

Formulated to Meet

15th June 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

In some cases, requests are made for less usual or specialised grades of silicone, such as "MIL-R" and "ZZR". For such grades it is industry standard in most cases for both the raw material suppliers, and the processor to state on the quotation the phrase: "formulated to meet the specification but not fully tested or released against" (or similar wording.)

What does this mean?

It means that because of all the physical characteristics and specifications around such material it may be complex or long winded to test every batch, the compounder and/or ourselves will perform limited but not full tests and all parties will endeavour to produce an article which is formulated or designed to meet the spec without checking every single criteria. Simplistic checks on all batches such as hardness, tear strength and elongation are typically criteria that can be performed and certified in house. Other criteria, where applicable, such as an extended heat age test and/or low temperature embrittlement are not tested.

Customer must therefore evaluate how critical or non-critical the entirety of the specification is to their application and decide if a "formulated to meet" the spec is acceptable. If not, it is possible to do additional testing, however it is likely that an external test house may be required to do such testing, and therefore this can increase substantially the cost of materials and products and may also significantly increase the lead time.

To further assist in limiting such additional costs, customers are advised to inform us of which parts of the specification are vital and need testing and which are not, this will most certainly help us to give our respective customers the quality they require, whilst retaining an economic as possible end product.