

# 3M™ Attest™ Biological Indicators and Test Packs for Ethylene Oxide

## Commonly Asked Questions

**Question:**

How long can you delay incubation of the 3M 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 does the external EO chemical indicator (CI) dot on the Attest 1278 EO pack not always turn green?

**Answer:**

The end point color change of the external chemical indicator dot on the Attest 1278 EO pack is affected by the amount of humidity in the EO cycle. Testing shows the following color changes occur on the external chemical indicator dot. In all cases, the chemical indicator on the label of the Attest 1264 BI changed to green. The difference in the end point color change of the dot and label is due to the location of the chemical indicators. The dot is external to the pack and the label is internal to the pack.

- When the relative humidity in cycle is approximately 50%, the end point color change of EO external CI is green.
- When the relative humidity in cycle is approximately 70%, the end point color change of EO external CI is olive brown.
- When the relative humidity in cycle is approximately 80%, the end point color change of EO external CI is brown.

**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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