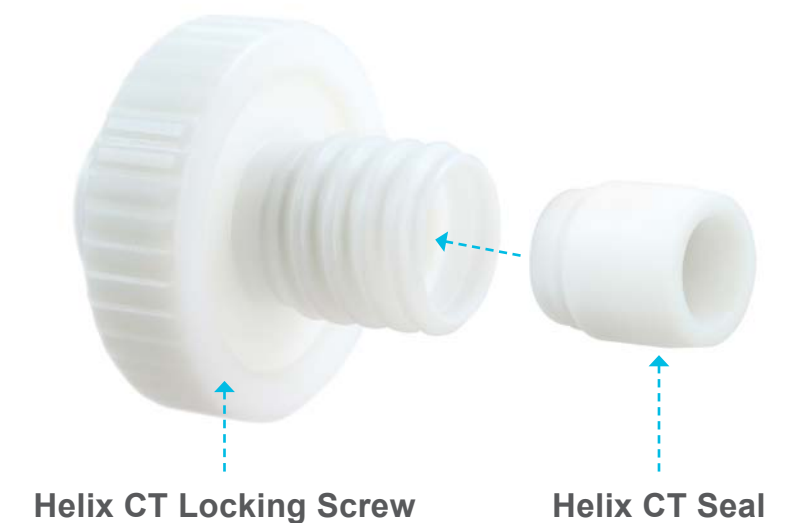
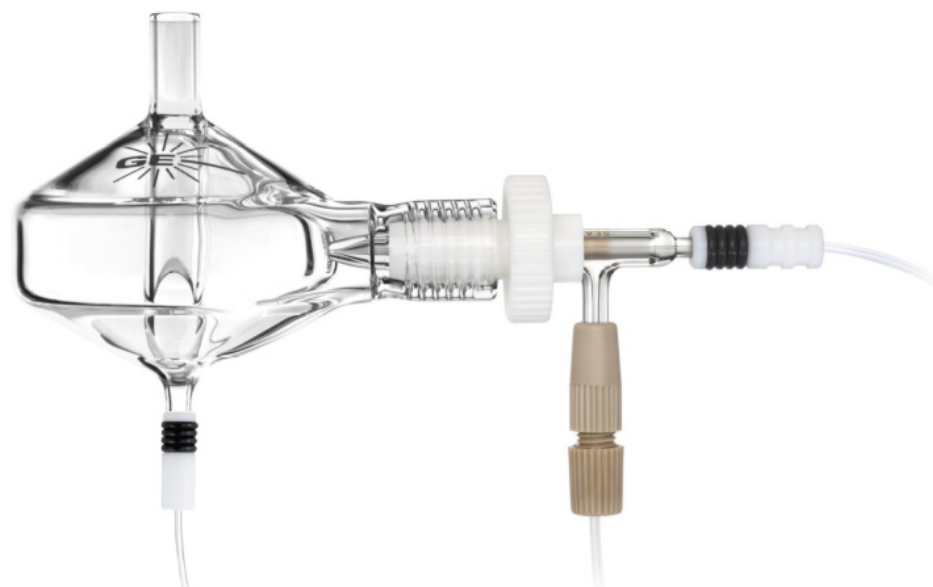
Worn or damaged gaskets, O-rings, seals, and ferrules are often a “hidden” problem, as they are commonly neglected not routinely inspected

- If a graphite gasket is used with your sampler cone, it should be replaced **every time** the cone is removed and either replaced or simply cleaned and re-installed. The gasket is designed to deform and make up any irregularities in the mating surface of the sampler cone
- Not doing so can lead to loss of sensitivity and vacuum, as well as premature cone failure due to inefficient cooling, as well as other analytical effects

- Some torch designs contain multiple O-rings, which are often a point of failure, resulting in gas leaks and either plasma instability or an inability to ignite the plasma
- Demountable torch designs often use a ferrule to seat the injector. This can become worn or deformed over time as the injector is replaced or removed for cleaning and reinstalled, as well as simply resulting from exposure to the harsh conditions within the plasma stand



- Some spray chambers still use an O-ring seal for the nebulizer, which leads to multiple problems, such as prolonged washout, sample carryover, inefficient sealing, and loss of sensitivity
- They will also fatigue over time as a result of exposure to the analytical environment and acid content, which can result in physical damage to the nebulizer
- All Glass Expansion spray chambers come standard with the **Helix CT**, which eliminates the aforementioned problems associated with O-rings. The seal is a consumable and should be replaced as needed



