

SPSmedical Biological Indicators for Steam Processes

PROCESSING

- 1** Note the sterilizer number, load number and processing date on the BI label.



- 3** Test the most challenging area in the sterilizer (i.e. bottom shelf near the door, over the drain of a large sterilizer or on the middle shelf of a smaller sterilizer).

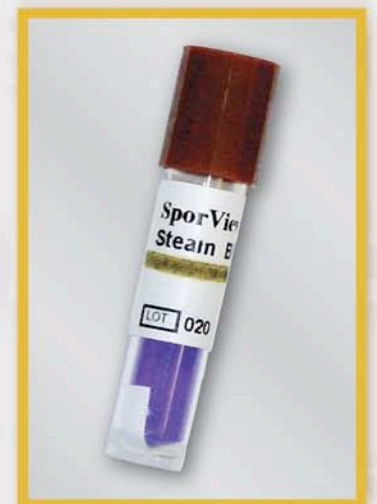


- 2** Place the BI inside an instrument tray, peel pouch or AAMI challenge pack, whichever is representative of the load being processed.



- 4** Process the load according to the sterilizer manufacturer's instructions.

- 5** Retrieve the BI and confirm the chemical indicator printed on the label has turned BROWN. Wait 10 minutes before crushing. Failure to do so could cause the glass ampule inside the BI vial to burst which may result in injury. For this reason, safety glasses should be worn when handling and crushing a processed BI.

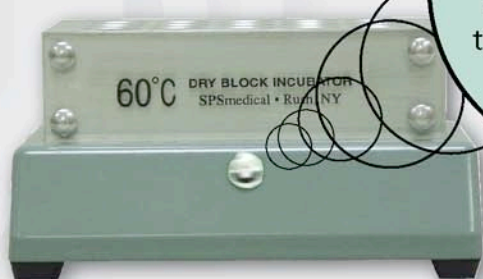


ACTIVATION and INCUBATION

- 1** Activate the processed BI by crushing the inner glass media tube using either a vial crusher or one built into the incubator.



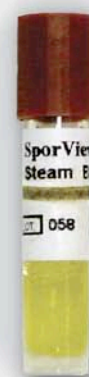
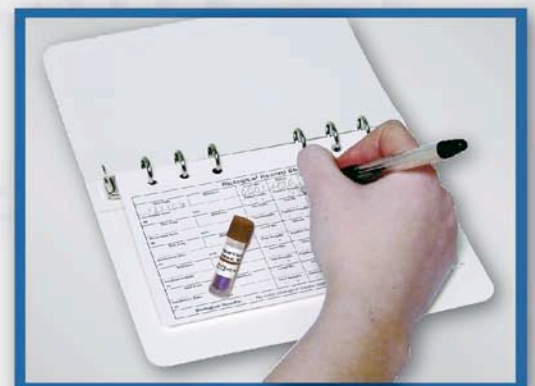
- 2** Incubate at 55°–60°C for 24 hours checking for spore growth (visual color change from purple to yellow) at regular intervals (i.e. 8, 12 and 18 hours).



Green Light on incubator will flash while warming up. The incubator is ready for use when the light has stopped flashing and remains on.

TEST RESULTS

Record negative (no spore growth) results after full incubation in a sterilizer record notebook. No color change in the purple media after processing indicates proper sterilization.



Any positive result (growth indicated by purple to yellow color change), should be reported immediately to a supervisor and the sterilizer taken out of service until resolved.

USE of CONTROLS

- As a Control, an unprocessed BI (from the same lot) should be crushed and incubated each time the sterilizer is tested. Positive results are expected and should be reported.
- The use of a Control verifies that the BI is viable and the incubator is working properly.



STORAGE and DISPOSAL

1. Store between 60°F and 80°F and 30-70% relative humidity.
2. Do not store near sterilants or other chemicals. Do not refrigerate.
3. Do not use beyond stated shelf-life which is indicated on each box.
4. Negative (no growth) BI's can be disposed of as normal waste; however, positive BI's (growth) should be autoclaved at 250°F/121°C for at least 30 minutes prior to disposal.