

ETHYLENE OXIDE BIOLOGICAL INDICATOR



Directions for use

1. Identify the indicator tube by writing the sterilizer number (in case of having more than one sterilizer), load number and processing date on the indicator label.
2. Pack the biological indicator along with materials to be sterilized in an appropriated package according to recommended sterilization practices. Place this package in those areas which a priori you consider most inaccessible for the sterilizing agent (EO). Generally, a problematic area is the center of the load.
3. Sterilize as usual.
4. After sterilization process has finished, you can:
Remove the biological indicator from the sterilization package for incubation prior to material aeration.
Aerate the package containing the biological indicator with the rest of the load and then remove the biological indicator for incubation.

5. Check the chemical indicator on the label the biological indicator. A color changes to green confirms that the biological indicator has been exposed to ethylene oxide.

IMPORTANT: This color change does not indicate that the process was sufficient to achieve sterility. If the chemical indicator is unchange, check the sterilization process.

6. Crush the ampule contained in the biological indicator and incubate at 37 ± 2 °C.

IMPORTANT: Use a non-sterilized biological indicator as positive control each time a processed indicator is incubated. The positive control ensure that correct incubation conditions were met.

7. Incubate the processed biological indicator and the indicator used as positive control for a maximum of 48 hours at 37 ± 2 °C. Regarding should be made at convenient intervals of 10 hours. A color change to yellow of the growth indicator media means a sterilization process failure has occurred. If after 48 hours there is no color change in the processed indicators, a final negative result is made (the sterilization process was acceptable). The positive control indicator should show a yellow color change for the results to be valid.

Warning

Do not re-use the sterilizer until the biological indicator test results are negative (process indicator remain the original color)

Storage

Store it in a dark place at temperatures between 10-30°C., % 30-80 relative humidity.

Do not freeze.

Do not store these biological indicators near sterilizing agents or other chemical products.

Disposal

Dispose of used biological indicators according to your country's healthcare and safety regulations.