

Graphitar® In Food Service Applications

Recent requests regarding the use of **GRAPHITAR®** in applications involving foodstuffs prompted the Engineering Department of U.S. Graphite Inc. (USG) to secure an update from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Dr. Mark Hepp of the FDA indicated that the FDA continues their position of not “approving” manufactured articles for use in contact with foodstuffs. However, Dr. Hepp stated the FDA DOES consider thermoset resin impregnated carbon/graphite (also referred to as impervious graphite) seals and bearings used in food service equipment as **GRAS**, or “**Generally Regarded As Safe**” items and not food additives within the meaning of Section 201 (s) of 21CFR, the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. This current conclusion is consistent with previous opinions expressed by the FDA and also with our experience in supplying food related service parts to our customers for many years.

The following **GRAPHITAR®** grades are thermoset resin impregnated carbon/graphite and considered acceptable for use in food handling equipment applications:

Graphitar® Grade 14	Graphitar® Grade 35	Graphitar® Grade 4011
Graphitar® Grade 39	Graphitar® Grade 47	Graphitar® Grade 38
Graphitar® Grade 86	Graphitar® Grade 94	
Graphitar® Grade 114	Graphitar® Grade 5185	

The above are our most widely used materials. Other **GRAPHITAR®** materials fall within the aforementioned guidelines described by the FDA and will, upon request, be evaluated by our Engineering Department on an individual basis.