3M™ Attest™ Rapid Readout Biological Indicators

Designed to measure lethality

The role of biological indicators

Sterilization process monitoring is about more than cycle temperature and time; it's about whether or not your sterilizer successfully delivered enough lethality to kill all the microorganisms in a load of surgical instruments.

Biological indicators (BI) are the only monitoring devices that directly measure lethality. In your sterilization protocol, *they tell you if the bugs are dead or alive* — exactly what you need to know to release a sterilized load.

Use BIs for every load monitoring

Current standards from the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) specify that a BI should be used for each type of cycle used, daily, and in every load containing implantable devices.[1] For the sake of time, it might be tempting to stop there.

However, we recommend using a BI in every load for patient safety and peace of mind.

If a steam load quarantine pending biological indicator results is not possible, evaluation of a class 5 or 6 chemical indicator may be used to release routine loads.

Our rapid readout technology can give you an answer in only one to three hours. Isn't it worth the time?

Why a TOUGH bug is the BEST bug to monitor your sterilizer

MOST RESISTANT

Prions
(Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease)

Bacterial Spores
(*G. Stearothermophilus*)

Coccidia
(*Cryptosporidium*)

Mycobacteria
(*M. tuberculosis, M. terrae*)

Nonlipid or small viruses
(polio, Coxsackie)

Fungi
(*Aspergillus, Candida*)

Vegetative bacteria
(*S. aureus, P. aeruginosa*)

Lipid or medium-sized viruses
(HIV, herpes, hepatitis B)

LEAST RESISTANT

Clean surgical instruments typically carry less than 1,000 microorganisms — vegetative pathogens that are serious, yet more easily destroyed bugs.

A BI holds more than 100,000 resistant spores, which are harder to kill than what's on your surgical instruments. What makes them so tough?

- A spore is a pathogenic microorganism that has gone dormant, sealing itself off in a protective shell until an environment conducive to infection presents itself.
- The type of spores in a BI are highly resistant to disinfection and sterilization.

If your sterilizer successfully destroys the resistant spores in a BI, there's a very high probability it also killed the less-resistant bugs on your surgical instruments — and that means you can feel confident about releasing the load.

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What do the experts say about BIs?

› "BIs are recognized by most authorities as being the closest to ideal monitors of the sterilization process because, unlike chemical indicators, they measure the sterilization process directly."*

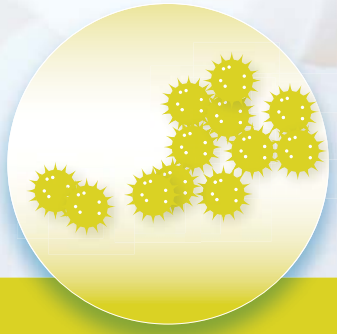
Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology

› "Only BIs performed consistently in all of the sterilizer conditions evaluated. Both the fluorescent readout and the growth readout of the self-contained BIs were able to detect suboptimal or failure conditions at a greater frequency than any of the chemical integrators."**

American Journal of Infection Control

› "Daily use of biological indicators allows earlier discovery of equipment malfunctions or procedural errors and thus minimizes the extent of patient surveillance and product recall needed in the event of a positive biological indicator."†

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Rigorous infection control

As a sterile processing professional, you are a critical component of your organization's infection control efforts.

Post-operative surgical site infections make up 20 percent of the 1.7 million health care-associated infections reported each year.†† Sterilization mitigates the risk of surgical site infection by destroying the communicable microorganisms. Monitoring verifies the effectiveness of that process.

[1] CAN/CSA Z314.3-09

* Rutala, W; Jones, S; Weber, D. Comparison of a Rapid Readout Biological Indicator for Steam Sterilization With Four Conventional Biological Indicators and Five Chemical Indicators. *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, Vol. 17 no. 7 423 July 1996

** Schneider, P; Reich, R; Kirckof, S; Foltz, W. (Guest Editor: Rutala, W). Performance of Various Steam Sterilization Indicators Under Optimum and Sub-optimum Exposure Conditions. *American Journal of Infection Control*, June 2005 Volume 33, Number 5

† Rutala, W; Weber, D; and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). Guidelines for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

†† Estimating Healthcare-Associated Infections and Deaths in U.S. Hospitals, 2002. Public Health Reports, Volume 122, March–April 2007

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

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