

## Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: **02-18-4154**  
Service: **Research**  
Operating Section: **Husbandry**  
Unit: **CMF**  
Title: **Autoclave Validation**

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### **Purpose:**

To describe the procedure for autoclave validation using autoclave tape and biological indicators.



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### **Procedure:**

- 1) All loads processed in the autoclave will be registered on an autoclave log, which will remain in close proximity to the autoclave. The logs will contain the following information:
  - a) Load number pre-assigned on the log sheet. This number is alphanumeric for some autoclaves, (i.e. tabletop autoclave in surgery = S + load number; bulk autoclave = B + load number, and two door autoclave = TD + load number).
  - b) Date
  - c) Lab accession number (To be assigned in the diagnostic lab.)
  - d) Load Description
  - e) Cycle
  - f) Time In
  - g) Time Out
  - h) Initials
  - i) Comments (i.e. note in or out of pack, or any problems)
  
- 2) Autoclave tape indicators will be used on all material decontaminated by autoclaving to show that the material has been processed effectively. A three to four inch strip of autoclave tape will be placed on the outside of each autoclave bag or individual container.
  - a) All items will be checked at the end of the run for proper processing.
  - b) If the temperature sensitive tape strips do not turn black, the load is not considered decontaminated and will be run again. A note will be made in the comments section of the autoclave log.
  - c) A new strip of autoclave tape will be placed on the bags/containers. A new load will be registered on the autoclave log and the load will be run again.
  - d) If the tape strips still do not turn black, the Operations Manager, CMF, will be notified immediately and the autoclave will not be used until the problem has been resolved. A note will be made in the comments section of the autoclave log.
  
- 3) Biological indicators will be used in every load.
  - a) The indicators will be clearly labeled with the load number from the log sheet (including the letter associated with the specific autoclave), date, initials and "in" or "out" for loads with indicators inside and outside items (i.e. water bottles).
  - b) The indicator will be placed in the center of the load.
  - c) For loads of water bottles, one indicator will be placed in the center of the load and a second indicator will be placed inside one bottle of that same load.

- d) Upon completion of the autoclave cycle, the indicator(s) will be placed in the designated collection box located near the autoclave.
- e) The test will be completed by designated laboratory personnel.

### APPROVALS

<b>Responsible Official Signature</b>		<b>Date</b>	
		06-24-16	
<b>QA Signature</b>		<b>Date</b>	
		06.24.2016	
<b>Version</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Supersedes</b>	<b>Original Date</b>
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