

3M™ Attest™ Rapid Readout Biological Indicators and Test Packs for Ethylene Oxide (EO)

Commonly Asked Questions

Question:

How soon can you remove the biological indicator from the ethylene oxide chamber?

Answer:

Removal of biological indicators can be accomplished safely when the load is transferred to a separate aeration cabinet, when aeration is complete or after ethylene oxide has been removed from the chamber at the beginning of the aeration cycle.

Biological indicators, BIs, may be removed from the load before aeration is complete. When this approach is taken the test pack components should be placed back with the load for aeration. This procedure requires adherence to established procedures by trained personnel. General techniques that minimize contact with the load and the amount of time taken to retrieve the BI should be defined. Good procedures will minimize exposure to items until they are fully aerated. Exposure levels can easily be documented by the use of monitoring devices, such as the 3M™ 3550 monitoring badge, placed on the collar or in the breathing zone to demonstrate safe handling procedures.

Removal of the biological indicator, either at the end of the exposure cycle or any time thereafter, is dependent upon the policy established by each institution. Removal at the end of the exposure cycle allows results to be available sooner and loads to be released with confidence in a minimal amount of time.

It is also totally acceptable to leave the biological indicator with the load until aeration is complete however this will delay obtaining results but it will ensure that exposure to the load is avoided until aeration is complete. Leaving the biological indicator with the load until aeration is complete will reflect exposure to the total process, both high ethylene oxide concentrations during the exposure cycle and dwindling concentrations during the aeration process. The choice of procedures is up to each individual institution to establish.

For More Information

Contact your 3M Health Care Sales Representative, or call the 3M Health Care Customer Helpline at **1-800-228-3957**. These products can be ordered from your local distributor. Outside the United States, contact the local 3M subsidiary.



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