

## STERILE PROCESSING PROCEDURE STERILIZATION

**Procedure SP3-11:** 3+3 sterilizer test after maintenance



**Policy Number Superseded:**

**Responsibility:** Operations Manager,  
Sterile Processing

**Effective Date:**  
December 2025

**Purpose of Procedure:** To assure the efficacy of  
steam sterilization in SPD and the O.R.

**Initial Effective Date:**  
2006

### **Procedure:**

Sterile processing will aggressive test sterilizer efficacy after a sterilizer undergoes major mechanical repairs requiring complete shutdown of steam.

- (A) Upon release of a sterilizer by biomedical engineering after a major sterilizer repair, the SP/OR will perform three leak, Bowie Dick, and biological tests, in that order.
- (B) The biological tests will be read at 24 min.
- (C) If the sterilizer passes all tests, it may be released for use after the last biological reading.
- (D) If the sterilizer fails any of the tests, biomedical engineering will be immediately notified. The sterilizer will not be placed into service until it passes another complete set of tests.
- (E) References: AAMI ST79:2017

Approved by:  
*Christopher Lehnert*  
*Operations Supervisor, Sterile Processing*

Initial effective date:  
2006

Procedure:  
Medical Equipment Inspection

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*Review/Revision Completed by:*  
Operations Supervisor, Sterile Processing

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