

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

SOP#: 1013

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6. A positive control shall be run once a month, concurrently when a MagnaAmp® biological indicator is incubated, to validate the test result. This is accomplished by incubating a non-sterilized MagnaAmp® biological indicator vial of the same lot number as the test vial in the same incubator with the test indicator.
7. Place the MagnaAmp® ampoule(s) in the SURGICOT® Incubator. The incubator has a dry heating block, containing six indicator wells for incubation at 55-59° C. The incubator is equipped with a blinking red light on the top indicating that the correct temperature is achieved for incubation.
8. Incubate the MagnaAmp® test and control ampoule for 48 hours. Check the indicator vials the morning after, at 24 hours, and at 48 hours for test results. If sterilization of the indicator was achieved, the test indicator will show no color change during the incubation period, (e.g., the growth medium will remain purple).
9. If, at anytime during the incubation period, a color change occurs, the spores have survived the sterilization process and sterilization was not achieved. If a positive control ampoule (e.g., one that has not been autoclaved) does not turn color, do not use indicators from this lot.
10. When a color change is observed for a test ampoule, sterilization procedures are reviewed, the test repeated, and an entry is made on the Equipment Log Sheet in the Autoclave Log Book. If the indicator fails after the second attempt, the Facility Manager is notified, sterilization procedures are reviewed, and an entry is made on the Equipment Log Sheet stating the problem, the corrective action taken, and the resolution.
11. The results of monitoring should be recorded in the Autoclave Sterilization Record. If the indicator turns yellow, be sure to describe steps taken to identify the improperly sterilized load and resolve the lack of complete sterilization in the Equipment Log Sheet . Adjustments should be made and tests rerun until the problem is resolved.
12. Following incubation, dispose of processed indicators as you would other trash. Indicators have an expiration date. Be sure to use only in-date vials.
13. Monthly, Autoclave Sterilization Records are submitted to the Assistant Director with the Monthly Archive Report . .

IV. SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Care should be taken when removing indicators from autoclaves, as they can be hot. Let indicators cool before removing.
2. Heat resistant autoclave gloves should be worn whenever handling/removing hot items from the autoclave.

3. A properly operating autoclave is essential for safety. Perceived problems should be reported to the Facility Manager immediately for corrective action.

V. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

1. Autoclave Sterilization Record

REFERENCES