

Biological Indicators for Monitoring Steam Sterilization of Liquids

INSTRUCTIONS

Sterilization:

- Place MagnaAmp[™] either inside a large container or next to a container containing a liquid for sterilization. Package or seal as usual. AAMI recommends a minimum of 10 BIs per cycle.
- 2. Locate test samples in areas of the load considered most difficult to sterilize or in convenient areas that have been validated. Identify test samples as to location in sterilizer.
- 3. After sterilizing, send **MagnaAmp** and products to test laboratory along with at least one non-sterilized **MagnaAmp** marked POSITIVE CONTROL.

Test Laboratory:

- 1. All MagnaAmp are fully self-contained BIs which do not require subculture.
- 2. Procedure:
 - a. **MagnaAmp** may be left in the sterilized container or transferred to a rack or container which allows visual observation during incubation.
 - b. Incubate MagnaAmp for 48 hours at 55-60°C.
 - c. The 48 hour incubation meets the criteria established in the FDA protocol for validation of reduced incubation time (RIT). Incubate for 72 hours when monitoring SSM-150 medical waste treatment cycles.
 - d. Observe daily for growth.

Yellow or turbid = growth = **non-sterile** Purple = no growth = **sterile**

MagnaAmp should show "no growth" if sterilization has been achieved.

If color change, or turbidity, occurs in **MagnaAmp** cultures, it indicates that the spores have survived the sterilization process and are non-sterile.

Positive Controls: At least one positive control should be included in each test series. Incubate a non-sterilized **MagnaAmp** with test series. Color change from purple to yellow, or turbidity, indicates that the medium possesses suitable growth promoting qualities and that the **MagnaAmp** contains viable spores. If positive control does not grow, do not use the units from that package. Contact Mesa Labs.

Storage and Disposal:

- 1. Refrigerate at $2 8^{\circ}$ C. Protect from light.
- 2. Incinerate or autoclave at 121°C for not less than 30 minutes.
- 3. **MagnaAmp** biological indicators have a shelf life which is clearly designated on each package. Rotate your stock accordingly.

NOTE: Do not use after expiration date printed on package. Dispose of expired indicators by autoclaving at 121°C for not less than 30 minutes.