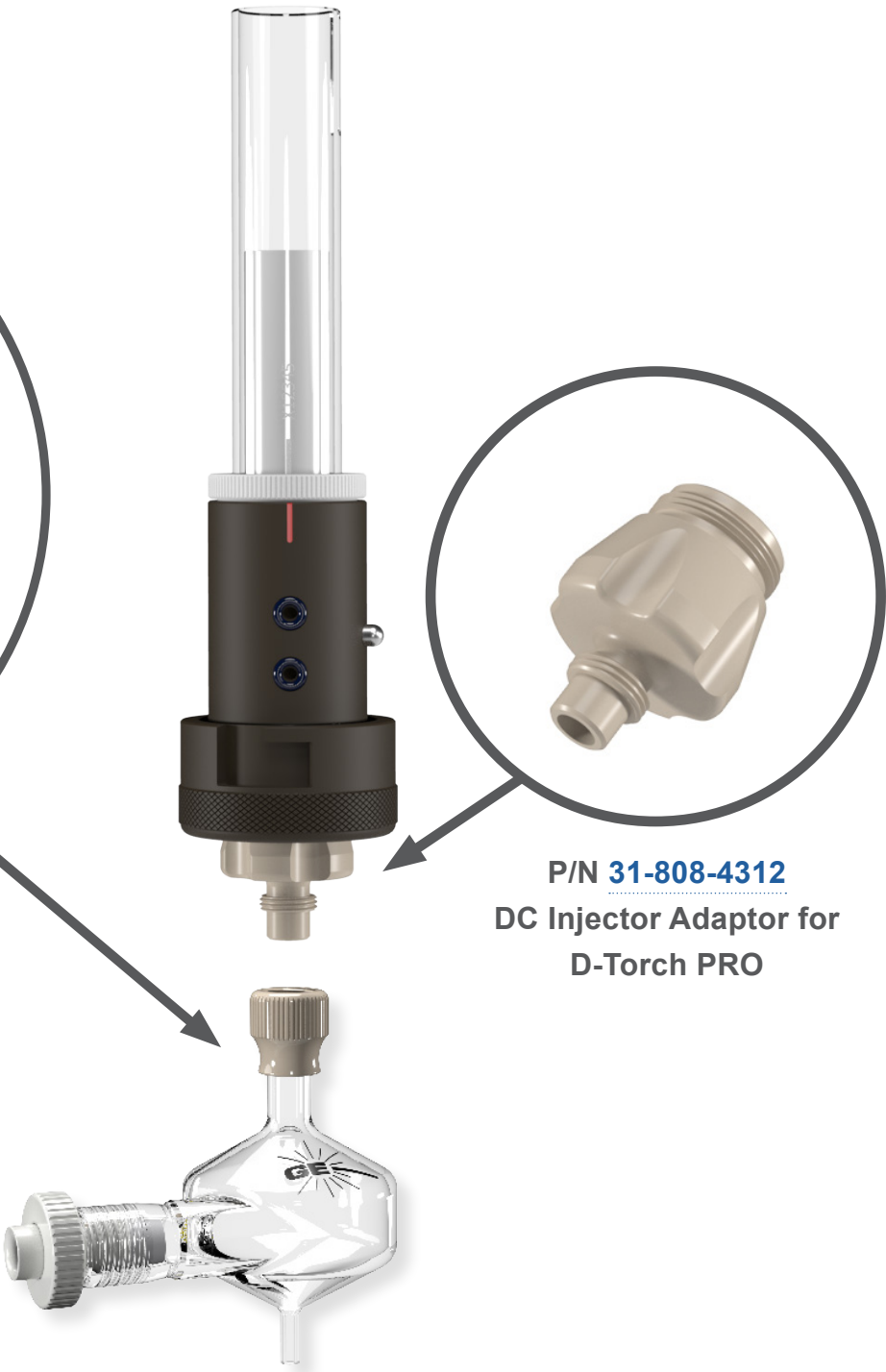
For the most secure connection from the spray chamber to the torch, the **Direct Connect (DC) Spray Chamber** is a new product from Glass Expansion that eliminates ball joint clamps, which rust over time. The DC fitting guarantees perfect alignment each and every time, as well as a secure connection that eliminates gas leaks, providing improved precision and better transport efficiency.



P/N [21-809-5038](#)
DC Quartz Transfer tube with S13 Elbow



P/N [20-809-4880](#)
Tracey DC Spray Chamber



P/N [31-808-4312](#)
DC Injector Adaptor for
D-Torch PRO

#2

Premature Torch Failure



#2

Premature Torch Failure

Torch failure can be a result of gas leaks, a damaged or mis-aligned RF coil, or simply suboptimal torch selection.

Aggressive sample matrices are a challenge, and most “real-world samples” analyzed by ICP laboratories contain considerable concentrations of TDS, including soils, sludges, wastewater, brines, high acid digests, and fusions. Analyzing these types of samples can pose a number of challenges for the ICP analyst, including increased frequency of torch replacement due to shortened torch life.



