

# 3M™ Attest™ Rapid Readout Biological Indicators and Test Packs for 250°F/121°C Gravity and 270°F/132°C Vacuum Assisted Steam Sterilizers

## Commonly Asked Questions

**Question:**

Is the Attest rapid readout biological indicator a chemical or biological indicator?

**Answer:**

The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) defines a biological indicator as a monitoring device consisting of a standardized, viable population of microorganisms known to be resistant to the mode of sterilization being monitored. Since viable *Geobacillus stearothermophilus* spores are required for the Attest 1292 rapid readout determinations, this product meets the criteria for the AAMI definition of a biological indicator. Additionally, these products are classified as biological sterilization process indicators to be used to monitor the adequacy of the sterilization process by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Attest rapid readout biological indicators are biological not chemical indicators.

**Question:**

How long can you delay incubation of the Attest biological indicator?

**Answer:**

We recommend a biological indicator be incubated as soon as possible so the results can be obtained sooner. 3M has not done testing to determine how long incubation can be delayed. However, there is some data on other self contained biological indicators that suggest incubation can be delayed for up to 5 days (Graham, G.S., and C.A. Boris, Chemical and Biological Indicators, Chapter 3, Sterilization Technology. Edited by Morrissey and Phillips, 1993:36-39.)

**Question:**

Why do we have a positive Attest biological indicator from a 132 Degrees Celsius (270 Degrees Fahrenheit) vacuum-assisted sterilizer?

**Answer:**

This could be due to residual air, inadequate vacuum, a steam quality problem, overloading, too dense of a load of packages, incorrect time and temperature.

**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.



**Health Care**

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