

TML/MSH Microbiology Department Policy & Procedure Manual	Policy # MI\STER\08\v02	Page 1 of 1
Section: Sterility Testing Manual	Subject Title: Chemspore / Sterikon	
Issued by: LABORATORY MANAGER	Original Date: July 17, 2001	
Approved by: Laboratory Director	Revision Date: August 27, 2003	

CHEMSPORE / STERIKON

I. Introduction

A chemical and biological indicator used for monitoring steam sterilization processes in wet environments (washer/sterilizer) when a "spore strip" type of sterility indicator cannot be used.

The Chemspore ampoule contains a thermal-sensitive chemical process indicator inside an inner glass tube. The chemical melts and changes colour when minimal heat is applied. The ampoule also contains spores of *Bacillus stearothermophilus* suspended in a bacteriological growth medium containing a pH indicator.

Sterikon ampoule consists of an ampoule that contains nutrient broth, pH indicator and spores of *Bacillus stearothermophilus*.

II. Procedure

1. Place ampoule in the Chemspore or Sterikon incubator preset at 56⁰C. An unexposed (control) ampoule should also be incubated along with the exposed ampoule as a control.
2. Examine ampoules after 24 and 48 hours. The control ampoule medium should turn bright yellow and turbid, indicating viable microorganisms after 24 hours. If it does not turn yellow after 24 hours, check incubator temperature (56⁰C-65⁰C). The test ampoule should be clear with no change in colour, indicating that sterilization has been achieved.

III. Reporting

All positive test results must be phoned to the ward / department and to Infection Control.

Negative Report: "Test spores: No growth" or
"Test spores: No growth
Control spores: GROWTH"

Positive Report: "Test spores: GROWTH" or
"Test spores: GROWTH
Control spores: GROWTH / No growth"