Demountable torches, such as the **D-Torch** from Glass Expansion, are quickly becoming the torch of choice for ICP users, in order to overcome the problems and costs associated with the traditional single-piece torch.

- Replaceable outer tubes or tube sets decrease the replacement cost compared to a single-piece torch
- Torches which have a ceramic inner tube, such as the **D-Torch**, decrease this cost even further, as the ceramic inner tube is fused with the base, allowing for only the outer tube needing to be replaced
- Optional ceramic outer tubes will not devitrify like quartz and can last the lifetime of the instrument
- Injectors are individually replaceable, which not only further leads to decreased costs, but also allow for one torch to be used for many different applications

The RF coil is also a common source of torch failure, as it is often—and mistakenly—not viewed as part of the sample introduction system



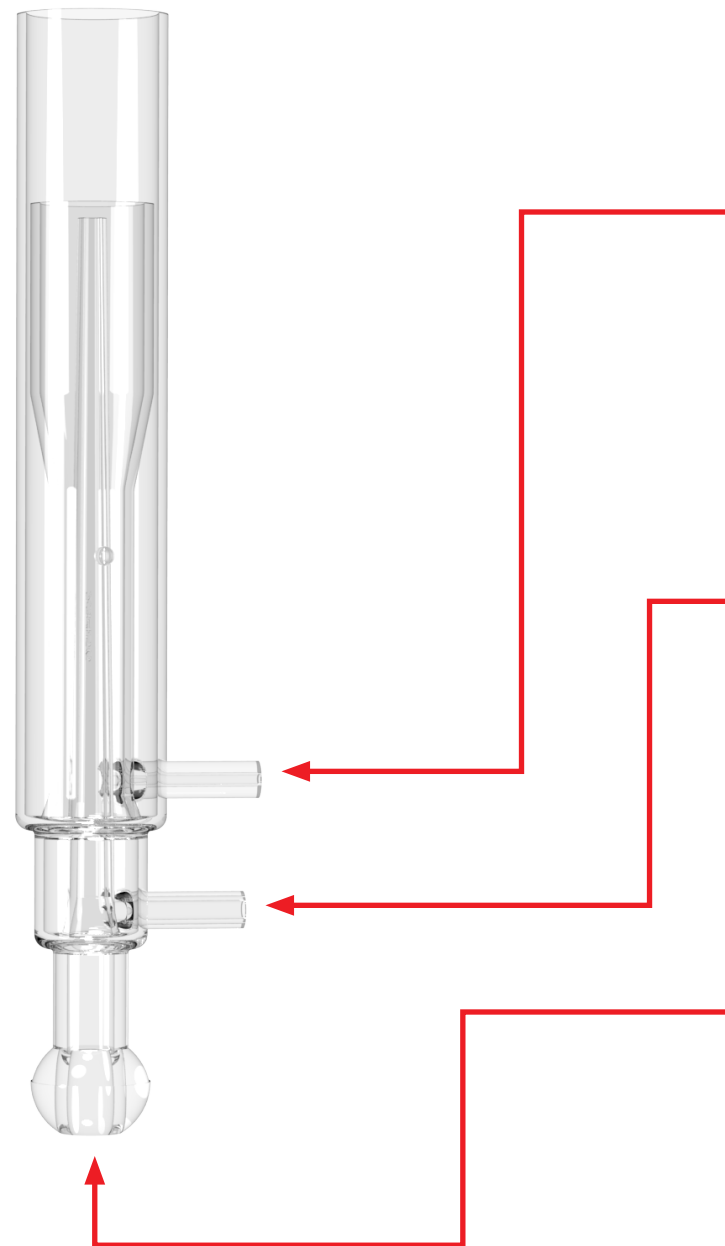
Damaged RF Coil

- Damaged or corroded RF coils result in decreased plasma efficiency, requiring a greater strain to be placed on the RF generator. Changing corroded coils increases energy transfer, resulting in a more robust plasma and generally higher analytical intensities
- Misaligned or misshaped RF coils result in hotspots on the torch, leading to premature melting
- RF coil material is also an important consideration. Copper, Gold, and Silver each offer their own benefits



Lastly, gas leaks from poor connections or seals will lead to premature torch failure.

