

TITLE: AUTOCLAVE VERIFICATION

SOP Category: Facilities

CMR SOP #: 2.01

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Effective Date: September 3, 2024

Approval: *Lisa Antonucci*

Revisions: 6/16/2021, 09/03/2024

SCOPE:

This document covers the procedures used by the staff of Rutgers University Comparative Medicine Resources (CMR) to determine the correct functioning of autoclaves used in all animal facilities using biological indicator ampoules.

OBJECTIVE:

These procedures ensure that items being autoclaved are sterile.

PROCEDURES:

Storage

- On receipt, store ampoules as directed in the manufacturer's instructions. Freezing and overheating must be avoided.

Qualitative Cycle Monitoring

- Before using ensure ampoule is PURPLE. Signs of color change or clouding of contents indicate a deterioration of product.
- Place an unopened ampoule in the autoclave. Place the ampoule in the load, in a location known or suspected to be the most resistant to sterilization. If using more than one ampoule place in different locations.
- Before running the autoclave ensure that autoclave tape and/or autoclave test strip is present for the autoclave load.
- After autoclaving, remove ampoules for incubation. If the autoclave tape and/or temperature indicator strip has not changed (usually black lines or letters) your autoclaving has failed, and the load needs to be reprocessed.



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- ## Ampoule Results

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