**Autoclave Biological Indicator Testing Procedure**

EZ Test Incubator – Operation and Monitoring Record

**Important:**

The autoclave is tested twice a month or as needed.

One biological indicator is tested internally at CMPT, and one vial must be sent to and tested externally at VGH once a month.

The thermometer must be calibrated at least once per year or as required. Calibration date must be noted on the log.

**Using the Incubator:**

* 1. Insert small connector from power pack into the receptacle in the back of incubator into 57˚C.
  2. Plug power pack unit into wall.
  3. Place thermometer into the small hole in the center of the third row.
  4. Press the O/I toggle switch located on the back of the unit to turn the incubator on. Red light should illuminate. Once the red light turns to green, incubator has reached the selected incubation temperature and is ready to use.
  5. The incubator must be turned on at least 25 minutes and the thermometer must read 57oC +/- 2 oC before it can be used.

**Autoclave procedure:**

1. The autoclave indicator must be placed in a horizontal position along with the load.
2. Autoclave the load along with the indicator following the ‘Autoclave Manual’ instructions.
3. When the autoclave cycle ends, remove the indicator vial from the load and let it cool for at least 10 minutes.

**For external biological indicator testing:**

1. If the vial is being tested at VGH, label this vial with ‘Date of Cycle’, ‘Test’, and ‘CMPT’. Take another biological indicator vial of the same lot number which has not been sterilized and label ‘Positive Control’. Send both vials and an examination request form to VGH for testing.
2. Record all test results in CMPT “EZ test log” binder when results are sent back to CMPT.

**For internal biological indicator testing:**

1. Crush and activate the test vials using the SGM crusher, by placing them upright into it and gently squeezing the crusher to break the glass culture medium ampoule inside.
2. Immediately place all activated vials in the EZ Test incubator and incubate for 24 hours.
3. Ensure the temperature in the thermometer reads 55˚ - 59˚C and log the reading.
4. If the medium in the vial turns yellow, record as “positive”. If the medium remains purple, the result is “negative”.
5. Record all test results in CMPT “EZ test log” binder.
6. In addition to recording result in CMPT test log, record monthly result in the biological indicator log located in the autoclave room (G417).
7. Ensure the testing parameters are recorded on the log at temperature - 121oC, time - 40 minutes, and pressure15 psi.

**Order biological indicator:**

1. Additional biological indicators can be obtained via RMS, Kenneth Cheng at Kenneth.cheng@ubc.ca

**For annual autoclave inspection:**

1. Take a picture of the biological indicator vial after 24 hours incubation, and send the picture to RMS, Kenneth Cheng at [kenneth.cheng@ubc.ca](https://www.mail.ubc.ca/owa/redir.aspx?C=EZ0SJwkmJZbqGc0GfGGZ4fh5YR5P14OQY0SwoeBZ2Uhr86vYlhjUCA..&URL=mailto%3akenneth.cheng%40ubc.ca)

**Autoclave Biological Indicator Testing Log**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **EZ Test Lot No. & Expiry Date** | **Temp. ˚C NIST in ( )** | **Control Result** | **Test Result** | **Signature** |
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The EZ Test Control result must be positive (yellow) for valid test result

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