01/06/2026 (Rev 0) **Topic: Grease Sampling**

Notification of the Replacement of syringes in select Grease Thief Sampling Kits with the GT Filler™

Introduction:

This technical bulletin describes the new method for filling sampling devices in MRG sampling kits.

Scope:

This technical bulletin covers changes in kits moving forward. The affected kits are pillow block kits, wind assembly kits, grease sampling kit, and helicopter kits. The only other kits that are exceptions are electric motors kits and robot assembly kits these will not be affected and will remain unchanged.

Background:

Due to supply chain disruptions for syringes with an adequate inner diameter, a new grease sampling tool has been developed to eliminate the need for a syringe. Syringes with small inside diameter can disrupt thickener structure during transfer and produce sample results that are not representative of in-service condition. Because syringe tip inside diameter is not a critical dimension for most syringe applications, it was not possible to specify a certain minimum diameter in the selection of syringes for grease sampling kits. GT Filler has maximum internal diameter (same as Grease Thief) to minimize disruption of the thickener prior to testing. This new device solution reduces the total quantity of single-use plastics used in the sampling process, and enables filling of both the standard Grease Thief Type I sampler, and the more recently developed Pick-Pocket TM sampling tube.

The Concern:

From the original development of the Grease Thief Sampling Kits, standard plastic syringes with a slip tip were included in the materials used for sampling robots, pillow blocks, helicopters, and the wind turbine sampling kit. The specific syringe used was tested to ensure that the extrusion through the tip did not disrupt or change the measurable parameters of the grease, particularly Die Extrusion Index and Rheology measurements. It was determined that a minimum tip opening diameter was necessary to ensure that shearing of the grease was not problematic.

Figure 1: GT Fillers with a Grease Thief and Pick Pocket Sampling Tube

Because syringe tip inside diameter is not a critical dimension for most other syringe applications, it was not possible to specify a certain minimum diameter in the selection of syringes for grease sampling kits. This created supply chain issues and led to the development of an alternate solution for that function.

What this means to you:

The key goals of the alternate solution are to:

1. Efficient and easy sample gathering and transfer
2. Minimal grease loss in the transfer. AND to enable filling of both the standard Grease Thief Type I sampler, and the more recently developed Pick-Pocket ™ sampler
3. Reduce the total quantity of single-use plastics used in the sampling process,

The solution that achieves both of these goals is the GT Filler (Figure 1). Beginning on December 01, 2025, all kits previously using syringes for grease transfer will use the GT Filler in its place. The only exception will be the Robot Grease Sampling Kit (MGT-01-081), because industrial robots generally use NLGI Grade 00 greases, which CAN be successfully drawn from the housing using a syringe.

With this method, the user can collect a sample consistent with the approach outlined in ASTM D7718, ensuring the sample will be representative of current equipment and grease condition and allow for condition-based maintenance decisions.

Affected Parts

Kit Name	Previous Part Number	Current Part Number
Pillow Block Sampling Kit	(MGT-01-008)	(MGT-01-008)
Wind Turbine Sampling Kit	(MGT -01-067)	(MGT-01-067)
Helicopter Sampling Kit	(MGT-01-008H)	(MGT-01-008)
Grease Sampling Kit	(MGT-01-006)	(MGT-01-006)
Grease Sampling Kit	(MGT-01-005)	(MGT-01-006)
RCFA Kit	(MGT-01-057)	(MGT-01-057)

Recommendation:

Before performing any tasks suggested in this bulletin, an independent evaluation of all personnel safety considerations and safe operation of company machinery must be performed by user company personnel.

The other kits that are exceptions to these changes are electric motor kits and robot assembly kits. These will not be affected and will remain unchanged. Customers who need previous kit configurations shall contact us for special ordering information.

Questions or request for more information may be directed to:

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For instructions to use the GT Filler please reference MRG Labs instructions found in each sampling kit or proper usage demonstration can be found at our YouTube Channel.

Keywords

Grease Sampling
Condition Monitoring

Other Resources

[1]ASTM D7718-11, Standard Practice for Obtaining In-Service Samples of Lubricating Grease, ASTM International, West Conshohocken, PA, 2011, www.astm.org