To help understand why, it's helpful review the purposes of the gases used in an ICP torch:



Plasma (Coolant) Gas flows through the outer channel and acts as a heat barrier between the inner and outer tubes. It also entrains the plasma, ensuring the sample is introduced into the right area for optimal atomization and ionization

Auxiliary Gas flows through the inner channel and controls the “lift” of the plasma off the bottom of the injector. It helps regulate the plasma temperature and energy distribution, as well as assisting in positioning the sample within the plasma to ensure optimal atomization and ionization

Carrier Gas flows through the nebulizer to the injector to both transport the sample and, at the tip of the injector, punch a hole through the plasma

Even though the optimal gas flows may be set correctly within the instrument software, poor or fatigued connections will cause leaks that interfere with the correct flows



GazFit connectors provide a more reliable attachment of argon tubing without adhesion to the sidearms



Injector ferrules and O-rings, as previously mentioned, should be routinely inspected and replaced to ensure proper gas flows through the torch

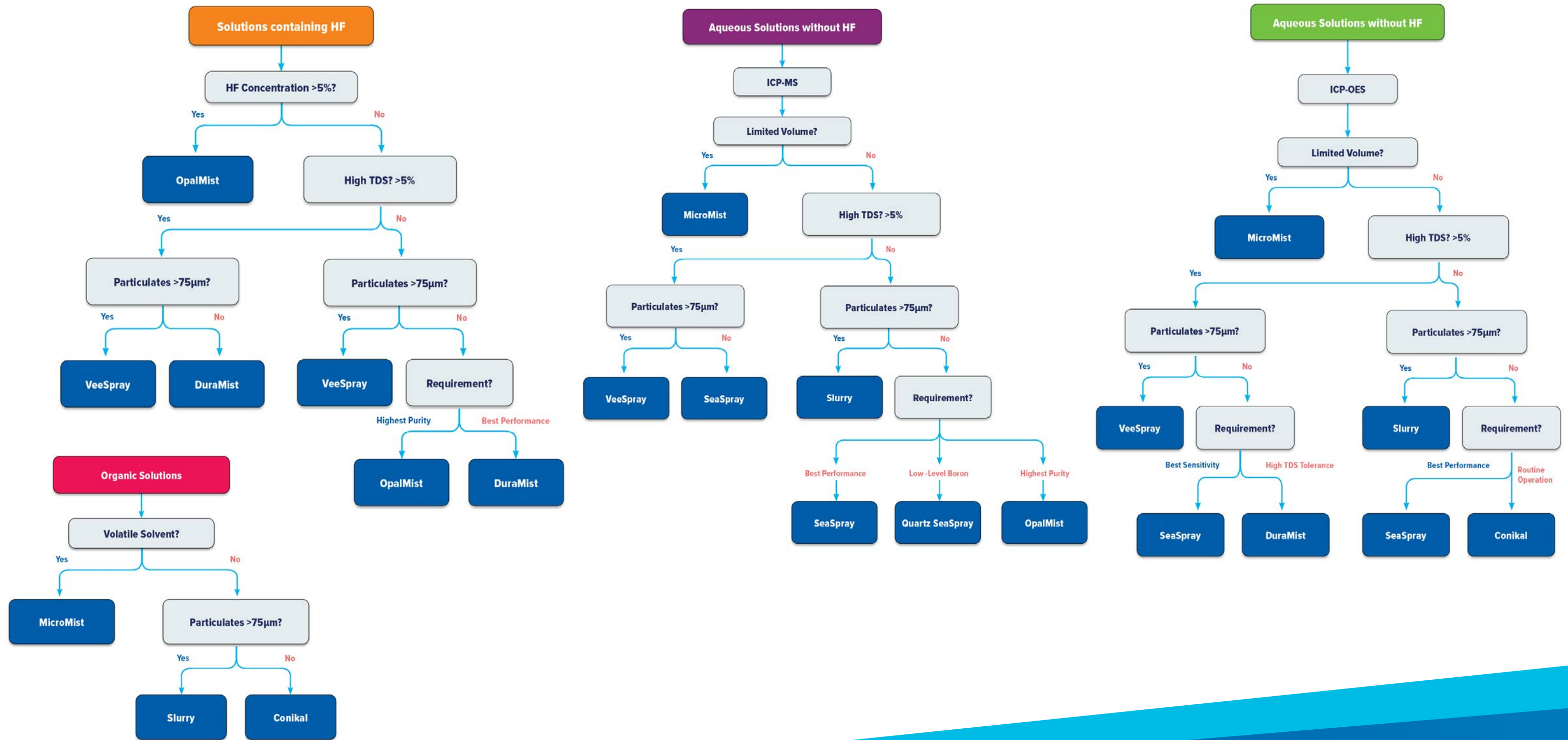
#1

Not Optimizing your Sample Introduction System!

This may seem obvious, but the default or standard configuration that your instrument ships with is often not the best for your application.

- “Optimize” can mean many things, so it is important to determine the needs of your system, such as:
 - Maximum sensitivity
 - Improved precision
 - Robustness for “high matrix” samples
 - Minimal carryover
 - Improved washout for high throughput
 - Considerations for low sample volume (e.g., low-flow neb, low-volume spray chamber, etc.)
 - Compatibility with certain acids or solvents
 - The list goes on...

The “optimal” configuration is unique to each lab, and we’re here to help!



Thank You!
www.geicp.com



GLASS EXPANSION
Quality By Design