

3M™ Attest™ 1262/1261 and 1262P/1261P Biological Indicators for steam sterilization

For best results, use an Attest biological indicator in every load of steam sterilized supplies.
Instructions below are for steam sterilization only.

Processing

- 1 Identify the Attest biological indicator by noting the sterilizer number, load number and processing date on the label of the vial.
- 2 Place the Attest steam biological indicator and the Comply chemical integrator in the center of a suitable test pack or tray which is representative of the load and is the greatest challenge to the steam sterilization process. Close the test pack with Comply Indicator Tape.
NOTE: Do not use 3M steam monitoring products with dry heat, chemical vapor, ethylene oxide or other low temperature sterilization processes.
- 3 Place the test pack or tray in a full load in the most difficult area for steam to reach in the sterilizer. Process the load as usual.
- 4 After completion of the cycle and while wearing safety glasses and gloves, fully open the sterilizer door for a minimum of 5 minutes prior to removing the Attest biological indicator. *Warning: Crushing or excessive handling of the biological indicator before cooling may cause the glass ampule to burst which may result in personal injury from flying debris. Therefore, the use of safety glasses and gloves when removing biological indicators from the sterilizer is recommended. Safety glasses should also be worn when crushing biological indicators. All safety procedures recommended by your facility should also be followed.*
- 5 If the biological indicator is not contained in a test pack or any other heat absorbing packaging material, remove the biological indicator from the sterilizer and allow to cool for an additional 10 minutes prior to crushing.
- 6 If the biological indicator is contained in a test pack or other heat absorbing packaging material, the test pack or any other heat absorbing packaging material should be removed from the sterilizer and opened up for 5 minutes to dissipate heat prior to removing the biological indicator. Then allow the biological indicator to cool outside the test pack for an additional 10 minutes prior to crushing.
- 7 Check the indicator tape on the outside of the test pack for colour change to black.
- 8 Check the biological indicator label for a change from rose to brown. Check the chemical integrator for an ACCEPT result. An incomplete colour change on the biological indicator label or a REJECT result on the chemical integrator may indicate an inadequate sterilization process.
- 9 Incubate the biological indicator as soon as possible. For optimal performance, leave the incubator plugged in at all times.

As shown, place the bottom of the biological indicator vial into the incubator's metal heating block so that the vial is at an angle of approximately 45°.

Push the vial straight back. This crushes the vial and activates the indicator. Push the activated indicator down to firmly sit in the metal heating block. Be sure the cap remains above the metal block.



Interpretation

- 1 Examine the biological indicator at regular intervals (8, 12, 24 and 48 hours) for any colour change. Appearance of a yellow colour (a positive readout) indicates bacterial growth and an inadequate sterilization process. No colour change indicates an adequate sterilization process.
- 2 A final determination of sterility can be made at 48 hours of incubation for 3M Attest 1262 and 1262P biological indicators (24 hours for 1261 and 1261P).
- 3 Record results in the record keeping log book.



Use of Positive Controls

The use of positive controls is required to ensure correct incubation conditions, viability of spores and capability of the medium to promote growth. A non-sterilized 3M Attest 1262/1261 and 1262P/1261P biological indicator from the same lot should be used in each incubator each day biological indicators are used as a positive growth control.

- 1 Place a non-sterilized Attest biological indicator in the incubator each day you put in an activated sterilized biological indicator.
- 2 Examine the positive control indicator at regular intervals such as 8, 12, 24 and 48 hours. Appearance of a yellow colour is evidence of bacterial growth. A yellow colour in the control vial demonstrates correct incubation, viability of spores and capability of the medium to promote rapid growth.
- 3 Record results in the record keeping log book.
- 4 Dispose of used indicators in accordance with facility policy. You may wish to sterilize any positive indicators at 250°F (121°C) for at least 15 minutes or at 270°F (132°C) for 10 minutes in a gravity displacement steam sterilizer.

Successful Sterilization Process



Successful Sterilization Process

