



衛生署
Department of Health

Routine Monitoring for Bench-top Sterilizers (Autoclaves)

Infection Control Measures

To observe up-to-date infection control and preventive measures, including but not limited to standard precautions of infections.



Reference is made to relevant guidelines promulgated by international or local health authorities (e.g. the *Guide to Infection Control in Clinic Setting*).

Exempted Autoclaves

Autoclaves that do not require registration under the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Ordinance (Cap. 56) must obtain an **Exemption Certificate** from the Labour Department.

They shall be regularly examined by an appointed examiner to ensure the validity of the Exemption Certificate.



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(Dental-related enquiry)
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(Dental-related enquiry)



QR code
Website of ORPHF



QR code
Website of DRLEO



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Mechanical indicators

- To display the recorded cycle time, temperature and pressure on the sterilizer gauge

For example,



External chemical indicators

- To show that pouches have been processed through a sterilization cycle

For example,



Internal chemical indicators

- To verify sterilant penetration

For example,

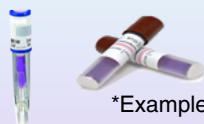


Internal
Chemical Indicators

Biological indicators

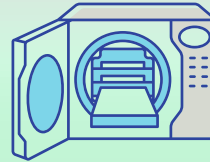
- To verify spores of resistant microorganisms are killed
- To be placed at the area least favorable to sterilization

For example,



*Examples for illustration only

Routine Monitoring for Bench-top Sterilizers (Autoclaves)



Steam penetration test (For Dynamic-Air-Removal Sterilizer)

For example,

- To ensure that air is properly removed



Bowie-Dick test

- To evaluate the steam penetration capability for lumened instruments



Helix test

*Examples for illustration only

After

- New installation
- Relocation
- Sterilization failure
- Major repair



- ✓ **3** consecutive empty cycles with
 - Mechanical indicators
 - External Chemical Indicators
 - Internal Chemical Indicators
 - Biological Indicators
 - Steam Penetration Test (for dynamic air removal sterilizer only)should be run, one after the other

Basic measures are taken (For wrapped instrument)

- ✓ **Document :**
All results for each load should be documented and recorded
- ✓ **Daily:**
For Dynamic-Air-Removal Sterilizers
Before the first processed load of the day
 - Steam penetration test (Bowie-Dick test / Helix test)
- ✓ **Every load:**
 - Mechanical indicators
- ✓ **Every Pack:**
 - External Chemical Indicators
 - Internal Chemical Indicators
- ✓ **Weekly:**
 - Biological indicators