Internal Pack Control
Chemical Indicators

Designed to measure exposure conditions

The role of chemical indicators

Internal pack monitoring is a crucial step in any steam sterilization process. Chemical indicators (CIs) give you the information you need about the exposure conditions achieved within a pack, tray, container or peel pouch. A chemical indicator placed inside a pack can let you know if saturated steam has penetrated to the point of placement.

A full line of internal chemical indicators

CAN/CSA-Z11140-1-07 defines classes of chemical indicators — including Class 4, Class 6 and Class 5. 3M offers a full line of CIs for internal pack monitoring:

- Class 4: 3M™ Comply™ 1250 Steam Chemical Indicator Strips**
- Class 6: 3M™ Comply™ 6600 Steam Emulating Indicators
- Class 5: 3M™ Comply™ SteriGage™ 1243 Steam Chemical Integrators

While each class of indicators meets standards for pack control, they differ in important ways, giving you options in both performance level and price.

**CAN/CSA -Z11140-1-07 Class 4 testing is underway

Understanding your options: steam pack control chemical indicators

› Integrators ‹

Class 5

- Indicates results with migrating "moving front style" ink
- Monitors all three critical variables for all cycles
- Correlates with a biological indicator at three time/temperature relationships

› Indicators ‹

Class 6*

- Indicates results with colour-changing ink
- Monitors all three critical variables for one specific cycle

Class 4

- Indicates results with colour-changing ink
- Monitors two or more of the critical variables

* CSA has not yet made Class 6 chemical indicator usage recommendations for implants.

Internal Pack Control

3M™ Comply™ Chemical Indicator Products

› Class 5: Providing the most information about the effectiveness of your cycles

3M™ Comply™ SteriGage™ 1243 Steam Chemical Integrators

Class 5 integrating indicators monitor the three critical variables required for steam sterilization: time, temperature and the presence of saturated steam. They are designed to accurately integrate small changes in all critical sterilization parameters across the entire normal sterilization range in gravity-displacement and dynamic-air-removal steam sterilization processes. Their stated values are generated to be equivalent to, or exceed the performance requirements for biological indicators (per ISO 11138). This means their results provide more information about the effectiveness of the sterilization process than Class 4 or Class 6 chemical indicators.

› Class 6: The midlevel option designed to monitor four-minute 132°C/270°F dynamic-air-removal cycles

3M™ Comply™ 6600 Steam Emulating Indicators*

Class 6 emulating indicators react to the three critical variables required for steam sterilization for a specific sterilization cycle. A unique Class 6 chemical indicator is required for each time, temperature and type of steam sterilization cycle. Unlike Class 5 integrating indicators, the response of Class 6 emulating indicators is not required to parallel the time/temperature response of a biological indicator.

› Class 4: The economical choice that meets the Canadian Standards Association guidelines

3M™ Comply™ 1250 Steam Chemical Indicator Strips**

Class 4 chemical indicators are multi-variable indicators that monitor two or more of the critical variables required for steam sterilization; they are usually paper strips printed with a chemical indicator ink.

* CSA has not yet made Class 6 chemical indicator usage recommendations for implants
** CAN/CSA -Z11140-1-07 Class 4 testing is underway

Assurance at every stage of the sterilization process

Pack control failure can occur for a number of reasons, even with a negative load control result. Ensuring that your steam sterilization process has reached optimal conditions through rigorous monitoring is the essence of pack control.

3M offers a comprehensive sterilization assurance product line backed by rigorous research and testing, compliance with standards and the provision of highly relevant educational resources.

For further information about 3M's full line of chemical indicators or other sterilization products, visit 3M.com/deadbugsdontlie

3M

Available in Canada from:
3M Heath Care
3M Canada Company
P.O. Box 5757
London, Ontario N6A 4T1
Canada
1 800-364-3577
www.3M.ca/healthcare

3M Health Care
3M Center, Building 275-4W-02
St. Paul, MN 55144-1000
U.S.A.

1107-02512